



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 49

August 1987

Illegal Parkers BEWARE !

For several weekends now police have been towing away illegal parkers, including several from Regency Square. This is a trial in preparation for a full scale tow away scheme due to start on August 1st.

The actual towing is done by Glyde Motors, the firm which is using Regency Mews as a storage area for wrecked cars, though they do not seem to be taking the towaways there.

The Society has been trying to persuade the Council to look again at parking facilities in our area. We asked for residents bays to be exclusively for residents at all times but the reply was that this could not be done because of the extra cost of enforcement.

We also suggested that the charges in the car park may be discouraging people from using it and that the stairways should be made cleaner and lighter. The Council Officers are looking into these ideas.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Roger Hinton (Chairman) Tel 21794
Richard Pau (Secretary) Tel 26711

CLUB SNOOKERED

At last it is over ! After months of uncertainty the final decision has been made about the late opening of the Snooker Club in Castle Street.

The club applied for permission to stay open after 11pm. The Council refused and they appealed to the Secretary of State. The Society, supported local residents by organising a petition against extended hours.

The final decision is that the club cannot open later than 11 pm. The Inspector who considered the appeal gave careful consideration to both sides of the argument. Her conclusion was that she wanted to prevent "the spread of late night activity from the predominantly commercial Preston Street into Castle Street where there are appreciably more residential properties."

This is an important decision, not only for Castle Street, but also for other residential parts of the area.

But is this the end of the matter ? Those people who signed the petition have now received a letter from a firm called Barry J Mishon Associates Ltd, acting on behalf of the club.

It is interesting to note that this is not the local firm of solicitors who acted for the club in the appeal. It is based in London and is not a firm of solicitors.

The letter asks people to fill in a questionnaire which is full of leading "questions" such as "We wouldn't have signed the petition of our own voluntary doing - as we were not really concerned, or perhaps even aware as to what or what not was going on."

The letter said that the Club was taking further action and that people who signed the petition may be "called to confirm their strong feelings over the noise and disturbance." It also suggested that if they did not fill in the questionnaire they may have enquiries made of them by newspapers.

In our opinion this letter is an attempt to intimidate people. Our advice is to ignore it.

We have sent a copy to the Council and in his reply the Town Clerk says that the only further action open to the club is to re-apply for planning permission. If this application were again turned down they could appeal again and ask the Inspector to call people who had signed the petition to give evidence. He believes such a step would be "most unusual" and the chance of the inspector agreeing to call people is "remote".

He also says that people are "under no obligation to respond to the questionnaire."

Direct Action

A Society member recently found the front of his house littered with rubbish left by people delivering to the Metropole Exhibition Hall. A polite telephone call to the management failed to get a satisfactory response so he took the rubbish and distributed it around the foyer of the hotel.

He also left his visiting card at the reception desk. A short while later he received an apologetic phone call from the duty manager. She assured him that more care would be taken in future when clearing up after exhibitors.

That Pier Again

In our last issue we raised the question of whether the pier was worth saving. The question provoked a massive response from members.

Well in fact two people wrote in, which is two more than normally respond to anything in the newsletter.

The interesting thing is what they said.

One member thought it was "almost immoral" to even suggest that the pier might not have a future; in his view the Society ought to be doing more to support the campaign to save it.

The other member, describing the pier as a "dreadful eyesore", asked what the Society could do to have it pulled down and suggested a petition.

It is obviously an issue which arouses strong and contradictory feelings within the area. The Society committee has decided to stick to its present policy of neutrality, while keeping a close eye on developments.

Helpful Neighbours

Who do you turn to in an emergency? Your neighbours will almost certainly be willing to help if they can.

But do you know who they are? In a busy, crowded area like this it is often difficult to know who actually lives nearby and who are just visitors or passers by.

One way the Society could help is to publish the names and telephone numbers of people in the area with special skills who are willing to offer help.

This suggestion was made by Society member, Terry Wing who has offered to start the scheme: he is a qualified nurse who is ready to help neighbours with first aid in an emergency. We are therefore publishing his address and telephone number.

What we want to do is extend the list to cover other services such as plumbing, electricians, dog walking, help for the house bound and so on.

Are you willing to offer help? It may be that you would want to charge a fee, or not, depending on the type of help offered. Send details of the help you can offer to Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HELP SCHEME

Emergency first aid - Terry Wing, 48 Regency Square, tel 29193. No fee.

Help us add to the list!

Dog Free Area

The Society is pressing the Council to extend the dog free area in Regency Square to include the middle green. At present both of the lower two greens tend to become unusable as a result of fouling by dogs.

Our new ward councillor, Edna Preece-Smith supports our suggestion and is pursuing the matter for us.

Meanwhile it seems likely that Brighton will adopt a new bye law which will require dog owners to clear up after their dogs if they foul a public park. Special waste bins would be provided.

If the bye law is introduced in Brighton the Society will press for it to be applied to the unfenced areas of Regency Square.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ?

Comments please on issues raised in the newsletter, or anything else of local concern, to Roger Hinton, 38 Regency Square.

Apologees...

to the residents of Regency House (48 Regency Square) where, in our last issue, we said there was a squat. It was in fact Regency Square House.

A few members have still not renewed their membership. If there is a red cross in the box below, your subscription is still outstanding.

Future newsletters will be sent to paid up members only.

Please send your subscription to Harold Lawson, Flat 7, Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership for the year 1987/88 in the category of membership ticked below

	£
Ordinary member	2.50
Family	3.00
Senior Citizen	2.00
Junior (8 - 18 years)	0.50
Associate (non-resident)	2.00
Business (non-resident)	5.00

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

Name

Address

LAST CALL FOR SUBS!