



Hamlet Court Conservation Forum

Autumn 2018 Newsletter



Love Hamlet Court Road

In July we set up camp in the road to tell the community about our work. The event was very successful with many people stopping for a chat and sharing their love and knowledge of the road as well as their local concerns. We met some amazing people and signed up a good number of new members, all wanting to support the area.

A great example was the gentleman who told us about the 'Piccadilly Steps' onto the seafront at the bottom of Holland Road and the related tale that when Westcliff railway station was first built it might have been called Piccadilly Station! It's an interesting thought that in reinforcing our local heritage identity we could investigate renaming the station 'Westcliff Piccadilly' - sometimes the things that crop up are pleasingly alternative opportunities.

But the main purpose of the event was to spread the word and engage with the real community concerns. In both ways the event was a clear success. We are now working on how best we can assist local regeneration and help the community to overcome or manage the concerns raised.



Police Activity Day

*Another great event in the road in September, hosted by the police which we joined and spent time chatting about local policing concerns in the road with intimidating begging and police presence the main concerns raised. Various ways of helping the public and traders were discussed and we will be bringing these forward on our [website](#) as a one stop **Local Help** page soon as possible.*

Conservation Area Designation

This is a main area of our work, to try to protect the historic area and, importantly, to help gain access to heritage funding, funding that goes all over the country but not here - WE MUST CHANGE THIS. We recently made further representation at the Council's Conservation Working Party where we again pressed for a response to our detailed statement of case document, presented to the Council in July 2017, over a year ago! The officer advice was that a document looking at the *possible* conservation designation is due to be circulated for comment and onward reporting to Council Cabinet so we hope to see this in the coming weeks. The speed of Council response is frustrating but we are nearer a point where this can move forwards and so we remain optimistic.



Christmas Lights ???

We have been working to try to get the Christmas lights back into Hamlet Court Road but this is proving difficult as the Council offer of the lights only materialised in recent weeks and the initial costs are high. There is a possibility that this could happen this year if we can agree a reduced cost basis but it is much more realistic for us to

help achieve this next year, with more lead in time

Regeneration and a Local Business Partnership

This is a central area of our work and we are now in discussions with the Council's Town Centre Manager about the possibility of a local business partnership between businesses and the Council. This important to help coalesce the aspirations of businesses, to obtain the best help from the Council and try to raise future funds for regeneration projects. It is clearly something that can help local business and we are hoping to encourage traders to step forwards to make a partnership work. Moreover we are offering to help those traders who don't have time or inclination for regular meetings by acting as a proxy enabler, dealing with the meetings, the information flow and opportunities, allowing a simple decision taking process for the businesses partnership. More details are available on our [website](#)

Why not get involved?

We are very interested in inviting more members to participate with our working committee so if you would like to pop along to a meeting to see what we are about, with no obligation, you would be very welcome. All we ask for is enthusiasm but any other life experience that can help our work would be really appreciated. We meet every 6 weeks or so, usually on a Monday or Tuesday at 7.30pm for a couple of hours. If you are interested please email chair@hamletcourt.org

