

# ROEDEAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Chairman's Report

16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Let me begin by giving you the good news: **the Association will continue to operate.** I had my doubts as did your committee but eventually after many attempts to find volunteers we did receive 2 kind offers to help and they are exceedingly good candidates for you to elect at the AGM. on 30th April at the East Brighton Golf Club at 7pm.

We have had a successful year and I report as follows:

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

I repeat word for word what I told you last year: *Every planning application within our area is looked at by William Christopherson, a committee member. He informs the rest of the committee with relevant comments and we give our consideration and involve any other people we think should be aware of it. We will only oppose an application if we think it is detrimental to the existing ambience, style or safety of our area. We avoid neighbourly disputes and do not see ourselves as an arbitration service.*

### **BRIGHTON MARINA.**

The Judicial Review that was sought in order to argue the application for further development was dealt with incorrectly was not allowed and may well be the end of the opposition to this development but do not be surprised if it continues. Those opposing it are very determined.

### **COACH AND HGV PARKING ON ROEDEAN ROAD.**

Your committee's efforts to bring to an end the parking of HGVs and especially coaches on the grounds of safety were rewarded. The Council soon implemented their decision and it has made a huge difference in a short period of time. The Council welcome our phone calls (0345 6035469, *select option2*) when the rules are ignored and usually within half an hour a "Parking Warden" arrives and the sinner moves on. This must have increased the Council's income with more coaches going to Madeira Drive. Thus a win-win result. We do appreciate the help from the Council officers and our three Councillors.

Some may say it has increased the number of cars parking in Roedean Crescent and Roedean Way and to an extent this must be true but having measured the number of cars that parked in Roedean Road it was on average less than 10 at any time of the day. The number of builders and contractors vehicles outweighs the cars and this may decrease soon but I expect there will always be houses undergoing work in the future.

### **THE PADDOCK (Land between Marine Gate and The Cliff)**

Last year I reported a decision was awaited from the Planning Inspectorate to determine whether a public right of way existed around a part of the perimeter. The Council's lawyers tried hard to win their case but to no avail. The knowledge that Richard Long possessed and our determination not to be ignored won through. I hope the few people who may benefit from this will use the facility.

### **PITCH & PUTT COURSE**

The draft City Plan Part 2 is due to be published in "The Summer". I expect it will be a late summer for publication of such documents is usually late. When it is published and if we find Site 37 is still included we will be able to ask our consultant for advice and then a decision will be made as to how to proceed. If the site is included most of the money required for the next stage has been raised. We do believe there may be possibilities of counter-proposing with a small number of properties being developed but not in the precise location shown as Site 37.

### **WEBSITE**

The website (*RoedeanRA.org.uk*) is up and running and I hope you find it useful. The more information members provide for inclusion the more interesting the site will become. Members are encouraged to use it and see its value. We would welcome a volunteer to manage the website.

### **NEIGHBOURHOODWATCH**

The facility is running with only about 40 members but all can use it.

### **MEMBERSHIP & FINANCIAL MATTERS**

We have 92 paid up Members, probably the highest yet recorded. Most of the funds are in place for stage 2 dealing with the Pitch & Putt site but more is likely to be needed if we need and want to make a presentation before the Planning Inspector. With this in mind the Committee has agreed to increase the annual subscription to £20 per member. Bearing in mind the results your committee have achieved and the belief that to succeed in minimizing the possible development expert consultants need to be employed we feel all Members should pay towards these costs. As previously stated if the site is omitted from the Plan surplus donations will be repaid.

### **ROEDEAN BOTTOM AND THE SOUTH DOWN NATIONAL PARK**

Richard Long has spent the last year developing a relationship with the South Downs National Park and Brighton and Hove team of Rangers. Together we have engaged with the farmer who leases and farms the Roedean Bottom land in an effort to understand what part we can play to help preserve and enhance this important asset on our doorstep. The first result of this joint relationship is the installation of new signage which will take place over the next two weeks in several locations around the field and beyond. The signage welcomes residents and visitors to the South Downs and encourages people to keep to the footpaths and not walk through the field which damages both the field verges and their wildlife as well as the farmer's crops.

### **COMMITTEE.**

As you can imagine your committee is delighted to have received 2 offers to join the committee and fill important positions. You may remember 3 committee members are retiring at the AGM.

Victor Mower has been a member for at least 8 years and contributed a lot during this time with local knowledge of the Cliff area and helping maintain the existing path in the Paddock.

Richard Long has been involved for 6 years and besides being stand in treasurer and membership secretary for the last year has contributed a great deal in stopping coach parking on "estate roads" and indeed with the recent Roedean Road coach removal. The safety is now much enhanced. Richard's knowledge was instrumental in winning our case for the Paddock public footpath.

I am also retiring after a 3 year period as your chairman.

Craig Jones will be proposed to take over as Chairman. Craig has lived in Roedean Crescent for one year, previously living in Sussex Square. Craig served as a Naval officer for 20 years and then 8 years with Barclays Bank. Craig has been active for a great deal of his working life with local organisations so brings a lot of experience and I believe energy to continue to serve the Roedean residents.

Zena Trow who lives in Roedean Terrace has her own Estate agency, selling and letting properties. Zena is another example of "if you want to get a job done ask a busy person". Zena is taking over as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

All your committee members give their time freely; some have more time consuming tasks than others but I can assure you everyone is diligent and wanting to maintain the quality of our area but also aware that change is not a factor we can avoid and deny.

***Jonathan Bryant***

Chairman

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