

*The work of the*

# PLANNING

*Sub-Committee*

Report by JACK WOOLFORD,  
Chairman

In our August 2009 Newsletter (No. 65) we contrasted the breathtaking speed of Morrison's take-over and rebuild of the B&Q store on Charlton Green with the endless delays to almost everything else. That is, except the unwanted Giant TV Screen in the Market Square (which no one looks at) for which KCC & DDC forgot to tell DTC to pay its £10,000 whack. Moreover, Kent Highways has told DTC to send the bill for any repainting of the Bridge Street bridge to Netto or Morrison and not them. Contrariwise, DTC has refused. A retrospective planning permission request has now been received from English Heritage to erect direction signs on a public highway! What next?

On the other hand, we would have preferred the £2m Sea Change grant for the new Esplanade on the sea front to have been spent on improving the grotty underpass to the Town Centre, etc. At least we are to be spared the proposed shingle beach (which would have been washed away in any case) and our fingers stay crossed for the future of the Seafront Annual Regatta, one of DTC's best achievements. DTC has also sensibly pointed out that the burnt-down house at 78 London Road could not be restored,

even though it is in a (so-called) Conservation Area.

We have not appeared at the Core Strategy Local Development Framework Public Inquiry, having already expressed to the Inspector our marked preference for employment opportunities over the building of houses by the thousand. We have drawn DDC's attention to the Compulsory Purchase Orders used by Hastings Borough Council to clear the town of eyesores - of which Dover has many - but are informed of the complexity of legal implications and reminded of the Recession....

We applaud and support the efforts of the Civic Trust Initiative to rekindle a national amenity organization - provided we do not have to raise our membership subscriptions or cut any of our current commitments.

We continue to await hospitals and highways and welcome the addition to Dover's dental services. There should also be an Innovation Centre, Sure Start Centres, Academy Schools, a new E-On Power Station, NHS Healthy Living Centres and a new University for the Creative Arts, 40,000 new jobs, 16,000 homes and 50,000 more people ...