

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

We are more than pleased by Dover District Council's rejection of proposals for demolitions, conversions and additional housing on the scheduled Ancient Monument of the Western Heights. Advised by John Peverley, author of 'Dover's Hidden Fortress', who single-handedly saved the Moats from the then Dover Borough Council's plan to infill them with domestic rubbish (late 1950s), we emphasised the availability of grants for conservation and the consequential enhancement of a priceless asset to tourism. We also recalled the two occasions when the New Dover Group and then the Dover Society successfully appealed against the Home Office for demolishing a Victorian Powder Magazine and for an ill-designed building on the skyline We await developments

We are pleased to have been invited to join Dover Harbour Board's Port Consultative Committee to be consulted as well as informed on future developments. We already knew about the two new berths at the Eastern Arm. We now know that two more are possible and that there will be no

development at the Western Docks before they are commercially feasible. If there is to be a Westport (from the Admiralty Pier to Samphire Hoe) the ferries will have to pay for it. The M2/A2 will be upgraded: but not before 2008. And as Chief Executive and Chairman, Bob Goldfield, persuasively argued, neither traffic on Townwall St nor the restoration of the rail link to the Western Docks was in the control of the Port which was no more than a bus stop. Anglers at the Admiralty Pier might get more parking space but residents (who were well represented) must accept that 'Dover is the Port and the Port is Dover'. There was no reference to the promised Watersport Centre on Granville Gardens, although it has been suggested that Pencer Pavilion would be better sited there.

Whilst accepting that the £3m deficit must mean cuts in Dover District Council's services, we have joined the chorus of support for the 'Dover Express' campaign to 'Save Our Loos'. We also very much applaud the Express's 'River Watch' and will press for a survey by the local councils to revive the proposal, expressed thirty years ago by the New Dover Group for a Riverside Walk from Kearsney to Townwall Street.

We continue to await the name of the superstore in the proposed St James redevelopment of the Town Centre and wonder what work of art will suitably replace the vandisable fountain in the Market Square.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS DECEMBER 2002

The Society has been in existence for fourteen years and we have an accumulation of past newsletters. We intend to offer some for sale at each meeting starting with number eight which was the first in booklet form. (Prior to that, newsletters were stapled A4 sheets). Some early issues, particularly 10, 11 and 12, are no longer available but please let me know if you wish to obtain any others.

Thanks again to members who continue to supply raffle prizes, particularly for the Christmas Feast when we hope to see at least one prizewinner at each table.

For the past four years our numbers have remained constant in October, 408 again. We welcome Miss R Matthews, Mr C and Mrs M Batchelder, Mr D Embry, Miss M Johnston and Mrs A Johnston.

Sheila R Cope