

August 2026



Regency Squares Community Newsletter

Welcome new Committee Members

We had a great AGM on Tuesday 23rd June. We were generously hosted by Maldron Hotel who accommodated us in a magnificent room with excellent tech facilities plus support, they even gave us free drinks. A splendid welcome for all of our members old and new, some of whom were officially voted on to the Regency Squares Community Committee. Please join us in welcoming

Treasurer - Stuart Manser

Planning - Kenny McArthur, Steve Moses

Membership Secretary - Tom O'Hare

Website - Janina Downey

WhatsApp - Tom O'Hare

Social media - Alis O'Connor Knowles + Tom O'Hare

Press - Parveen Johal

Social events - Nina Dodd (head of frivolity), Matthew HansonKahn

Gardening - Helen Emanuel, Jelena Maricevic + all of us

Community engagement - Leanne Amaryllis, Alis O'Connor Knowles

Campaigns - Ellen Cairns + all of us

Committee Support Team - Helen Emmanuel, Ellen Cairns, Dorothy Everitt, Peter Kingsland, Jeremy Watson.

These, of course, in addition to Ani Watson, Nigel Massey, Sue Dawes and Fran Coates

Our new committee members have been engaging in local issues on your behalf.

RSC Socials

Since popping into The Regency Tavern on a quiz night following an RSC meeting a few months back, 'The Committee' has been a regular team at their Wednesday quiz.

If anyone fancies joining us we'd love to have you along. Just let me know in the WhatsApp group in advance so we can arrange numbers/teams. Desire for a chuckle compulsory, knowledge optional.



Sunday, August 16th, from 3pm we are having a **picnic** in Regency Square.

Bring a chair or blanket (ground currently a bit dusty) and some **food n drink**



August 2026



Blue House



The Red Fort of Delhi, the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue...and now the Blue House of Brighton. Yes, Brighton finally has its own iconic building featuring a colour prefix, situated on the corner of Regency Square and Queensbury Mews.

In the same way that tourists from all over the world flock to gaze in awe and wonder at Amritsar's Golden Temple, those who come to see the i360 or the West Pier are stopped in their tracks by the extraordinary sight that is our Blue House. With general befuddlement, as they reach for their phones to capture an image of this monstrous carbuncle, visitors can be heard querying what terrible events must have befallen the house for it to have submerged into such a shocking and apparently permanent state of disrepair.

Like many sites which draw tourists' attention, the derelict and empty Blue House has a long, controversial and unhappy history. Back in 2021, Brighton Council granted permission, in the face of numerous objections, for the construction of a three storey house on land adjoining the former Adelaide Hotel. Even then this seemed a curious construction for the council to choose as a suitable adornment to Brighton's oldest regency square, which dates back to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Work began on the site in early 2022 and progress was, initially, swift. The timber shell was erected, windows were installed and a bright cobalt blue membrane was wrapped around the structure. But things came to a grinding halt in the autumn of that year. And by now, in 2026, four years of Brighton seafront weather have taken their toll. The membrane which once shone in bright cobalt has been ripped asunder and, where it does remain, has faded to dishcloth blue. The timber underneath has long since started rotting, and the site appears to pose a clear and present danger to surrounding property.

Local residents first asked the Council for help in May 2024. At that stage, the response was that they were unable even to consider taking action. But after months of plaintive pleading, the Council eventually agreed, in November 2024, to open an investigation. Sadly, that didn't last long and, in February 2025, the case was deprioritised in favour of more urgent matters.

Since then, the Blue House has been up for sale at an ambitious asking price and been the subject of a possession order and appears currently to be under the control of a form of receivers in Manchester.



As of mid-July, continued pressure on the Council for action appears finally to have paid off, with proper scrutiny apparently underway and the much belated acknowledgment that in the Council's assessment, "the building may require substantial intervention".

So watch this space (and the back of 51 Regency Square)! Much as further tourist attractions are welcome, the Blue House has sadly blighted the square for far too long, and substantial intervention by the Council is long overdue.

Cinderella Square

I am grateful to our member, Suzanne Hinton, who first coined the phrase "Cinderella Square" about Regency Square. It aptly describes the neglect that our square has suffered since the construction of the underground car park in 1969.

Permanently cut into three separate areas by two ventilation shafts, part enclosed by inappropriate utilitarian railings better suited to a motorway bridge than a Grade II listed square and beset each summer by a lack of irrigation - this is a disgrace to the council as Regency Square is right in the centre of town and opposite a major tourist attraction.

