

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Because it had become a party-political issue we could not express our emphatic rejection of the proposed privatisation of Dover Harbour Board. Now we can!

Our appeal for the Society's £1000 contribution to the funding of Town Centre Trees was generously over-subscribed. Thank you indeed! The Town and Environment Committee confirmed its keystone grant of £1500 on June 7th. We now apply for the remaining £800 to the Regeneration Unit (for former coalfields) and if we succeed the trees could be in situ by Xmas. Fingers crossed!

The two main subjects of current planning applications to Dover District Council are for extensions to existing houses, mainly unobjectionable, or for conversions of old houses, shops and offices etc, into flats in Eric, Folkestone and Salisbury Roads, etc. etc. This exemplifies the nation-wide trend to smaller households. Dover Town Council, however, objects, mainly on parking grounds. What will the District do? In any case, there are so many existing permits for conversions at Buckland Flour Mill, Westmount, South Kent College and the Paddock as well as for new housing on the RP Furniture site and the former riverside scrap yard that Dover's population will soar - provided there are takers.

St James, Buckland Paper Mill and Netto on the former Co-op site all continue to hang fire (time of writing, early June). Phase 2 of the White Cliffs Business Park has apparently got off the ground with £100m from developer AMEC in collaboration with B&Q which in exchange for permission to retail in

Whitfield (no longer for footsloggers in Dover) will finance the road infrastructure for 1800 jobs in new factories. The inhabitants of Whitfield and Guston will presumably suffer from increased traffic, and light and noise pollution, as well as archaeological damage to the Roman Road. We trust that the D.D.C. will enforce maximum mitigatory measures.

The Society has signed up for Community Involvement in the Local Development Framework. Well we would, wouldn't we! We've been at it continuously and intensely since our foundation year in 1988.

We note Folkestone and District Water Company's intent to construct a new main from Alkham Valley to Dover and trust that the uprooted trees in Kearsney Abbey will be replaced. We also hope that the new borehole at Bushy Ruff will not compound the drying up of the Dour.

We are proposing road widening at the junction of Crabble and London Roads so that vehicles will not need to drive over the payment because the road is blocked by vehicles turning right into Crabble Road.

We welcome the appointment of Lengthsmen by Kent Highway Services to trim trees, clean signs, cut drainage ditches as well as fill potholes, etc. Every little helps...

The addition of "green waste" to the collection of waste by Dover District Council is most welcome as is the clearance of long-accumulated rubbish from the Dour in the vicinity of New Bridge House.