



NEWSLETTER 300 October 2015

24 NOVEMBER - MEET THE COUNCILLORS

The Society has arranged a public meeting with the two Regency Ward councillors, Alex Phillips and Tom Druitt.

The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 24th November in the Osborne Suite of the Metropole Hotel.

This will be a public meeting, so please do come along with your friends and/or neighbours. Tom and Alex will be answering your questions and telling us of the work they are doing in and for the ward.

The bar of the Metropole Hotel will be open for drinks and light refreshments before and after the meeting.

15 DECEMBER - "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

Join fellow members of the Society on a trip to the marvellous "Little Theatre" in Clarence Gardens on 15 December to see a performance of this "joyous and heart-warming tale" of the play based on the 1946 film.

Show starts at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £9.00. Tickets are already selling out, so if you wish to join the Society group, please send a cheque made out to "Regency Square Area Society" for the number of tickets you want by Thursday 5 November.



CLARENCE SQUARE

Clarence Gardens, with the iconic Little Theatre at the far end, is a delight. The gardens of Clarence Square are, on the whole, well tended. They are surrounded by good, Regency railings. It's nice to see people from shops and offices, or mums with prams, enjoying the space at lunch-time or in the afternoons.

So what's wrong with the Square? In the warm evenings, there is a tendency for rowdy lads (and rowdier girls) to congregate on the square. This is probably intimidating to some residents. Let's hope that the cold weather will soon disperse that intermittent inconvenience.

However, what seems to be permanent inconveniences are the unsightly bins. At a recent count across the top of the square, there were over 20 rubbish and recycling bins (some owned by the City Council, some by private firms), as well as what seems to be a semi-permanent skip. When will that never-ending, untidy work on the property at 23 Clarence Square be finished and the ugly hoarding removed?

The Committee will be approaching the City Council to find a solution to these problems. Clarence Square cannot be expected to deal with all the rubbish from Western Road business premises.



SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY DO (apart from complain about bins?)

Recently, members of the Committee have met City Council officers and ascertained that approximately one third of the money accruing to the Council from i360 profits is to be spent on the upgrading of the Regency Square gardens. It is a tribute to the doggedness of Nigel Rose that the Council now accepts that money should be spent in this area.

The Committee, again in person of Nigel Rose, is also actively discussing in person with Austen Hunter (Head of Transport Operations - City Council) several items:

- the removal of parking next to the Regency Square gardens in order to avoid the delays to local residents when there is a queue for the car park;
- "residents only" parking around the square with visitors using the underused car park;
- the traffic movement which will be created by the i360 - Nigel, Austen and the i360 people are all keen that residents and local businesses are not disrupted by ill-planned traffic movement.

SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY DO (apart from produce an erratic newsletter?)

Have you had a look at the Society's Facebook page lately? There are some stunning local photographs and, from time to time, you will find tempting special offers and tempting menus from local businesses such as Al Fresco and The Set (<https://www.facebook.com/regencybrighton>)

The Society often fields messages received via the website from new or prospective residents. Anyone wishing to know about the area receives a clear and unbiased report on whatever question it is they ask about the area.



SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY DO

(apart from report on planning decisions?)

The Committee brings to members attention planning applications that they may well not be aware of. For example, if you did not see the recent article in the Argus, you may not be aware that the Council is planning to turn the area immediately west of the i360 into an "events arena".

The Committee will put every effort into ensuring that noise and time restrictions are put in place to ensure that neither residents nor hotel guests along the seafront are disturbed. When this is achieved, the events area should be a welcome and exciting venture that we can all enjoy.

Above all, Committee member Margaret Brisley sits on the City Council's influential Conservation Advisory Group. What better way to ensure that local interests are represented on conservation matters?

SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY DO

(apart from putting up a Christmas tree?)

The Committee encourages people to come along to theatre trips and other events (see "A Wonderful Life").

The Committee has invited the Band of the Salvation Army to play when the Christmas tree lights are turned on in December. Perhaps they will make enough noise to encourage members and local residents out to join in with the Committee.



Let us know if there are any other social events you would like the Committee to organise.

SO WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY DO

(apart from complain about bins?)

Well, yes, the Committee does complain about bins. As you will see from the article on the pervious page, Clarence Square is suffering from unsightly bins.

Residents in Queensbury Mews are suffering from bin too. They are being woken regularly at six am by the beeping of reversing bin lorries owned by KSD Environmental Services Ltd. A committee member is working actively with the two local ward councillors to stop this noise nuisance.

So far, KSD are impervious to their pleas. That will not be the end of it, as doggedness is, perhaps, the watchword of the Committee.

Do please get in touch with us and air your views, either via the website (www.regencybrighton.com), the Facebook site or by contacting any of the officers below:

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PLANNING

As a result of major cut-backs being suffered by local authorities, the Brighton and Hove City Council has a massive back-log of planning application which remain undecided, despite the "target decision date" having long passed. For that reason, there is nothing new to report on past applications awaiting decisions.

2A Clarence Square (BH2015/03365) Conversion of part of a basement area into a room - no comment

Congratulations to the owners of 2 Clarence Square who have replaced the damaged railings on the property with some fine new ones, all very much in keeping with the property. It looks hopeful that the main steps to the property will now be repaired.

27 Castle Street (BH2015/03351) Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed change of use from storage and distribution (B8) to music recording studio (B1) with ancillary rehearsal facilities.

This application is rather worrying. The property was formerly used as a warehouse - presumably relatively quiet.

According to the developer's agent, the property "is less than the permitted [*size for*] development tolerance enabling a change of use without the need for planning permission under the General Permitted Development Order 2015." (Yes, the Order is that recent).

The developer is therefore applying for the Certificate of Lawfulness in the knowledge that "applications relating to ... Lawful development Certificates ... are listed for information only ... They are not for comment or consultation." (Quoted from Brighton and Hove City Council website.)

The Society will closely follow this application and will support the residents of Castle Street if problems of noise arise.



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