While other squares have had their original cast iron railings restored, the only investment that Regency Square has had in the past fifty five years is the landscaping and planting of the top green which is now almost at the end of its life cycle. The rest is a barren mess of broken 60's crazy paving, pitted concrete and burnt grass. It has become a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

How is this possible when Regency Square is the only square in Brighton that actually makes money for the council? Under a "Freedom of Information" request we discovered that the council makes £2-3 million a year in revenue from the underground car park - isn't it time that we got, at the very least, a small share of this to help restore our square?

But the challenge in restoration is daunting not least because of the sheer scale - all of Russel, Clarence, Bedford and Norfolk Squares can fit within Regency Square's footprint.

While some residents would like the reinstatement of the original cast iron railings, unfortunately complete enclosure of the square is not viable because of the public fire escapes from the carpark and also local dog owners would lose a valuable amenity to exercise their dogs.

However, the vast majority of residents would prefer the square to better reflect the fine Regency architecture of their homes - the curves of the bow frontages, the semi circular fan lights above the doors and the cast iron balconies.



Is it possible, within the seemingly competing needs of the carpark and the residents, to build a future masterplan for the landscape architecture of our square? It would not necessarily happen all at once but with some kind of blueprint to present to the council and a realistic phased schedule can we pass on to future residents a compelling and sustainable vision? This is not about planting but about producing an architectural scheme where any future plants have a chance to survive.

There has also been a lot of concern recently about the overflowing communal rubbish bins in our area so this should also be addressed within our vision.

At this June's RSC Annual General Meeting I presented a short talk on "Cinderella Square" with the beginnings of a model - my preferred mode for visuals given that I am a digital dinosaur and made models for a living in my "previous life". It seemed to go down well with the



members present and so I plan to finish it shortly and hope to have a presentation in the near future to all RSC members and residents for their thoughts, comments and recommendations on moving forward.

BHCC

Latest report from Labour councillor, Alison Thomson

City centre hostels

I was part of a multi-agency panel that hosted a public residents' meeting on Monday July 20 to address the awful knife incident that occurred on Sillwood St on June 27. Please see attached the Partnership Statement that was sent out by BHCC chief executive Jess Gibbons ahead of the meeting. The meeting was well received and we are planning a follow-up – if anyone wants to attend please let me know and I will add you to the email list.

Densification of high-needs facilities

One issue raised at the meeting was what action the council was taking to prevent the placement of large numbers of high-needs vulnerable individuals in close proximity – one of the council officers referred to it as densification. This is being addressed in a review of which properties are permitted to function as hostels. I gave you some figures after the



fatal stabbing in May in Regency Square and have asked for a deeper, broader dive so we can get a clearer picture. Will report back.

Waste dumping on Regency Square

A vehicle was reported fly-tipping waste and the Environmental Enforcement team investigated. They are now waiting for the DVLA to provide details of the owner so he can be issued with a fine.

Resiting of bins on northeast corner of Regency Square

The bins here seem to have migrated across the road and should be outside the windowless wall of no55. I've asked Environmental Services to get this relocated urgently.

Emptying of bins on Clarence Square at weekends

This was raised at your AGM in late June and when I enquired, council officers told me it's the responsibility of CityParks and their staff don't work on a weekend. Pretty disappointing. But in better news, this department is being moved into the same directorate as Environmental Services so I've asked that when this occurs, Clarence Square can be added to their roster. Am only sorry it won't happen sooner.

Pub disturbance from Hole in the Wall

After a public meeting in early June, clear improvements to the running of one of the city's oldest pubs were proposed, including additional signage, more and better CCTV and improved staff training to stop the disturbance by clients outside of residents nearby. They hosted a street party which did elicit some complaints, but I'm hoping no news is good news and they've made good on their promise.

Vehicular disturbance

There has been a complaint about the noise from vehicles at the back of 124 Guesthouse; I've been in touch with them and they say it's not their vehicle so I'm pursuing that further.

Blue House (top of Queensbury Mews)

This dreadful eyesore is still not resolved but building control have conducted another recent site visit and, without saying so in black and white, they clearly recognise it needs to be pulled down. Am told that due to the legal complexities they can't divulge much, but please be assured it is high on their priority list.

Drainage on Queensbury Mews

Highways visited recently at the behest of a resident who was concerned about water drainage. The engineer who visited came back with this report:

There is sufficient fall in the carriageway for surface water to drain away and continue along its intended route. Some minor deterioration was noted along the edge of the



carriageway where small amounts of water may temporarily collect after rainfall. However, the extent of this deterioration is limited and does not currently present a safety defect. We have identified a minor maintenance treatment involving the placement of compacted hot asphalt material; this work will be undertaken by our contractor when they are next carrying out works in the vicinity to keep labour and transport costs down.

City Plan 2029-2044

Have your say on how the city might look in the future. Consultation runs from till September 7, 2026.

