

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

We continue to regret Ken Wraight's resignation but are pleased by Tony Holman's persistence in tracing the pollution of the Dour by diesel fuel at Bridge Street. A prosecution by the Environment Agency may be impending. At our request the Co-op has cleared the strip of land bordering on the B&Q site of vegetation and we are appraising the result.

We congratulate Dover District and Town Councils' launch of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme on Conservation Areas on London Road. The Civic Trust suggested that we should do the same for Buckland Village but this was clearly beyond our professional, financial and manpower resources. Dover Town Council however, approves suggestions such as shop front and building improvements in what used to be "Buckland Village", the improvement of shopping facilities in Cherry Tree Avenue and improved access to the church, etc. It is hoped to extend the heritage project to that area in two or three years time. The Civic Trust asks the Dover Society to act as "catalyst" in this process and we shall do our best.

Dover District Council is also to be congratulated for being rebuked by the Inspector who held the public inquiry on the Local Plan for giving too much weight to environmental concerns at the expense of rural development, tourism in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and village expansion. We, the only amenity society in the district to participate, were successful in stiffening the requirement for mandatory archaeological surveys on

sites for demolition and on the continued publication of sources of grant aid for the countryside. Our suggestions about the location of the rail-freight exchange away from Shakespeare Beach, the safeguarding of the old slipway under the De Bradelei car park, the strengthening restrictions on coastal development and the sharing of masts for telecommunication aerials fell on deaf ears. We are the more pleased that the District Council has required mast-sharing at Hobart Crescent. We are also pleased that the Council is responding to the Fourth Review of the County Structure Plan rather than to SERPLAN's South East Regional government proposal. We acknowledge Dover Town Council's generous contribution to the cost of our millennium plaques and note the suggestion that William Burgess, architect of Connaught Hall who was born in Castle Street might be included. We look forward to the building of the Performing Arts Paviliori in Pencester Gardens when its precise location is sorted out.

There are two reasons for our championing of the Aldi Cherry Tree Avenue against the Lidl Castle Street/Woolcomber Street shop proposals. One is that Cherry Tree Avenue is part and parcel of the Buckland Village project. The other is that the Woolcomber store would be in or near a conservation area, ugly and out of character with adjacent Dover Castle and Street James Church which are Ancient Monuments. It violates the draft AS12 policy in the Local Plan.

We are to view King's Hall (former Wesleyan Church on London Road) which Brian Ward is attempting to refurbish, and will apply for the listing of the facade and clock tower of Buckland Paper Mill. We regard the proposed whitewashing of the White Cliffs with the ridicule it merits.