

Connaught Park



As a resident of Castle Avenue and owner of a lively springer spaniel, I am obliged to carry out an early morning inspection of the park on a daily basis, and am therefore well placed to note its condition and any processes of change.

In common with many Dover residents I was delighted to hear the Council's recent confirmation that the park is to remain fully open for public use and that the shadow of the caravan park has passed. This decision speaks volumes for the importance of public opinion and does appear to indicate that our Council is not quite as insensitive to our views as some ratepayers would have us believe.

In recent months the Council has been quietly getting on with a whole range of improvements and these include the provision of well designed litter bins located over a wide area, clearance and grassing over of undergrowth and former compost dumps, replacement of a large number of trees for those lost in the hurricane, planting of various shrubs, the commencement of landscaping to the ornamental pond backdrop and even a lick of paint to the railings that protect the commemorative trees.

For all of this the District Council and its staff are to be warmly congratulated and it is to be hoped that residents and visitors alike will respect the Council's hard work and keep it tidy.

On a constructively critical note I am concerned that the Council's new "Fort Connaught" gardening centre located at the top of the park is a dreadful eyesore and it is hoped that in the longer term the Council will give consideration to erecting a good quality solid timber fence to improve the look of this particular area.

Finally, with increased emphasis on attracting more visitors to the park, is it not time that the Council gave consideration to providing parking facilities that are on a par with those provided at Kearsney Abbey? What an interesting design challenge for Mr. Clayton and his staff.

John Gerrard Deputy Chairman



Dear Editor,

I wonder if anyone has collected information about the cave-shelters used during the War II years. I have wondered how they were organised, equipped and so on. Did they have a community life of their own? There has been much interest in the Chislehurst Caves recently, and they had quite a good story to tell. Perhaps Dover's did, too.

(Mrs) E.M. Littlehales