

Planning Matters

Martin Bacon, Canterbury City Council's Technical Director, spoke about Local Plans. With the January 1989 streamlining proposals structure Plans were to be replaced by county planning policy statements which would be final without further reference to the Secretary of State. He repeated Nicholas Ridley's view that houses were not pollution but that they do need space, and that concentration may be more appropriate than pepper pot development.

Conference discussion group on Local Plans thought main pressures in order of importance, housing, infilling, employment and shopping.

Lack of houses to rent - Price of land - High tech businesses employing few people - Pressures of hypermarkets & supermarkets.

Brian Briscoe - County Planning Officer said the Revised County Struction Plan had been completed though not yet passed by the Secretary of State.

Expenditure on the Environmental programme which included the White Cliffs Country Project would be £100,000 higher this year. Demand for building materials was exceeding forecasts and new extraction permissions would be needed for brick, clay and chalk. Dept. of Transport traffic forecasts for the County were high-140% plus in 10 years - a good reason for maximising rail freight.

Michael Odling - Chairman of the Development Planning and Transportation Committee K.C.C. said his aim was to ensure that decision making was local. Judgement of the right balance was better made in County Hall and Town Hall than in Whitehall. Speaking on British Rails plans he said Kent needs environmental protection from the impact of noise on communities next to existing lines and K.C.C. would initiate a campaign to change the law to achieve this.

Ken Wraight Committee Member

DOVER FILM FESTIVAL

12-15 March, Dover Town Hall

The annual film festival will take place this year as a tribute to the late Ray Warner.

The Dover District 1989 will be shown along with Ray's marvellous film of the River Dour. Ivan Green will be presenting "Then and Now". and Dover Film Society will be showing a film of their choice. The exhibition by Dover Library and Dover Museum will feature the history of tourism in the area.

Make a date in your diary! Matinee performance on Wednesday 14th.