

Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 331 June 2019

Picnic Postponed

New date: 11 August in Clarence Square

Fun and games (Giant Connect Four; Giant Snakes and Ladders, Skittles etc) for all the family. Bring your children, your children's children or your neighbours – big and small. Marquee if wet.

This event has been postponed as the Society did not wish to conflict with another event in the area on the previously arranged weekend.

Meeting with Ian Hart (i360)

On 16 May, two Society committee members met Ian Hart, General Manager of the i360. Here are the key points which emerged from that meeting:

1. Max Woodford is now on the board of the i360. Mr Woodford is the most senior officer of the City Council who has so far been involved in the Society's attempt to access Section 106 monies from the i360;
2. Mr Hart showed considerable willingness to provide moral support to the Society in putting forward the claim which Regency Square has to Section 106 funding. He agreed that Regency Square is in poor condition and, in places, dangerous. We were at pains

to point out that we very much welcomed visitors to i360 using the gardens;

3. The committee members expressed some concern that the large posters attached to the glass wall of the i360 on the upper promenade obscured views of the sea and the two heritage toll booths. It was disappointing that Mr Hart had no plans to remove the posters;
4. The topic of a Christmas joint event with i360 and RSAS (and possibly others) was broached. Mr Hart will follow up the suggestion. He was aware of the success of the 2018 joint event.

The committee members were delighted to have met Mr Hart who listened carefully to what the Society had to say.

Planning

BH2019/00148 - 65 Western Road Brighton / Stone Street. 8 objections have been lodged against an application for a 2-storey HMO facing. This application would now be taken to a full planning committee. The Society is hoping for a much better design and less overcrowding for the Stone Street side of the property.

BH2019/01168- Kings Road arches: The Society has requested that the planners insist on all grills along the whole row of premises being kept uniform.

BH2019/01481 - 77-78 Western Road / Stone Street. Two storey rear extension and single storey extension to existing corridor to form 2no additional 1-bedroom flats (C3). The Society will object to the plan on the basis of poor design and the fact that the evolving character of Stone Street was not being taken into account.

BH2019/01553 - Melrose Restaurant Replacement of existing metal windows to first floor front bay with new aluminium windows. No comment

Bedford Heights: Some residents of Sussex Heights and other local properties facing west have seen enough of the bold "Art+Believe" pattern on the roof of Bedford Heights. How do you feel about it? Do let us know.



Metropole Exhibition Halls



Are these "suits with clipboards" the first signs of a new era? It has been reported in the local press that three different plans for the development of the Exhibition Hall will soon be submitted.

As this will be such a major planning application, the Society has applied to re-join the Conservation Advisory Group, a body which advises the City Council on planning applications in conservation areas. More news next month.

Graffiti

On July 4, the committee of the Society will meet not one but three CityClean officers. The aim of the meeting is to get help from the City Council in counteracting the spate of graffiti which is disfiguring the area.



The committee has already started in a very small way by removing graffiti from a litter bin. A drop in the ocean, but with advice from the CityClean, we hope to be able to do much more. More news in the next Newsletter for news of what actions we can all take.

Plant your postcode

On 20 June, a committee member of the Society attended a "Plant your Postcode" event organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. At the event, several speakers stressed the importance of trees in an urban area. These advantages ranged from cooling the atmosphere to wellbeing and community commitment.

Where could a tree be planted in the Society's area? It could be in one of the three heritage squares. It could be on a broad pavement or even in a giant mobile tub. Do contact the Society with your ideas.



CPRE mentioned is very supportive of the green spaces in towns and villages. As the image above shows, urban regeneration is a key platform for CPRE. The Society's Secretary is a long-standing member and will continue to liaise with the local group.

The Society is now a member of the volunteer organisation, the B+H Green Spaces Forum. More details in next month's Newsletter.

Thanks to the AGM ...

The member who won the prize of a meal at the Compass Point restaurant in Kings Road has written to say what a good meal he enjoyed. If any of other 11 prize winners would like to get in touch to say how they fared with their prize from a generous donor, do contact one of the people listed in the box in the next column.

Regeneration of Regency Square

On 14 May this year, the Society entered a Freedom of Information request relating to monies allocated to Regency Square from the i360. Below are the replies to our questions. They were received on 12 June.

In short, the Council has £39,870 to spend on a T-shaped area including spaces to east and west of the i360 and Regency Square. However, Regency Square still appears to come a second, if not third best as is clear from the FoI response:

Response: From the £38,870 currently held in the council covenanted under the terms of the s106 Agreement to first provide measures in delivering ecological interpretation and display boards within the site or in the vicinity of the Site relating to the marine ecological interests of the area. Costs will be finalised following all project works being scoped.

Any remaining balance from this sum is provisionally set aside to upgrade Regency Square, subject to approval of an agreed Working group project plan of costed options of preferred future measures for that area.

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Crumbling, crumbled

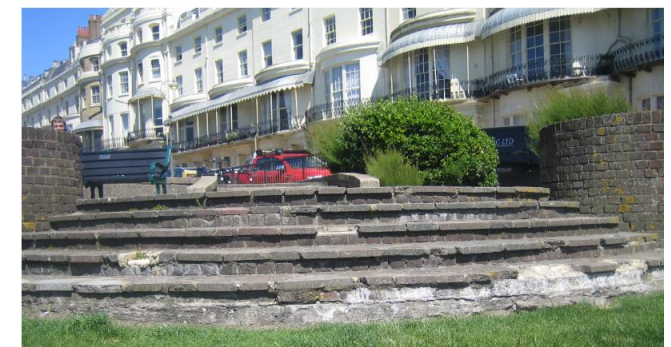
On 16 April, the Society contacted CityParks with the photographs of broken and uneven paving slabs in Regency Square. These photos were similar to the ones which we published in Newsletter 330. The Society received a reply the same day:

We are aware that there are issues with loose paving slabs on the steps in Regency Square.

We are currently going through renovations of these areas, and I will highlight this particular area to the team so they can fix.

One slab which had caused an accident was cemented back in place. Other hazards were clearly marked in yellow paint.

Two months on, the steps are in even worse condition. The photos below have been sent to the Director of CityParks which a request for prompt action.



Regency Square steps: 21 June 2019

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