

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by

JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

I queried the number of retrospective applications for planning consents which, at the second or third attempt, seem always to be granted. The Chairman of Dover Town Council's Planning Committee replied: "There may be one exception." Help yourself!

Applications for change of use of houses to flats and maisonettes easily outnumber all other planning applications put together. Is this the answer to the problem of affordable housing?

In connection with the upgrading of A2 from Lydden we have for many years been nagging the Ministry of Transport, etc, etc, about the traffic signs in London which direct Dover traffic to A20/M20 rather than A2/M2. In connection with the impending resurfacing of A20, we have successfully suggested road signs at Maidstone redirecting Dover traffic to A2/M2. Persistence apparently pays: but although we applaud the Highways Agency's manifold and manifest efforts to avoid deadlock by diversions, our fingers remain firmly crossed against accidents, bad weather and French strikes ...

As to the proposed quintuple wind farm at Whitfield, we have decided to support the Langdon Action Group's campaign

against it because of its proximity to housing. Since the government now proposes coastal wind farms by the thousand we (and they) may be straining at a gnat.

We note the suspension of the conversion of the SE Kent College in Ladywell into luxury flats and the continuing delay to the 'Coming soon' promise of the redevelopment of Buckland Paper Mill. Could it be that the promised Dover Town Investment Zone demolition of Burlington House, etc, etc may be further delayed by the current international financial crisis?

Meanwhile we are pleased to agree with Dover Town Council that the new parking charges should be earmarked for road improvements and congratulate it on the prospective (and overdue) transformation of Charlton Green with green fences, benches and gates. We very much appreciated Dover Town Council Planning Committee's support for our opposition to the demolition of 12 Park Avenue and its conversion into three-storey flats.

We applaud Dover District Council's promise to replace our vandalized town centre trees and hope that they will also repaint the base of the cover of the Market Square fountain when it is dry!