

The Members' Meeting

MERRIL LILLEY

THE MEMBERS' MEETING, held at St. Mary's Parish Centre on 22nd March, was divided into two sessions.

Before the interval members watched slides of old Dover, presented by Budge Adams, who was introduced by the Chairman as the "grand old man of Dover". Budge, who holds a collection of almost two thousand slides on old Dover, on this occasion chose for his subject the bridges over the River Dour, but, inevitably, many of the pictures evoked memories of the area and led to asides on past events, always an intriguing feature of any such presentation.

During the interval there was time to chat, drink wine or orange juice, buy raffle tickets from Jeremy and Sheila and welcome Julian Owen of IMPACT and three members of his team, Linda Ware, Alan Cox and Sam Thomas.

After the interval the members divided into six groups, led by Leo Wright, John Owen, Philomena Kennedy, Terry Sutton, Lawrence Gage and myself. Each group worked from a discussion paper listing ideas already submitted by members of the Dover Society. The four visitors from IMPACT moved from group to group, listening to suggestions and answering questions. The half-hour allocated for this exercise ran into forty minutes and the time allowed for feed-back proved quite inadequate in view of the flood of ideas and suggestions from the participants.

Finally the Chairman closed the meeting well after the expected finishing time of 10 o'clock, announcing that he considered the evening had been a profitable and successful one.

The following list is an attempt to collate all the ideas and suggestions formulated by the groups at this meeting. There was so much to include that I apologise to members if any items have been left out. If any members wish to add to or enlarge upon any of the items included here, please write to the Editor. Your letters will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND IMPACT MONEY IN DOVER?

Some suggestions from members

PRIORY STATION

Improve façade, entrance area and taxi rank. Landscape bank adjacent to Folkestone Road. Improve lighting. Make approach more attractive. Travel and information centre should be a focal point.

RIVERSIDE WALK

Improvements in line with original Dover Society recommendations. Special mention of improved lighting and ramp to replace steps. Areas which need attention and regular tidying – near new B&Q at Charlton, the old B&Q at Castle Street/Stembrook and near South Kent College.

60 OLD DEAL ROAD/CASTLE HILL ROAD/CASTLE STREET

Some buildings in need of attention, especially on west side near old Conservative Club. Signposts for pedestrians to Castle. Footpath and steps to Castle could be made more attractive. Entrances to Victoria Park and Victoria Park Mews need tidying and face-lift, near Castle environs.

ALLEYWAYS IN THE TOWN

Improve these as IMPACT did in Ramsgate examples. Flying Horse Lane, New Street, old bomb site near Walters' shoe shop area; leading to and around the Painted House; Fishmongers' Lane – a crucial pathway to the seafront.

PAINTED HOUSE

Improve entrance and façade, possibly re-paint in terra-cotta (Philomena's suggestion). Ideally link with White Cliffs Experience. Open up lawns on occasion to the public.

BENCH STREET/TOWNWALL STREET

End of Bench Street, shops in Townwall Street and entrance to the new underpass – key area for attention.

IN THE TOWN /BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDS

Renovation and use of upper storeys of shops, use of Living Over the Shop schemes; Upper storeys in terrace opposite Town Hall in particular need attention, from Effingham Crescent to Priory Hill. Restore to former elegance. Co-op site. Royal Victoria Hospital site.

(June: Work has now begun on the R.V.H.)

Russell Street Car Park needs major face-lift and improved signposting. Multi-storey car park here not wanted or needed. Gardens, planting flower-beds, trees, seats, suggested. Improve existing multi-storey and make attractive. Improvements of area bounded by Woolcomber Street and St. James's Street. Bus station – could this be re-located?

Area on frontage of the Unitarian Church near Snargate Street roundabout. Tidy-up, wall and footpath, possibly planting would soften look of retaining wall.

White Cliffs Experience. Open lawns to public (as above) Signposting needed from York Street. Future years – eventual demolition of post-war buildings on west side of Market Square.

SNARGATE STREET

Improvements to shops and buildings all along the route of the new A20. Entrance to the Grand Shaft. Make this GRAND!! Completely re-design to make the entrance attractive and impressive, as a contrast to surrounding area. Should be high-lighted. Information boards here. Various suggestions, gardens, an impressive gate, paved pathway, restore in period style.

Build bridge across Snargate Street to the new Docks development area, glass top suggested.

Display Hippodrome plaque in appropriate location.

>

Generally welcomed by most members who look forward to the changes. Marina extension very good. Superstore – some concern about design and planning, Crucial development for the tourist future of Dover. IMPACT to work with Dover Harbour Board

SEA FRONT and ADJACENT AREAS

Suggestions:

Emphasis on flower beds all along the seafront to produce impressive and elegant gardens.

Landscaping of Marine Court garden. Query? Could this be opened up?

Landscaping of area along roadside from Leisure Centre to East Cliff.

Tidying of Moat Bulwark. "History" board there.

East Cliff and Athol Terrace – attention to pavements and footpaths. Could these be paved in line with new A20 pavements? Some bollards and design similar to Castle Street.

Signposts to the pedestrian cliff walk.

Woolcomber Street – garage forecourts and corner area at junction with Townwall Street – flower beds, painting, seats, etc.

Signposts for pedestrians to Castle.

Western end of promenade – attention to all approaches to the sea from the town and from the Western Docks development area to make this feel like a seaside town. Maintain sea-front seats, particularly those 'In Memoriam' as of old.

GENERAL

As well as larger schemes, some already planned by IMPACT, it was felt that Dover has a lot of attractive places, buildings, parks and that these could be improved by general cleaning, tidying, paving, landscaping, etc. to make the most of the existing good features of the town. ◇

Membership News

Individual Membership: £4.00 p.a. (1st April – 31st March)

Joint membership: Two members, same address, one copy *Newsletter*: £6.00 p.a.

Current membership 406.

Our total membership is now an encouraging 406 but we lose about twenty members each year – not from carelessness but through natural causes. Please use whatever means you can to encourage new members.

Unfortunately, some old friends have not yet paid up for 1993/94. They will be hearing from me but I would be most grateful to hear from them first!

SHEILA COPE, *Membership Secretary*