

is not a replacement for any legal/professional activity but very often we are able to give an unbiased view and point the individual in the right direction where a matter may then be resolved.

Those members who access the DDC website in respect of current applications and decisions will be aware of a new on-line system introduced in March. Like all systems it has its teething problems and we have, at our aforementioned meetings with the Director of Community and

Development, highlighted certain areas. I am pleased that as "the dentist" he has taken on board our comments and I hope some of these small problems will be resolved.

We are still watching the Whitfield Urban Expansion scheme with particular reference to the comments that The Dover Society has made to the Planning Authority which were previously summarised in the Planning Report in the March edition of our newsletter.

## Regeneration ... Jeremy Cope

Many matters have been put on hold by the recent elections. The message has been wait until the results are in and then start lobbying again. However one thing is now becoming even clearer, the cuts are here and there is very little in the way of resources to enforce standards and improve what is run down and neglected. Lobbying for improvements was always difficult but now it will require much more determination and an ability not to be put off by disappointments.

Matters we are pursuing: the ARP post meeting was positive with the KCC suggesting that we adopt the post. Bodies such as the Society can attract funds in a way not open to local authorities. Subsequently the proposal was that the Society lease the property but this is more complex with problems of insurance and control. Town Centre planters show some improvement but a long way to go - the vandals, no surprise, show no sign of improvement. A letter has gone off to KCC Rights of Way Unit on our ideas for improving the walk from Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs. No reply has arrived yet and I suspect a hastener will follow shortly. At a recent meeting with DDC the message on neglected properties, particularly listed buildings and conservation areas, is that there are very limited resources within the Council. It seems that the only way things will get done is by lobbying over each neglected property of and just keep on badgering them.

### **New Ideas**

Can we /should we adopt Connaught Park Pond? It is need of repair and DDC does not have the money. Can we attract the funds required including matched funding? The amount required is anything between £20,000 and £75,000 depending on what is done. The Lindemann Plaque on the sea front (all those shells sent across to Dover from the gun emplacements at Calais) needs maintenance. Again money is needed.

And those toilets - once this article is finished its time to pick up my pen again.