

## SEAFRONT SHELTERS

The Worthing Society may be seen as an organisation which only takes an interest in the town's buildings. In reality we have a much wider brief involving many Civic aspects of Worthing.

Object 2b of the Society's constitution states that we will strive to "Secure the preservation, protection and improvement of buildings **and features of historic or public interest in the Borough.**"

It is for the above reason that the Society is currently involved in attempts to improve the state of our seaside shelters. We see these structures as traditional amenities, which are of benefit to both residents and visitors. British seaside towns have a long history of providing shelters and toilets, part of civilised life and well worth defending.



Sadly, there are three shelters on our seafront which the Council has failed to maintain, they have received no attention for several years. These are the large square shelters to the East and West of the pier and the unusual octagonal shelter just off the Brighton Road. The eastern shelter was partially converted into a cycle hire business last year but the company involved has been unable to open for business this year due to the roof of the shelter developing a leak.

Earlier this year the Worthing Society wrote to the Borough Council officer responsible for maintenance who, in reply, advised us that he had insufficient funds in his budget to carry out any maintenance work.

A letter was then sent to Paul Yallop, the Council Leader, who appears to disagree about the importance of the shelters, as he refused to provide extra funds, even to just have some painting work done.

A subsequent letter to the Worthing Herald advising residents of the Councils disinterest in the matter has, as yet, provoked no response. Meanwhile the shelters continue to deteriorate. Structures cannot survive permanent neglect anymore than humans; there has to be some suspicion that the Council is preparing the way for the demolition of these shelters rather than safeguarding their future.

The Worthing Society sees the seafront environment as an important aspect of our town's heritage and will continue to fight for it to be a pleasant and attractive feature, free of the dereliction the Council appears willing to tolerate. We wonder what visitors think as they stroll by these seafront slums!

The Society is also currently involved in an attempt to ensure a permanently open status for the twitten (path), which runs from Warwick Street to **Library Place**. The Stagecoach Bus Company is attempting to have this historic route to the sea permanently closed off. More on this later; after over 40 communications on the issue we have not arrived at a conclusion. We continue to do battle on this matter. Go to the sub-menu "Library Place" item in the "**CAMPAIGNS**" category for more information on this issue.

Bill Geddes  
Executive Committee Member