

NEWSLETTER 322 July 2018

**REGENCY SQUARE
BICENTENARY
22 SEPTEMBER 2018**

At 11am on Saturday 22 September, the Regency Square Area Society will be holding a celebration to mark the founding of the square 200 years ago. Come along and celebrate 200 years of this wonderful square. All are very welcome.

Our local councillor, Alex Phillips (who is also Deputy Mayor this year) will officially launch the Bicentenary Book written by Gill Wales and Suzanne Hinton, both long term residents of the square. The printing of the book has been funded by the Regency Square Area Society and the book Subscribers.

You will know when the fun has started as there will be music and a tent – although surely it won't rain - and best of all, for just one day, the book will be available at £10.00 per copy (cover price £12.95).

What's in the 132 pages of the book? Hundred of hours of research into the origins of the square, revelations about the houses and the people who lived in them and nearly 50 images from throughout the history of the square.

The Society is proud to be able to add another important book to the many excellent ones published about Brighton

Regeneration of Regency Square (1)

In the May Newsletter (No. 321) we reported the content of a letter from the City Council which purported to explain why no money had been forthcoming for the renovation of Regency Square.

The Society has now replied to the City Council. Our reply recaps all the hard work that has already been done by members of the Society, council staff and a landscape architect. It outlines what the Society and others hope to achieve for the square.

Above all, we ask the City Council to untangle the bureaucratic complexities which are, apparently, holding up the award of any monies for the regeneration work.

To read the full text of the Society's reply to Max Woodford, go to the News page of the Society's website:

www.regencybrighton/news.com

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Regeneration of Regency Square (2)



Stoooodents! Dozens of 'em. They're noisy. They overcrowd the buses. They clutter up the pavements. But they take trips on the BA i360. And the Regency Square regeneration plan will be funded by 1% of the profits from the BA i360. Those students sitting on the grass are bolstering those profits (not to mention helping the BA i360 repay its loan to the City Council.)

They eat from meal boxes supplied by local businesses, they pay for their English courses and they pay their host families. This is a photograph of a "revenue stream"... and despite all the noise, they enliven Regency Square and leave the gardens spotless.

If only they could have brought some rain with them. One factor that must be investigated when the gardens are regenerated is a way of keeping the grass green.



Clarence Square

The residents are again suffering from anti-social behaviour by gangs of young people who congregate on the steps to the north of the square.

Whether you live in Clarence Square or in any other part of the Society's area, if you witness any anti-social behaviour (excessive noise, threatening behaviour etc), don't hesitate to use the police non-emergency e-mail:

101@sussex.pnn.police.uk

It's better than hanging on the phone waiting endlessly for a reply. It means that many more complaints can be logged. This will create a clear message to the police that Clarence Square needs a high level of police surveillance.

Planning

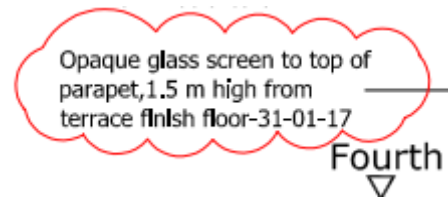
BAi360: *Erection of a free-standing wall underneath existing security canopy to provide a green screen backdrop for photo capture concessionaire.*

The Society objected to the planning application, as we had objected to the security canopy itself. In the recent application, the free-standing wall was shown on the south side of the canopy. In fact, it has been constructed on the north side and in the wrong materials. However, the wall now serves to hide the hideous green screen. We do not intend to make any further objections to the wall.

Russell House: *Application for removal of conditions 5 and 6 of application BH2016/05662*

Condition 5 states that *The glass privacy screen hereby approved to the existing south elevation balcony shall consist of obscured glass and shall be fully installed in accordance with the approved drawing before the balcony is first brought into use. The screen shall be permanently retained as such thereafter.*

According to original planning permission, on the 4th floor, the height of the privacy screen was to be:



Residents in Regency Square whose property is overlooked by Russell House have reported that not only is there no privacy screen but that what looks like chicken wire has been placed across the balcony.

The Society has lodged an enforcement request to ensure that the privacy screens are put in place.

50 Regency Square: Virtually overnight a side door was punched through the Queensbury Mews façade of 50 Regency Square. As this door has no planning permission, the Society has requested an enforcement order on the grounds that everyone living in this conservation area is subject to planning regulations. It would be inequitable for some owners to make alterations without going through the planning process.

124-126 Kings Road: A new door has appeared in the rear (modern) extension to the property. The Society is investigating whether this part of the property is subject to planning regulations.

Parking spaces

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our question about parking last month. Opinion was equally divided on the basic question (should 13 spaces be removed). However, those opposed to the removal of the spaces would be happy if additional residents' spaces could be found. The Committee will now set about trying to persuade the City Council to find such spaces.

Ooops

In the wee small hours one day last month the residents of the Regency Hotel were rudely awakened by a car crashing through the railings and coming to rest little short of the basement windows. No doubt the property owner now has to battle with his insurance company before s/he is able to make good the railings.



And then there was the van driver who did not realise that his vehicle was over 3m (10ft) tall. As the van hit the bridge, the bang made the passers-by stop and stare.

