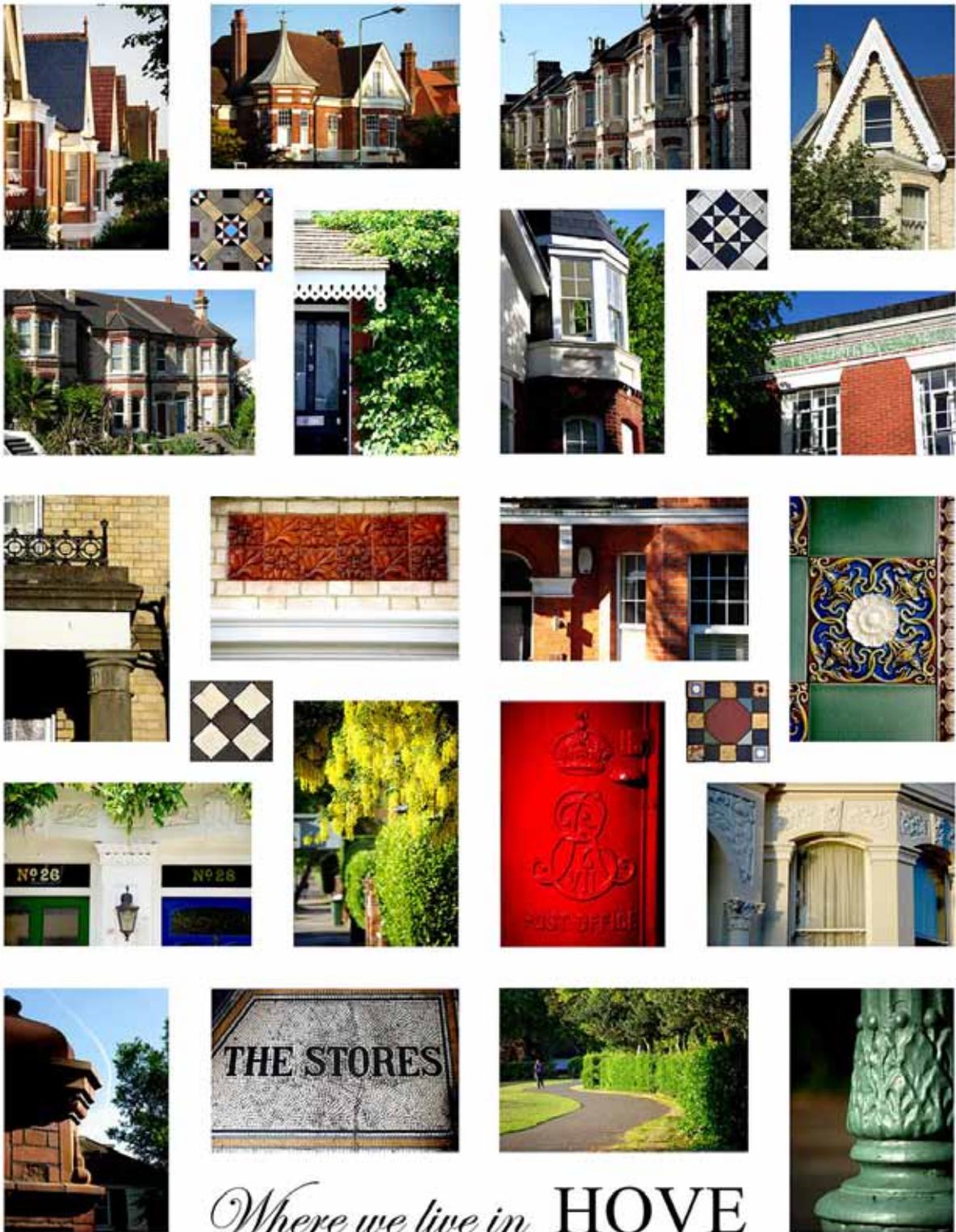


Hove Civic Society

October 2018 Newsletter



Where we live in **HOVE**

‘The district of Hove Park – or, as Mr Wilson Tickle called it in the “Hove Gazette” recently, Clarkville – has grown with Chicago-like rapidity, and who can wonder at it either. Situated on high ground and near the Hove Park, it is the healthiest spot in the neighbourhood.’

HOVE GAZETTE - Saturday August 13th 1898.

