

The work of the  
**PLANNING**  
 Sub-Committee

Report by

JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

Presumably attributable to the current economic downturn, the number of planning applications has plummeted, to be partially replaced by applications for extensions. Applications for change of use to flats and studios continue to proliferate.

Despite the downturn, however, demolition of the bus depot suggests that DTIZ is not dead and Wetherspoon's renewed intention to transform Snoops into a pub, with flats above in addition, encouraging. Finally it now appears that, like it or not, because of - or despite the comings and goings of the East Kent Hospitals Trust, the Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust, Dover District Council and the General Practitioners Consortium, etc, etc, etc, we shall have a community hospital adjacent to the Health Centre. Although we do not altogether approve of the design, Dover Castle is certain to have a new Visitors Admission Building and, thanks to Dover's new Growth Point Status, a Cable Car too. Our doubts as

to the reality of air pollution control have been assuaged by the sight of Dover District Council's Local Air Quality Management Plan and its 2006 Annual Progress report.

On a smaller but still cheerful scale, we are confident that our town centre trees and the holly at Samphire Court will be replaced and are happy to have planted a Holm Oak to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Connaught Park, and to have insisted that the trees in Monastery Avenue be pruned rather than felled. We congratulate Dover Town Council for the greening of Charlton Green and all involved in the renaissance of the River Dour.

Contrariwise, Dover Harbour Board's buffer zone is shelved, Operation Stack continues to paralyse Dover and the prospective redevelopment of the Western Docks revives the possibility of privatization. Despite our efforts, the fence erected at Castle Rise on a Right of Way is declared beyond legal control. We are appalled by such proposals as the erection of no less than **seventy** dwellings at Westmount and two four-bed semis in the back garden of 106 Maison Dieu Road. We have seen no planning application for the extensive demolitions of former Post Office buildings on Maison Dieu Road. Even more flats? Or what?

## Restored Plaque

The Society has had the plaque to thank the Belgian workers restored. It is situated on the wall of the end house of Saxon Street facing the Dover College. The Plaque reads On May 14th 1846 M. Leon-Elie Troclet, Belgian Minister of Labour and Social Security, unveiled this tablet to commemorate the arrival of Belgian workers who, as a token of gratitude and admiration, came to help in the rebuilding of Dover. Outpost of freedom from 1939 to 1945.

*There will be a full article in the next newsletter Editor*

