

Dear All

Regency Squares Community held 2 meetings last week in response to the tent recently pitched in Regency Square and the plethora of reports of drug use and selling in our squares and surrounding streets.

The first meeting was held at Hotel Una by the owner Jelena. Jelena set the room up for 6 to 8 attendees and we were blown away when we completely filled the room and used all the chairs to accommodate the troop of people coming through the door. There were 17 of us in total.

The second meeting was equally well attended at the accessible venue at the i360 where hosts, Richard, Toya and team kindly opened up the back room to accommodate us all.

The two meetings were quite different, with the first being community focused at which, previous 10 year committee member Nicola Floyd, raved about what a great time can be had as part of the Regency Squares Community committee. We are eagerly looking forward to some new members to be voted in at our forthcoming AGM (date TBC). The second meeting was a little more formal as our super supportive ward councillor Alison Thomson, Chair of Planning at BHCC attended along with Adam Salmon from the Tents and Rough Sleepers support group.

Wednesday 22nd April 7:30pm at Hotel Una

Attended by Fran Coates Regents Court, Sue Dawes Kings Road, Jelena Hotel Una, Ani + Jeremy Clarence Square, Dorothy Regency Square, Shoshana RC Ellen RS, Leanne RS, Alis RS and Pelirocco manager, Nicola Queensbury Mews, Nina+Matthew RS, Parveen+Kenny RS, Tom H RS (17)

Thursday 23rd April 7:30pm at i360

Attended by Fran Coates, Sue Dawes, Suzanne+Roger Abbotts, Syed+Louisa QM, Nicola QM, Stuart+Janina QM, Steve M QM, Peter+Adeline RS, Andrea Stone Street, Ellen RS, Deb Gibberd Russell Sq, Cllr Alison Thomson, Tent and rough sleeper support Adam Salmon (17)

The outcome of the 2 meetings is that we are all a little better prepared to keep our local community safe and cared for and Regency Squares Community hopefully will soon have some new committee members.

Main topics covered:

### **1. Tents**

Adam Salmon explained the procedure for reporting if a tent is pitched in a space not designated for tents, eg, our squares, streets, seafront. There is a specific email address. There is only one person administering this email account. Adam expressed there is no point in sending multiple emails to report the tent. One email is sufficient but they are not read at the weekend. Therefore we have pinned the email address to the RSC WhatsApp group and once reported we can be assured the tent will be attended. Alison Thomson requested she is copied into any such email.

There is a Rough Sleepers helpline link, also on the RSC WhatsApp group.

For reporting to the Police there are several different options and we have been recommended by our previous Chair, Julie Wright, the best and most efficient route is via Crime Stoppers UK. We have requested a meeting with the Police.

**Report an incident:** <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>

## **2. Hostels / HMOs / Halfway Houses?**

Which addresses are these hostels in Regency Square?

***Who can research this please? The committee do not have the time for this.***

Please let us know if you are able to help and Alison Thomson know as soon as possible.

[rsc@regencybrighton.com](mailto:rsc@regencybrighton.com) & [alison.Thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:alison.Thomson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Should we reinstate the RSC Campaign for a HMO free square/area?

## **3. Improve the management of RSC WhatsApp group**

Tom O'Hare RS and Stuart Manser QM offered to assist. Changes will follow soon.

## **4. May Fringe Festival in Regency Square**

Another contentious issue. Some love having the festival literally on their doorstep, others are tired of the noise, the lack of toilets, the vehicles strewn across the square, concern for the grass etc.

RSC requested a fallow year this year, to mimic Glastonbury 🤪, so why are the 3 marquee tents still coming? Of course, the extensive Valley Gardens project is still very much a work in progress therefore the festival needed our space.

Further questions/demands were considered

1. Who is profiting from this? We are left with a grassless square for the rest of the summer.
2. Should we be entitled to some compensation to improve our grass?
3. Will there be toilets? It's not fair to the square or local businesses not to have any.

Please contact us on [rsc@regencybrighton.com](mailto:rsc@regencybrighton.com) if anything above is unclear or if you have any comments, questions.

As always, Alison Thomson was very supportive and after receiving a report from the first meeting and attending the second Alison sent the following email.

### **Alison Thomson email:**

Friday 24th April 2026 from Alison Thomson

Good morning all, great to see you last night - I hope Adam was able to provide some reassurance. Again, for reference, the email to report rough sleepers is [tents@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:tents@brighton-hove.gov.uk). If you're concerned about the welfare of the occupants please contact [Streetlink](#) and give them as much geographical info as you can.

And I'm always happy to be cced into anything - or contact me direct if you find you're not getting anywhere with council officers.

Would you be able to send me the names and/or street address of the HMOs and hostels you are asking for information on, please? I can then discuss with planning and Community Safety to see what permissions are in place and who is being housed there. I do hope Adam was able to reassure you that anyone who is provided with accommodation is scrupulously vetted - we are absolutely not housing paedophiles and murderers on your street.

We discussed tightening regulations on rogue landlords and this [government web page](#) tells you a bit more about the Supported Housing Act, which came into force in 2023.

Regarding Brighton Festival, I spoke to Ian Baird this morning about the Rotunda. Couple of things to mention:

Toilets - he says they are on site but is checking for me

Generator - this is permitted while the venue is in operation although they have been trying to get hooked up to a mains supply in the car park. Ian doesn't think this will happen in time for this year's festival but is something that's being worked on.

Monies to local organisations - again, Ian is addressing this and a percentage of the proceeds from the festival will be available - but to manage expectations, he says it really won't be very large this year. I've suggested any monies go directly to RSC for you to decide how to spend.

Alternating venue - Ian agrees it's a good idea to move the Rotunda so it's not on Regency Square every year. He says it was difficult this year because the Old Steine/Valley Gardens isn't available which has created a shortage of venue locations. However he thinks that next year it could be sited elsewhere.

He will be sending out a letter to all residents imminently about the festival, on which will be details of how to contact the venue operator if you face issues. And if you don't get anywhere with them, you can report issues here on BHCC website: [Project: Outdoor events forum | Brighton & Hove City Council](#). Again if I can be of help then please drop me an email.

Other things on my list to follow up:

Set up a meeting with Simon Marchant who heads up Neighbourhood Policing.

Speak to transport/Cllr Muten about CCTV and where we're at.

Request street cleaners visit Queensbury Mews - esp Syed and Luisa's house - to clean up urination.

Speak to Rekha at the Metropole to discuss removal of cigarette-butt holder (where drugs are stashed).

Speak to CityParks about a new tree for Russell Square to replace the elm that died.

Best Alison

**Alison Thomson**  
**Labour councillor, Regency ward**

**Chair of Planning**