Part 1 in series "Where we live in -"
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Annual Report

Dear Members,

After a long holiday in northern heat it is time again for our annual report. It has been the most intensive year in the Society's (recent) history. The year has seen the construction of the Hove Plinth, the inauguration of the first sculpture and the fruition of yet another sizeable tree planting scheme. In addition we have continued our scrutiny of planning proposals across the City in partnership with Regency Society. We have also made substantial comments and suggestions to the City Plan Part II consultation and have continued our support for the Hove Station Neighbourhood Forum. On top of that we are progressing the conversion of the Society to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to reflect the financial growth and responsibilities of the Society.

My sincere thanks go to our Committee and the various working groups for achieving all this and also to all members for supporting us. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new members and encourage you all to join not least in our new initiatives. There is so much to do!

Development Proposals

We have continued our regular meetings with Regency Society in the planning forum, where we jointly consider development proposals from across the City and make either joint or individual representations where we feel it is necessary. This year we have commented on a number of applications including St Aubyn's school, Brighton Hove And Sussex Sixth Form College, former Amex House, Kings House and 239-243 Kingsway. We have also attended a number of presentations on early proposals including several in the Hove Station Area and Lyon Close. The minutes of the Planning Forum are posted on our website for members to see.

We welcomed the decision by Matsim to appeal against the refusal of the proposals for 1-3 Ellen Street and have made a submission to the Planning Inspectorate clearly setting out our support for the appellant and why we consider the Council's decision misguided.

City Planning

Part II of the City Plan was finally issued during the summer and the Society has made a number of comments and suggestions. There is much in the plan which we welcome, not least the incorporation of national dwelling standards into the plan. This is something we have been campaigning for a long time. We have also made a number of suggestions to help make the plan more practicable and increase the chances of policies being implemented. You will find more about this later on in this newsletter.

Much time has been spent on working with the Hove Station Neighbourhood Forum and drafting the Neighbourhood Plan. This work is nearing completion and a formal public consultation is due this autumn. The Society fully supports the emerging plan for the Hove Station Quarter. More on this in the January newsletter.

Restoring our Victorian Street Tree Heritage

On the 8th February 2018 a planting ceremony took place on Portland Road, officiated by the mayor of the City Council, Councillor Mo Marsh. The Society was able to fund 14 trees and the Council planted a further 6. With these trees we have now reached almost 100 new street trees initiated and supported by the Society.

The Elms chosen will in time create a much improved streetscape. We are grateful for the financial support by Hove Business Association and the West Hove Forum. Regrettably we haven't received the active support we expected from local traders and in that sense this scheme is different from all the others we have done, where we have always worked with enthusiastic local residents. I am delighted to report that we are now in discussions with residents in Lennox Road, where we have already identified the scope for 20 new street trees. If the scheme is fully supported locally planting will take place in 2019. The funding we provide is supported by our street tree angels and cherubs. Why not become an Angel and help us improve Hove?

Hove Plinth and Sculpture in the City

Having signed the contract for the first sculpture in July 2017, detailed preparation on the plinth construction started in September. At the same time the contracted artist, Jonathan Wright conducted a number of workshops in Hove and Brighton to finalise the selection of icons for his sculpture, Constellation. Construction on the plinth started in February and was completed early April. We are much indebted to RLF for carrying out the project management for the construction of the plinth, to Hop Engineering for providing critical engineering advice and to Millimetre for extensive design support. We are also immensely grateful to Matsim for constructing the core of the plinth and to Tilley's stonemason for providing us with a 10 year free of charge maintenance of the plinth.

A few days before the inauguration, the first sculpture was successfully installed. The inauguration on the 21 April by the Mayor of the City Council, Cllr Mo Marsh, took place to much public acclaim and was a great success. Mortar Nova supported the launch attended by many hundreds of people and i360 provided a free flight and drinks for 80 special guests as a great conclusion to the event.

In July 2018 the contract for the second sculpture was signed and the first payment for that sculpture was made. This is Flight of the Langoustine by Pierre Diamantopoulo, which will replace Constellation once complete. Fundraising for this is now beginning in earnest.

Your committee is now working with the Council to secure the legacy of the Plinth and we will continue our work on our ideas of sculpture in the City. More about this in the next issues.

Through this project I believe that the Society has bequeathed a major cultural focal point to the people of Hove and we are immensely proud of our achievement to date.

