

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

The Zeebrugge Bell will stay where it is on Connaught Hall but the Society will provide, beneath it, an eye-level information display worded by Secretary Leo Wright and approved by member David Atwood who raised the question of relocation. He now suggests relocation of the Zeebrugge Grappling Iron now near the Prince of Wales Pier.

Refurbishment of buildings in the Conservation Area bordering on parts of London Road will by now have commenced with the prospect that the buildings on the opposite side whose cause Planning Committee member Margaret Robson proposed, before the English Heritage/DDC/DTC Regeneration initiative was revived, may be included. We welcome the support of the Dover Chamber of Commerce for this project. We also commend the Chambers revival of the proposed cableway from the White Cliffs Experience or St James to the Castle and to the Western Heights but will be surprised if English Heritage fails to veto it, as it did an earlier similar proposal which we also supported.

Dover District Council refuses to accept that the demolition of the Priory Road facade of the former GPO might create an undesirable precedent and no longer replies to our representations. We accept that emergency situations demand emergency responses and that the demolition was technically justified, but consider that an immediate public

explanation would have prevented misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

One of our members complained about the insertion of steps into the Godwyne Path but ultimately accepted that compromise must prevail in resolving complex and conflicting demands. Dover District Council has consequently persuaded the developer to install a handrail. We are pleased that the steps will deter cyclists and motorcyclists from (ab)using the path.

Similarly, we protested against the construction of a separate garage and road entrance to the Temple Ewell Nursing Home. We understand that the suggested compromise removes the garage and reduces the new entrance to a hard standing, and are happy to accept this.

We enjoyed the breakfast, at which all our suggestions were shot down, provided by Dover District Council to promote Town Centre Vision but await a response to our request for explanation of the provenance and financing of the concept. So far there has been none of the promised follow-up. Similarly we wonder what has happened to the Town Council's Public Art Project. We rejected the proposal for statues on the White Cliffs but understood that Connaught Park was to have a changing architectural exhibition.

We continue to press the Co-op, which had already repaired a fence at our suggestion, to clear rubbish from the riverside by B&Q. The question has been referred to "higher authority".

Our protest against the unsympathetic design of the new surgeries in London Road was ignored but we had no hesitation in approving DDC's proposals to improve St. Radigund's and Priory Wards.