

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

As I put pen to paper the weather in September is wet and dismal although from a planning perspective the sun is shining. The long-running DTIZ (St James's Development) has seen the multi-storey car park demolished, scaffolding is over half way up Burlington House ready for it to be taken down floor by floor, work to remove asbestos is currently being undertaken with a target date of mid-October to commence the full demolition.

The New Travelodge hotel submitted revised plans and we were very disappointed that some soft landscaping had been removed by the developer from the original plans, we objected to this but DDC accepted the revised plans. Soft landscaping is so important to new projects that are by way of design very stark and as such give added aesthetic value to the street scene. The developer had already reduced landscaping on the main DTIZ site (Shops/Cinema) and we shall continue to seek such landscaping.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we were successful in securing quality build and landscaping of the new Bench Street car park. Again thank you DDC for listening and taking action on our request.

The residential part of the DTIZ scheme (corner of Castle Street and Woolcomber Street) is almost complete and at the time of the planning application we congratulated the developer of the design that reflected the quality of build expected in Conservation Areas.

The DHB Western Docks scheme submitted planning request to remove Grade II listed

items (Lamp standards etc.) from the popular Prince of Wales Pier in order to reduce the 1970's part of the pier to a lower level thereby enabling construction of the new cargo berth. This will result in permanent closure for public access to the Prince of Wales Pier. The alternative pier constructions (Marina Curve and Eastern pier to proposed new marina) would eventually be the alternative community pier facility instead of the current Prince of Wales Pier. However, the marina construction is not scheduled until phase II (after the construction of the cargo berth). It is understood DHB will be seeking a commercial partner to take on the operation of the marina, as such, if there is not a partner to take on the marina there is a risk of it not being constructed along with the alternative pier facilities. Also the access will have been lost to the Prince of Wales Pier because of the new cargo berth.

Our Chairman (Derek) responded on behalf of the Society that we could not fully support the application unless our conditions were delivered (a copy of Derek's letter is available). My own personal view is that any marina



Nearing completion the new residential property corner of Castle Street and Woolcomber Street within the DTIZ scheme © Pat Sherratt

development plan must be fully delivered at the same time as the cargo berth, otherwise there is the possibility of it not being constructed and total loss of any pier access to the local community. Capt. Weston and Alan Sencicle both with nautical experience, who are members of our planning committee, have also expressed a desire for more detail of the "cut" from the proposed new marina to the Wellington Dock as no detail is given by DHB, only artist impressions. Nearly 350 objections to DDC have been submitted, raising concern at the loss of public access to the Prince of Wales Pier. The Dover Society has sought a quality waterfront development but without detailed plans it is not possible to see what the design intentions are for the waterfront. We recognize and support the need for regeneration of the area particularly since the demolition of the former hoverport.

We all witnessed the horrific road situation this summer as striking French ferry workers held both the port of Calais and Eurotunnel to ransom. With lorries stacked for nearly 40 miles the penny dropped with Central Government on how vulnerable the country is for free movement of trade and the consequential chaos for all of Kent. We await what alternative solutions are to be proposed but from the Society perspective we have, and shall continue to support the need for the upgrading of the A2 from Lydden and to bypass Whitfield.

We have pressed DDC for a replacement Conservation Officer following the retirement of Clive Alexander as reported in the last newsletter. I am delighted to have learnt in the last week that a new person will take on this role in mid-October.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - SUMMER 2015

Sheila R. Cope Membership Secretary

This has been a sad year for bereavements. In September our chairman Derek's wife died. During their 50 year marriage Linda was always there to support Derek in his many roles while at the same time carrying out her own work as a devoted mother and grandmother within the family and contributing to pastoral work at River. "She touched the lives of so many children and adults, giving time, love and inspiration." We send our heartfelt condolences to Derek and to all the Leach family.

Our Newsletter distributors do very valuable work for the Society and their services are much appreciated. Unfortunately Mrs Lucy Hoar and Mr Arthur Vassey have been obliged to resign from their tasks due to ill-health. Both members have served the Society faithfully

for many years, Lucy by delivering Newsletters in part of Whitfield and Arthur by covering an extensive area around Elms Vale. We thank them for their good work and look forward to their continued attendance at our meetings.

Now that all subscriptions have been gathered in our numbers have fallen back to 464. We face the usual uphill task to replace lost members but trust that with the resumption of our indoor meetings the interesting topics of our talks, two at each session, will attract more people who will subsequently join us. A specific invitation from an existing member is one of the best ways of bringing people in.

So with thanks to those who have spread the word we have recently welcomed:- Mr D Frazer, Mr L Wellard and Mr E Wright.