Environmental Work

Our work to observe and alert to the need for improvement in the urban environment continues. One success worth highlighting relates to the removal of advertising banners in New Church Road, where we pointed out that these had been erroneously placed in a conservation area.

In discussion we have offered the local authority help in monitoring planting conditions in new developments and we are awaiting an outcome to those discussions.

The Society is getting concerned about the amount of graffiti in Hove and we are considering joining others in a campaign to reduce this menace. Let me know if you want to help us on this.

We have established contacts with the Sussex University Outreach team and are considering applying for a

10 week placement for a student to research and establish the facts and background for one of our new environmental initiatives reported earlier.

Lecture Programme

This year we shifted our programme to evenings only with a range of lectures. The attendance on some was disappointing and we would encourage members to attend to what always is an interesting series of events.

Finance

Our finances are in good order and from the accumulated funds this year we have seen major expenditure on the plinth and the first sculpture as well as the first instalment on the second sculpture. In addition we made a substantial payment for the Portland Road street tree planting. We are now in fund raising mode again and I would like to thank all donors and Street Tree Angels and Cherubs for their invaluable support. With gift aid those contributions grow magically. Our new membership structure now includes Friends of the Plinth and Supporters of Sculpture in the City. I would like to specifically welcome those who have chosen these new memberships and encourage others to do so too.

Governance

Your Committee has decided to move towards a new structure for the society in view of increased tasks and larger financial volumes. As already agreed in principle by an earlier AGM (in 2014) we are preparing for a move to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The proposed constitution will be put before the 2018 AGM with a recommendation for approval.

Finally thank you again to all members for staying with us, to donors for helping sustain our activities and to committee members for making it all happen.
Helmut Lusser
Chairman

Partnership with the Universities

As we move from project to project we are finding ourselves limited on the number and time volunteers have available and what they are able to do so we have become more selective in picking ideas that would have the most impact. However, we would like to do a lot more and we are delighted to inform everyone that Hove Civic Society is moving towards more of an outreach approach and I am pleased to have been asked to take the lead on this.

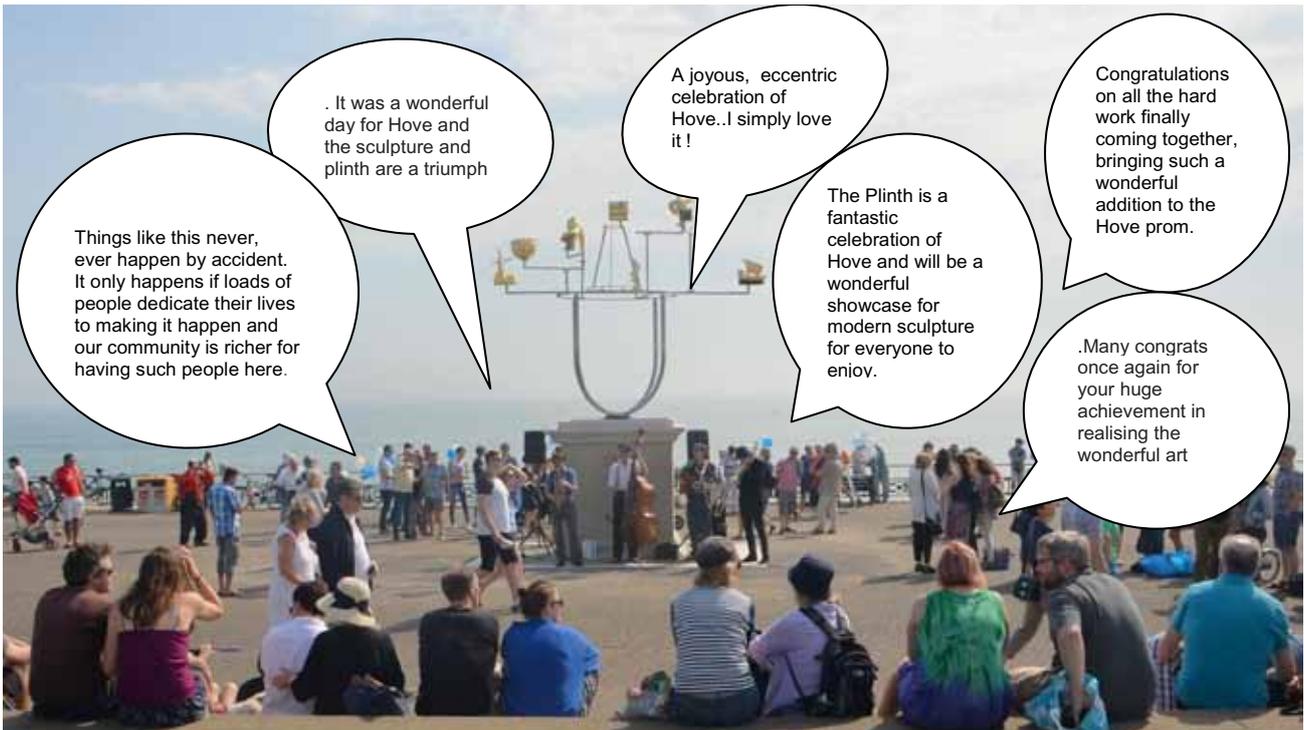
Our focus has started at looking at attracting more youth into the Society and we see that forming partnerships with the Universities as the best way forward. We are hoping to attract student volunteers who at the same time could provide input on creative project ideas that they may propose or on on-going projects that would benefit Hove. I have had numerous conversations with Sussex University, their Ambassadors, Student Union and Careers Office who have been looking at more community engagement. Finally, after a number of months of communication they have appointed a Community Engagement Coordinator which I have been working with. Sussex University will be looking at setting up a community module for each of their courses which would mean that a student will place themselves among a community group, carry out a project and report back on their activities and outcome of that project. This would be part of their course and qualification. At the same time the University will be setting up a website for community groups to promote themselves. Community group applications for this won't happen until February/March next year and we will provide you with an update at that time.

