

Findings of the Discussion Groups

Monday 16 October 2000

summarised by the EDITOR

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PROJECTS

After the interval Barry Late led a general discussion on the future of projects. Since his resignation as Projects manager, John Owen has been greatly missed and we have been unable to find a replacement for his post. Instead, the committee, after much discussion, adopted a new approach by appointing Barry as a Project Coordinator. Henceforth, different members will head individual projects and Barry will act as overall coordinator.

Members present suggested various ideas for future projects. These included the restriction of cyclists in the town and on the promenade, except on designated cycle paths; the sponsorship of roundabouts and flower beds and the restoration of the fountain in the Marine gardens in front of the Gateway flats and year-round planting of the flower beds there. There was also discussion on the need to put pressure on the owners of derelict and run-down properties to do something about renovating or restoring them.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The audience divided into four groups, each with a leader. The four topics for discussion were as follows:

1. Cowgate Cemetery Should the Society get involved in a project to help the WCCP with Cowgate? If so, suggest ways in which we could do this.

All groups agreed that it was desirable to keep the cemetery clean and tidy and to clear the gravestones sufficiently for visitors the read the inscriptions. It was felt that a clarification of aims was needed and that a balance should be maintained between the preservation of the cemetery as an historic site as a wild life sanctuary.

There was a suggestion that it could become part of an Heritage Trail and another that there might be a circular path within the grounds with the central area as a wild life sanctuary.

2. Tourism and the White Cliffs Experience. Consider the future of tourism in Dover. Suggest uses for the WCE.

Tourism. Improved shopping. Tourist Office in the town centre. More publicity for the Castle, the Painted House and the Bronze age Boat.

WCE. Suggested uses:- theatre, centre of excellence for all the Arts, offices for the port industry, handicraft centre, conference venue, shopping mall, exhibition centre, youth activities- ten-pin bowling, ice rink.

3. Alternative plaque We may not be able to install the last of the ten planned Millennium plaques. Suggest an alternative on a suitable building.

IDEAS :

Dover College Refectory - oldest in daily use OR site of murdered monk, Thomas de la Hale!

Near Girl's Grammar School -Bavington Jones-historian.

Wood Street/Crundell's Yard - William Crundall 13 times Mayor of Dover.

Townwall Street, BP garage- site of medieval fish market.

St. Martin-le Grand

Birthplace of Thomas Tallis.

4. Ideas for future outings

KENT - Rye/Winchelsea; Eltham Palace; Chartwell; Hever Castle; Marlowe Theatre repeat; Vinyards and Staple.

LONDON - Globe Theatre; New Tate; London Eye; Houses of Parliament; Hampton Court.

CONTINENT - Bruges; Honfleur.

SMALL GROUP VISITS - Port Control, Langdon Battery.