

The work of the
PLANNING
Sub-Committee

Report by JACK WOOLFORD,
 Chairman

We have reiterated to the Ombudsman our support for our members, Mr & Mrs Woolhouse, who assert Dover District Council (DDC) maladministration in permitting the building of two four-bed semi-detached houses in their neighbour's back garden in Maison Dieu (!) Road.

Planning Policy PPS1 "supports sustainable development and protection and enhancement of the quality of the natural environment in rural and urban areas ... places emphasis on good design and ... states that development which is inappropriate in its context should not be accepted". Q. E. D!

We asked DDC for the detailed costing and output of the Whitfield Wind Turbine after two years and learn that the potential return on the £90,000 installation is £1618 per annum plus the saving of 600 kg of CO₂. Admirable though this latter is, it will take fifty-five years to recover the cost, not to mention maintenance. The Performance Officer says that the installation was paid for by grants: but this was taxpayer's money, not a free gift...

No doubt the recession is partly to blame, but, without warning or

consultation, DDC has peremptorily shut down the public toilets at Maison Dieu and Buckland Bridge in our world-famous White Cliffs town - whose second economic basis is tourism. On the other hand, the handover of responsibility for tourism to Dover Town Council should guarantee us against another Market Square monstrosity. This will sensibly relocate the Tourist Office in the Market Square, in addition to its admirable and ongoing festivals, Christmas lights, sports and allotments achievements.

DDC has been given the go-ahead for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework as a growth point for the years to 2026 and beyond, with 14,000 new homes and 6,500 new jobs in prospect. Presumably current problems such as the relocation (if any) of our hospital, the privatization (or not) of Dover Harbour Board, the construction of Terminal 2 at the Western Docks and the demolition of Burlington House, etc, etc, etc, will be included.

Meanwhile, at least, for anything up to 30 years, we have the High Speed Rail Link, the new Morrisons to compete with our existing supermarkets (etc) and the excellent refurbishment of Payne's green grocery which shows that small shops in the town centre can improve, survive and prosper.

PS: DDC has accepted our advice not to put banner signs on the Big Screen...