We are still trying to explore a similar relationship with Brighton University.

Patrick Lowe



Hove Plinth Feedback



The Hove Plinth has become a focal point for the Hove Promenade and we have had fantastic feedback from local people and organisations, a small selection of which are included here.

Quotes by: Peter Kyle MP, Stephanie & Michael Brada, Cllr Alan Robins, Ricci Masero, Meinir MacFayden

Hove Plinth News

Having taken some time off during the summer to recover from the run up to the launch of Hove Plinth and first sculpture, we are now back in harness and planning ahead for Phase 2 which will see a second major sculpture installed by spring 2020. This will be the wonderful Flight of the Langoustine by Brighton-based artist Pierre Diamantopoulo MRSS chosen as part of our first call to artists in 2015 and a clear favourite with the public. Diamantopoulo has an impressive history of public commissions, including his landmark 'Kandi Sky' sculpture in painted steel, spanning 22 Metres and standing among the Northern Gateway Sculptures. He has exhibited at the Cass Sculpture Foundation and at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, has staged a wealth of solo shows and his work is in private, corporate and international collections.

The sculpture is made up of four life-size bronze figures flying through a steel grid. It was inspired by a discarded and mangled lobster pot which the artist had found on the Brighton beach. In his imagination the washed-up object that seemingly helped the lobsters escape translated itself into a wider story of human exodus and release - a dash for freedom.

We are now starting fund raising and will aim to raise funds for each of the four figures and the grid / fabrication in turn. This will allow work to be funded and progressed incrementally as the total production time is estimated to take at least one year. We have signed a letter of agreement with the sculptor who has started with preparatory work.



Raising the funds is as always the great challenge. We have produced a sponsor pack for major sponsors and are making grant applications. Members of the public can support us by becoming 'Friends of the Plinth' or 'Supporters of Sculpture in the City' - details and forms are on the Hove Plinth website. We are also very excited to be collaborating with Tag Fine Arts to make available small models of plinth and sculpture for sale and are progressing with our plans for a web shop. Watch this space!

Meanwhile we hope you continue to enjoy Jonathan Wright's Constellation. Have you listened to Constellation speak on your smart phone yet? Best way to do it is down at the plinth but you can also cheat and do it from your armchair by entering www.callhove.uk in your browser. And there are lots more stories about the icons on the new Hove Plinth website - just click on the images of the icons <http://www.hoveplinth.org.uk/gallery>

Interest in Hove Plinth has spread well beyond the city. For example, the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association refers to it as a 'ground breaking' project and have invited us to present at their annual conference in October. BBC Countryfile have also been in touch.