[Project: City Plan: scoping consultation and survey | Brighton & Hove City Council](#)

PSPOs

Have your say on whether you'd like to see a public space protection order (PSPO) introduced in your area.

[Folder: Public Space Protection Orders \(PSPOs\) | Brighton & Hove City Council](#)

End of report from Labour councillor, Alison Thomson

i360 Happy 10th Birthday

Our friends and neighbours the i360 invited us all to join them for a free ride to celebrate their 10th birthday. We enjoyed champagne and a delicious birthday cake along with fabulous views being very clear sunny day. Sarah Willingham spoke enthusiastically about the start of her tenure and the progress that has been made in creating a busy congenial atmosphere which has been successful in making the forecourt a very pleasant place to hang out. Some of us went to watch World Cup football which had a great atmosphere and the sale of fries at the front seems to be a hit. Too much of a hit for me I must say as the temptation to nip over and indulge in fries with garlic mayo is very real.



We wish the i360 continued success. Sometimes the music is too loud for comfort and wonder if we can persuade them they don't need to have bang banging music for a children's 'rave' - can't be good for the future aural health of little people?



Meeting with PCSOs

A small gathering in the top square on Sunday 9th to meet and chat with the dedicated PCSOs Jasmine and her colleague. It was agreed that things have been a bit quieter lately. We have had no visitations from Camper Van man or any tents although a Regency Restaurant customer decided he could park on the grass last week to avail himself of his favourite fish and chip supper! You almost have to laugh, especially when he became blocked in by parked cars and unable to leave.

PCSOs continue to encourage us to contact them if there is an urgent problem going on saying that they will attend if they possibly can. It depends what else is happening in the vicinity.

Our hardworking councillor Alison was at the meeting and has provided a breakdown of ongoing investigations into hostels and HMOs around the square (above) and spoke about the measures the Council is taking to combat the acute housing crisis in Brighton. There is also a dedicated 'tents' contact who can be contacted as soon as we see campers pitching up. She also indicated that new bins would soon be allocated for Regency Square and the Environmental department would now be responsible for emptying bins at the weekend. Clarence Square suffers from overflowing and littering especially at the weekends when City Parks staff are not working.

This meeting was also covered by a reporter from The Argus, we hope that the resulting write up is positive and supportive.

Garden report

Can anyone remember when it last rained? A small shower a few days ago early in the morning but the garden is a dry wasteland at the moment and haven't frankly had much



energy for gardening. Seems like a case of 'hot' gardening at the moment. A clear up of fag ends around the benches and trying to keep some plants watered occasionally is all I have been able to manage. I keep telling myself that I despaired last summer thinking everything was dead but reassuringly things do start to grow again when the rain comes! There will be a display of bulbs in the spring and remember the poppies which will have seeded and will come again.

Picnic time! Hope to see you **Sunday, August 16th, from 3pm**



in **Regency Square** with some **food n drink**





Join our Gardening Group?

Sue will regularly be gardening in Regency Square on **Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 11am (join our WhatsApp group for updates).**

We do need more help in the garden and would be happy to run more sessions. If you are interested please let us know so we can arrange days of the week/time of day might suit you better. Email us RSC@regencybrighton.com

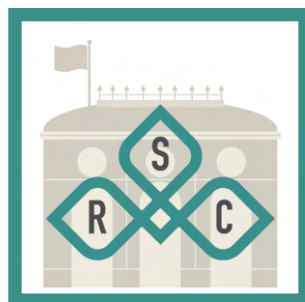
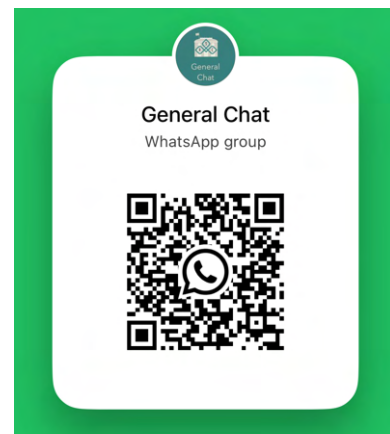
Your Input Matters!

What would you like to see happening within your local community? If you have ideas, questions, or feedback, please let us know. Together, we can make our squares and community spaces thrive. Thanks for your support.

Don't suffer from FOMO scan and join us

Regency Squares Community WhatsApp group

Or Send your mobile number to RSC@regencybrighton.com and we will send you a link.



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• **NB!** [Please do not confuse us, Regency Squares Community, with “Friends
• of Regency Square”. This “Friends” offshoot group is not affiliated with
• Regency Squares Community and we do not endorse the views and ideas
• expressed in their newsletters.]
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