

# Refurbishment Committee

Jeremy Cope

To continue with the note of optimism from the November issue report I can state that the overgrown verge alongside Upper Road (a section of the path from the Bleriot Memorial to Langdon Cliffs) has now been cut back by KCC Highways, allowing people to walk off the road at a blind and dangerous corner. You should still wear boots in wet weather as the roadside path can be muddy in places, but I am due to fix an appointment with KCC to see what may be done. KCC Pathways have put in a stile over the barrier and although there is still much to be done, things are on the up.

At our regular meeting with Dover District Council we raised several matters. We questioned the progress of the new enforcement of anti-litter and dog fouling measures. Over the first couple of months only 78 notices had been issued across the district with the comment that new wardens had not been seen. For the whole district 3 wardens are not a lot. The implementation is not "zero tolerance". Policy is applied with common sense rather than the approach adopted in Folkestone with its large number of fines leading to the scheme's withdrawal due to public outcry. We discussed the policy of making the town centre a "no go" area to drinkers and addicts. Whilst recognising its very real value we made clear our concerns that those pushed on would end up in parks and amenity areas just outside the town centre. We discussed street cleaning and the verges of the main roads in and out of Dover. But the message is clear – in such matters there

is never a perfect answer and the only way to improve standards is to keep telling DDC of concerns and lapses.

Jenny Olpin has an article on the meeting with Dover police to establish links so that we may pass on our concerns. Again do please let Jenny or Joan Liggett know of any problems.

Sylvie Parsons has had to close Brighter Dover for personal reasons. During the time she organised it she and her helpers achieved great things and the Society will be seeing what it can do to fill in the gaps left. It is difficult to imagine Sylvie not wielding her trowel in Dover centre.

I keep our committee updated on the progress at Dover Big Local, the group charged with securing the £1 million lottery grant for Dover Town Centre. It is supported by the Society and is making good progress in establishing locals' ideas of what needs to be done and how the task should be approached. As you may well imagine £1 million is not a lot of money in the context of what is required. The group holds monthly public meetings and if members would like any information please email me on [jeremycopes@willersley.plus.com](mailto:jeremycopes@willersley.plus.com).

Finally a big thank you to Pam Brivio, always public spirited, who has been our secretary preparing the minutes. Pam, now a County Councillor is inevitably having to withdraw from the role. We need a new secretary also interested in what we are doing. Again volunteers please email me or phone on 01304 211348.