Last but not least, we are progressing the Hove Plinth legacy project to identify final locations in the city for sculptures once they have done their stint on the plinth. On suggestion from the City Council we are researching and mapping potential sites with a view to working with the council and local developers to find places for art work that are accessible to the public and that can become the beginnings of a city sculpture trail - we could even call it an open air art gallery.

Karin Janzon

Friends and Supporters scheme:
<http://www.hoveplinth.org.uk/support-us>

Sponsor pack: please email karin@hovecivicsociety.org

Hove Stories: Street Musicians

Along George Street and the seafront, a variety of buskers come out with the good weather. I doubt if they make much money, but they provide some entertainment!

Once upon a time the only way to hear music was listening to a performer in the street. In medieval times, French buskers were called troubadours and in old Germany they were Minnesingers and Spielleute. Back then, local merchants would invite buskers to their storefronts, plazas and public squares to attract new business.

The allure of the busker still has its effect on the public today, although not all merchants are happy to invite them to perform in front of their establishments. However, for some artists the humble beginnings of busking can develop into worldwide success. Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas started out busking on the streets of Brighton & Hove and are now celebrating 25 years of 'STOMP'.

Celia Britton and Nicole Urbanski



Lamp Post Banner Advertising



It was noticed that lamp post banners had been installed along the eastern end of New Church Road, firstly for a radio station and subsequently for a children's nursery. The Society felt that this type of advertising was inappropriate for a mainly residential road which lies in the Pembroke & Princes Conservation Area. Following consultation with Westbourne Councillor Denise Cobb, who contacted the planning and transport departments with regard to this matter, it was confirmed that this advertising was at odds with the council's own planning policy.

The Society wrote to the Council, explaining our opposition to this advertising. Their letter in reply admitted that the banners had been

installed in a conservation area without permission and should not be in a residential road. We are pleased to report that the banners have now been removed.

The council have also said that their internal processes have been reviewed, and they will "endeavour to organise new sites while working closely with the planning authority and the conservation and heritage teams".

We are pleased that the Council reacted promptly on this occasion.

Hove Seafront Update

As previously reported two of the shelters along Hove promenade had to have their roofs removed last year as they were structurally unsafe. The Council is now in the process of obtaining tenders for their restoration. There is no maintenance planned for Hove Seafront this year other than the shelter roofs, which will apparently swallow a huge chunk of the Council's budget allocation for this. However, the two shelters adjacent to the Plinth have recently been repaired.

Paul Abbott

Improvements to All Saints

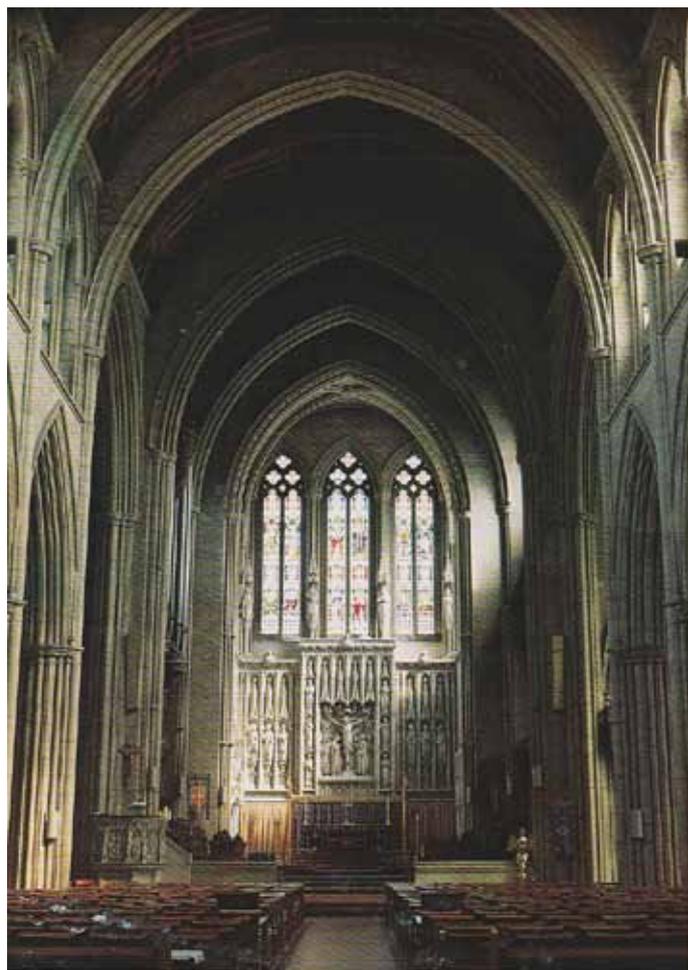
All Saints is Hove's largest and most distinctive Church, Grade 1 listed. Often seen by people passing and noted for its size, once inside its glory as a magnificent piece of Victorian Gothic Architecture becomes clear.

