

IMPACT

ACTION IN LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

LINDA WADE

As is usual with IMPACT 3-year environmental improvement programmes, the team finds itself in the mid term phase facing a whole host of projects about to drop off the drawing board and out onto the streets. Also customary is the frenzy which tends to absorb the team at this stage as it attempts to deliver in all sorts of directions at once.

Improving the appearance of Ladywell Car Park

In the light of Dover District Council's planned re-surfacing works in Ladywell Car Park, IMPACT has designed a scheme that gives greater value to the project by way of modification to the car park layout to release redundant areas, thereby creating a safer and more attractive pedestrian route. Trees will provide an enhanced riverside walk and by careful planning will also act as an interface between the car park and adjacent buildings. The front boundary wall is to be reconstructed in Kentish Ragstone and Portland stone which will match the wall of South Kent College and give continuity in the streetscape.

The IMPACT team is also hoping that Kent County Council Arts and Libraries will grasp this opportunity to consider ways in which it can cheer up the bland rear wall of the Junior Library which flanks the car park and discussions are already taking place between IMPACT, the Junior Librarian and Kent County Council's Arts Consultant. The design of images for this artwork could be initiated by the library users themselves.

Mill Lane

There are many component parts to the work taking place at Mill Lane which lies behind the multi-storey car park at a crucial first impression entrance to the town centre for any new visitors to Dover.

IMPACT has been working with Kent County Council Highways Department (Bridge Management Unit) on some specially designed railings for the river wall and footbridge. Pavement re-surfacing works and planting will follow on from the riverworks stage. The trees will be Swedish Whitebeam; trees which will remain relatively small and have grey/green foliage. A backdrop of dwarf evergreen bamboo will provide an all year round setting and new street lights with upgraded light levels will add to the feeling of greater safety in the evenings when this route into town is used.

Stembrook

Work is well under way in the Stembrook area. The broad granite curbs so characteristic of Dover have been retained: small granite sett drainage channels inset into the buff-coloured paving slabs adds to its distinctive design. Windsor style lanterns and leopard head bollards (reproductions of Dover's Victorian bollards) will enrich the area's new appeal. During this time the car park has remained open and the Saturday market has successfully and popularly been re-located to Market Square, where it adds a welcome touch of colour.

Seafront/Public Art

Following the competition which drew a great deal of interest from local people, and Dover Society members in particular (there were 106 returns), the public art selection panel chose Ray Smith's strong images of channel swimmers. The selection panel included representatives of arts bodies as well as representatives of the Harbour Board, the local Councils and the Dover Society.

The next step, once the decision is confirmed, will be to bring the artwork into the seafront improvement scheme. The artist will also be involving local schools and the community in a support programme of talks and exhibitions.

The Rolls Statue

It has recently been agreed that the Rolls Memorial Statue will be moved from its present site to a more dignified setting. The precise location and some of the details of the reconstruction have yet to be clarified, but if all goes well Rolls could be in his new position ready for the opening ceremony at the beginning of the Dover Festival. IMPACT has been asked to contribute £1000 towards the removal costs estimated to be in the region of £2,400 and its Joint Committee has agreed that the contribution of £1,000 may be made providing certain details are discussed with them prior to the move. The things it is concerned about are the detail in the constructional drawings, precise siting, future maintenance and surrounding paving.

Go Shopping

Impact will again be collaborating with SE Region RIBA to create a new architectural event in Dover as a fringe activity for the Dover Festival. "Go Shopping" will involve architects, schools, the local community and possibly town centre traders.

A competition will be arranged through shop window posters, the local press, the libraries and a display in IMPACT's shop window. An exhibition will be mounted at IMPACT during the last week of the Festival.

Dover — Open for Business

An invitation to attend a Business Club meeting on the evening of Thursday, 2 March at Webb's Hotel has been mailed to Dover's town centre retailers and professional services by the Dover — Open for Business Town Centre Management partnership

20 which was set up by IMPACT to support existing businesses in the town and to strengthen Dover's economy. It includes the Dover Chamber of Commerce, major stores, other town centre retailers, businesses and professional organisations, Dover District Council and IMPACT.. This is the second in the series. Other evenings are planned for 4 May and 6 July.

The Promotion Working Group of Dover – Open for Business has also been busy thinking about how to make the town a livelier place at Easter. Several large stores are keen to open on Good Friday and events such as an Easter egg and spoon race and a traditional, well-loved Easter Bonnet Parade are planned for the Saturday. It is hoped to involve not only local children but also those who are more advanced in years in these fun occasions. If you would like to take part there will be more information from IMPACT as the event planning progresses.

On Target

All in all IMPACT expects a very busy summer. The seafront promenade schemes is due to start in May/June and the Grand Shaft new entrance improvements are also on target for a July completion.

And in the future

The next batch of projects will include the York Street corner and Worthington Street and your views are always welcomed as the programme progresses.

The Society, supporting the Dover Transport Museum Society, is happy to publish the following.



DOVER TRANSPORT MUSEUM

will re-open at

OLD PARK

Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Dover

on

EASTER SUNDAY 16th April

16 April – 28 May: Sundays only 11.00 – 5.00

1 June – 29 September: Thursdays & Fridays 2.00 – 5.00

 Sundays 11.00 – 5.00

1 – 29 October: Sundays only 11.00 – 5.00

Groups are welcome at other times by arrangement:

Phone 01304 204612

Admission:

Adults, £2

Children &

Senior Citizens, £1

Family Ticket, £5

WALDERSHARE VINTAGE WEEKEND Saturday/Sunday, 24/25 June