

## 2nd Talk

### Regeneration Update

A talk by Tim Ingleton - Dover District Council  
reported by Terry Sutton

Tim Ingleton, Dover District Council's head of inward investment, was a guest speaker at our meeting on November 19th when he had the difficult task of providing an update on the regeneration of the district without revealing confidential matters provided to the council by potential investors. This difficulty became apparent during question time when asked about planning issues relating to the proposed new Buckland Hospital on which pre-planning application advice was being given by the council.

Mr Ingleton's talk ranged from the development of Aylesham, scheduled to start this year (2013), the redevelopment of the former Pfizer complex at Sandwich and progress on the St James' DTIZ area (Dover Town Investment Zone). He said compulsory purchase orders and earthwork borings had just taken place for the schemed hotel in Townwall Street.

He complained that the lack of a decision by the government on the privatisation of the Port of Dover was



*Tim Ingleton*

holding up planned waterfront residential development and reported that investors were still interested in providing a cable car to link Dover town with the tourist attraction of Dover Castle. Mr Ingleton claimed Dover had "fantastic opportunities" for development that many other areas did not enjoy.

During question time he was asked about the latest on the controversial plan for housing on the Western Heights and in the Farthingloe Valley. Mr Ingleton did not want to say too much on this subject, in advance of a planning application but he did reveal that he understood there had been some revision on the early proposals. He was also questioned about the future of operating high speed trains to Deal and Sandwich which, it was rumoured, was costing £250,000 a year.

Another question concerned the future of town centre shops (Cannon Street, Biggin Street) if and when a new shopping area was developed in the St James' area. One suggestion put forward was that empty shops could be converted to residential use.