Built by the people of Hove in the late 19th Century it was to form the heart of Hove alongside the recently completed Town Hall (unfortunately destroyed by fire in the 1960s). Designed by Pearson – who also designed Truro Cathedral – it became a significant part of the centre of gravity of Hove.

Unfortunately, Pearson used the local Sussex sandstone to build All Saints; it is beautiful on the inside with its extraordinary carved stone reredos, but it is very susceptible to weathering on the outside (illustration below) and requires regular and expensive maintenance. The next task, which is urgent, is repairs to 3 areas of the East end of the church, at an estimated cost of nearly £1/4M. Planning and fundraising is underway.

But more importantly the Vicar & PCC wish to re-establish the original vision of the Church's founders and expand markedly the facilities available to increase the capability to support all elements of Hove life, thus justifying the long term future and upkeep of All Saints. East of the Church is the fine Victorian stone and brick Vicarage (also

Grade 2* listed) and the 1960s Church Hall. We are planning to upgrade our facilities through the creation of a contemporary urban centre of mission that combines vocational education and formation with cutting edge urban community engagement, utilising the old Church Hall and Vicarage. This plan is at an early



stage, but the vision is to have alongside All Saints an iconic modern structure, in keeping with its surroundings, complementing both the Church and the Vicarage, being welcoming in style and adding significantly to All Saints' role in the wider community of Hove.

City Plan Part II – a summary of our comments

The City Plan Part II went out on consultation during the summer. This is the first stage of preparing the plan and we can anticipate an adopted version by 2021. The full version of our comments can be found on our website. Our comments focus on individual policies in the draft plan, but we have also made a number of general comments pointing out omissions.

As far as individual comments are concerned there is much to be commended in the draft. We support the introduction of National Space Standards, which we have been campaigning for for a long time. We also welcome the policy for Housing and Accommodation for Older People and for Build To Rent Housing. We have made several suggestions on the policy relating to High Quality of Design and Places including a firming up of requirements for an artistic element in strategic and prominent sites. We believe that the policy on Landscape Design and Trees needs to be sharpened up in several ways including the requirement for one new tree for each new dwelling built. We believe this could compensate for the reduction in street tree planting caused by reduction in public sector expenditure. We also believe that the council should explore to what extent a proportion of developer contributions could be used for an endowment type fund that could secure a degree of future maintenance.

We have made a number of comments on the Energy and Renewables, Community Energy and Heating and Cooling Networks policies. While there is much to welcome a main criticism is the lack of a firm council approach or plans for the creation of a heat network, the technical standards to be applied and proposals for heat trading. We believe that without such a framework it will be hard to convince developers to implement these policies.

In relation to the policy on Housing Sites and Mixed use sites we believe the council should do more to reduce the difference between the demand for and supply of housing and in relation to Housing Sites Urban Fringe we are not convinced that carving out small individual site at the fringes of the city is the most effective way of dealing with infrastructure needs of new development in the city. We wonder if it would not be better to plan for a larger area in the eastern part of the city very much similar to the proposals for Toads Hole Valley. Such an approach could then meet a number of sustainability objectives of the city.

As far as our general points are concerned, over and above of those relating to heat networks (see above), we believe that the City Council needs to start planning for an uplift of public transport in the city especially in view of the major developments along the seafront and elsewhere now in the pipeline. We believe that the plan should incorporate specific improvements to the public realm as for example suggested in the report Public Space, Public Life. The report provides examples of corridors and areas from the Downs to the Sea in both Brighton and Hove that would substantially benefit from improvements. In addition entry points to conservation areas, such as the Avenues, are highlighted which, if improved, would substantially improve the public realm quality there. We also believe that improvements such as those to Church Road, now in the Local Transport Plan, should be anchored in the City Plan. We are calling for a higher transparency in terms of developer contributions, how they are allocated and the scope for local communities to get involved in suggesting improvements that could be funded through such contributions. Finally we have suggested that a list of sites suitable for public sculpture in the city are included in the plan – to which developer contributions for arts could be directed.

