

Report on the work of the Planning Sub-Committee

LAWRENCE GAGE (417), *Chairman*

The Sub-Committee welcomes Arthur Goodburn as a co-opted advisory member.

CAMDEN CRESCENT HOTEL

As a result of our comments, the design for this new hotel was considerably revised and although we still had some minor reservations on detail design, we were broadly in support of the planning application. Much to our regret however, the proposal was thrown out by the full Council of the D.D.C., on financial grounds.

LISTED BUILDINGS – WESTERN DOCKS

Working jointly with the Conservation Officer of the District Council we have achieved a degree of success in our application to list further buildings in the Western Docks. The Department of National Heritage has confirmed Listing (Grade II) for the former **Harbour Station**. Our applications for the listing of the Clock Tower and the old Customs House, unfortunately, were turned down.

PROPOSED N.T. VISITORS' CENTRE – LANGDON CLIFFS

In April we were pleased to meet representatives of the National Trust and their architects who explained in detail their proposals for a visitors' centre on the top of Langdon Cliffs. After considerable subsequent discussion the Planning Sub-Committee came to the conclusion that it could not support the current planning application.

Although we are not opposed in principle to a visitors' centre, we consider this particular design will adversely affect the atmosphere of the clifftop. In our representation to the planners we made a number of suggestions which we hope may be noted and might lead to a more appropriate solution to this very sensitive and difficult design problem. We have alerted the Government minister involved and the Royal Fine Arts Commission is now actively involved. As far as we know, no decision has yet been taken on the proposal.

PROPOSED WAR MEMORIAL – MARINE PARADE GARDENS

We opposed this application, considering the proposal to be inappropriate and badly designed. The application has been withdrawn.

IMPACT

The Dover Society continues to work closely with IMPACT on various projects. The Seafront proposals have been much revised and improved but we understand the scheme has been deferred because of funding difficulties. We hope these problems can be resolved soon. The Dover Society is represented on the Steering Group for a new public art feature on the seafont which will be the subject of an international design competition.

'Dover – Open for Business' was launched in April and further momentum and action is being provided by Dover Society members on the various Working Groups.

A number of members were involved (both as students and tutors) with the Architectural Workshop held at Images Night Club on 16 May. The subject chosen was the Russell

Street Car Park and ideas for what to do with it ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. Overall it proved to be a very useful and enjoyable day. 77

HOARDINGS ALONG THE A20 AT THE WESTERN DOCKS

There have been a number of different applications for hoardings adjacent to the new roundabouts on the A20 to advertise both generally and specifically the Western Docks development. Although we appreciate the need to market the Western Docks development, we consider the proposed hoardings will present the wrong image of the town and a more appropriate means of heralding the development should be found. Letters of objection in regard to the applications have been sent to the appropriate authorities.

EXTENSION TO ST. EDMUND'S SCHOOL

The sub-committee strongly supported this application and is pleased to note that planning permission has been given. The proposed new buildings will provide much needed new facilities at the school and will make a valuable new architectural contribution to the area.

K.C.C. LAND FOR SALE

A number of parcels of land owned by K.C.C. have become surplus to requirements and are possibly to be disposed of. We are taking action to try to avoid fiascos like the Cherry Tree Avenue car breakers' yard and to ensure that D.D.C. control any development plans.

LOCAL PLAN

A copy of the excellent article that appeared in the Spring *Newsletter* entitled 'The Future of Dover' was sent to the planners as a supplement to our earlier comments on the Local Plan. The survey and the subsequent article proved to be a most valuable means of gathering members' views and transferring them to the planners.

D.D.C. have acknowledged the value of members' comments and it is hoped that the Local Plan, when finalised, will take them into account.

We understand the Council intend to include a masterplan for Russell Street Car Park/Townwall Street in the next local plan. Good news indeed – as this is something we have advocated for a long time.

URBAN TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR DOVER

After considerable discussion, a six-page response to the K.C.C. consultative draft was sent. We were highly critical of the document in many respects and in particular its lack of adequate research data and analysis and the failure to identify the generally accepted need for a radical review of traffic circulation. We consider the present traffic system to be the biggest single problem restricting the success of the Town Centre. The present one-way system was conceived to deal with heavy traffic to and from the docks prior to the construction of Jubilee Way and the new A20. The situation is now entirely different and we believe a reappraisal is long overdue. It is interesting to note that our comments on the Transport Strategy document were largely echoed by both the District Council and the Harbour Board.

We will continue to keep up the pressure to achieve the best for Dover – even if our views are not always popular with the powers that be.

If members have any comments on planning matters, please ring Lawrence Gage on 242749