

*The work of the*

# PLANNING

*Sub-Committee*

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

**M**y apology for having confused William Burgess the architect with William Burgess the painter whom we shall commemorate with a plaque.

In connection with our role as catalyst for the project to improve the appearance of 'Buckland Village', ie the triangle of Cherry Tree Avenue, Buckland Avenue and Buckland Bridge, we have been fortunate to recruit the good offices of Mr Maurice Miles, churchwarden of Buckland Church. Mr Miles is very well informed about the area, aware of its problems and of possible solutions to them. He has undertaken to canvass the opinions of local residents and shopkeepers on the formation of a Residents Association with the assistance of the Dover Society which is already in touch with Dover District and Town Councils and the Civic Trust on the issue, with some prospects of necessary funding. We continue to await visible signs of the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme for the upgrading of the Conservation Areas on London Road.

We are very favourably impressed with the restoration of the former Wesleyan Church now "King's Hall" in London Road by Mr Brian Ward. The splendidly refurbished interior is ideal for music, for dancing, for theatre (both proscenium - staged and theatre-in-the-round) and for public meetings and social gatherings.

We congratulate Dover Town Council on the construction of the Pencester

Pavilion and are pleased to be consulted on the paving of the proposed Heritage Path with important dates and events from Dover's history. We congratulate Dover Harbour Board for not converting part of the Yacht Club into flats and commiserate with it on the

resounding rejection of the size, siting and design of the Watersports Centre. We shall, however, be surprised, indeed sorry, if the concept is dead. Presumably DHB's further plans for hotels and restaurants at the Western Docks must await the long-expected and equally long-postponed demise of the Hoverport.

We were obliged to Mike Ebbs, DDC's Forward Planning Manager, for information on the Inspector's comments on the District's response to the Draft Local Plan. We are dismayed but not surprised that the housing proposals for Aylesham may necessitate a second Public Inquiry and that the expanded housing proposals for Dover are still in dispute. Studies have been commissioned on leisure & shopping facilities in the St. James area for which a partnership between the Council and a single developer is sought. Our fingers are crossed. Presumably the alternative would be piecemeal development.

We are pleased that our complaints against the cupolas and the rendered brickwork on the proposed LIDL store in Woolcomber/Castle Streets have been heeded but not convinced that the substituted glazed tower will be any more architecturally convincing than the drums on Woolworths. Fortunately, Woolworths does not border on a Conservation Area containing both the Castle and St James Church.

We are also pleased that the White Cliffs have not been scraped and painted.