Helmut Lusser

Blue Plaques

I always enjoy attending the unveiling of Blue Plaques in the city – such an interesting mix of people attending and being commemorated – but the unveiling of a plaque to Ernest Frederick Beal on March 16 must rate as the biggest – 240 people marching along Lewes Road at one point!

Ernest Beal was born in Brighton on 27 January 1883, the eldest son of John Beal. (Do you remember the family's stationery shop in East Street?) Ernest worked at the shop and lived with the family at 148 Lewes Road. In 1914 at the age of 31 he enlisted in the Sussex Yeomanry and became an Officer with the Yorkshire Regiment in 1917. He was then posted to serve on the Western Front. Six months later he was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at St Leger. Among other acts, "when a wounded man had been left in the open under heavy enemy fire, he, regardless of danger, walked up close to an enemy machine gun and brought in the wounded man on his back. Beal was killed by a shell on the following morning." Unbelievable courage!

The ceremonies started at the Old Steine War Memorial with the unveiling of the Victoria Cross Commemorative Stone by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex. The citation was read by Lt.Col. David O'Kelly of the Yorkshire Regiment, music provided by the Band of the Brigade of the Gurkhas, then various readings and the Last Post,

Reveille and the National Anthem.

We then travelled by bus to St Martin's Church in Lewes Road for refreshments provided by Waitrose, and the opportunity to look at this historic church.

Lewes Road was closed to traffic and we all walked in procession to the unveiling of the Blue Plaque

by the Mayor, Cr. Mo Marsh, at the family home. No. 148 is a corner property: the plaque is on the side at the bottom of Pevensy Road. A welcome address and readings were made by a number of people, including Mr Martin Greenwood, great nephew of Mr Beal. (You can find more details and photographs on "My Brighton and Hove"/City Insights.)

The official party then went to nearby Fairlight School at the top of Pevensy Road for tea and to look at the projects made by some of the pupils to mark the occasion – well done, boys and girls and staff. A long day but very well managed and worthwhile.

Elaine Evans



Planning Update

It's now a year since we began our collaboration with the Regency Society, in which representatives from the two societies now meet monthly at a "Joint Planning Forum". The arrangements have been working well, allowing us to share views on a shortlist of current planning applications as well on wider strategic planning issues affecting the City. Information on the cases and issues considered can be viewed on our website.

Since our last newsletter HCS has submitted formal comments on a number of planning cases, including some large scheme proposals for:

- King's House and its large site on Grand Avenue and Kingsway
- A new block of flats on Kingsway and Braemore Road
- The redevelopment to build four blocks of flats on the large site in Lyon Close, between Davigdor Road and the railway line.

We have also contributed to the planning appeal which

is now in progress against the refusal of permission for the "Hove Gardens" scheme, on the site between Ellen Street and Conway Street. HCS was firmly in favour of the application and has written in detailed support of the appeal, which will be going to a public hearing.

Ahead of formal applications being submitted by developers, we have continued to take part in consultative meetings about potential development, to use the opportunity to influence the way in which new schemes are eventually drawn up. Recent examples are consultations about the ideas evolving for the Peugeot site in Newtown Road and for the very large area of the Sackville Trading Estate.

At a strategic level we have recently submitted detailed comments on the proposals for the City Plan Part 2, where we hope to influence the direction taken by the City Council. Again, you can find information on this on the HCS website.

Bob Ryder

Winter HCS Lecture Programme

All lectures will take place in the Courtlands Hotel and begin at 7pm.

25th October 2018 AGM

followed by a talk by Cllr Daniel Yates, Leader of Brighton and Hove City Council on leading the council and dealing with the housing crisis.

22nd November 2018



The Lost Theatres of Brighton
by Chris Horlock

24th January 2019



The Roman influence - local settlements between the Downs and the city
by Trevor Povey

21st February 2019



Hove's Pioneer Film-makers
Dr Frank Gray

21st March 2019



Creating the second sculpture for Hove Plinth

an illustrated talk by Pierre Diamantopoulos, Sculptor

25th April 2019

Our Annual Forum looking at major new developments in Hove.

The front page of our newsletter is made up of images that show some of the late Victorian heritage in Hove.

David Kemp, of DK Architects has created the page.

Framed versions are available for sale in different sizes.



Keep in touch...

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