

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

Putting pen to paper in January as we experience our first cold snap having had so much rain this winter I feel sorry for those who have suffered with flooding. Anyway I wish all members a belated happy New Year and early signs are in 2016 we shall see some building on the St James's (DTIZ) site with Burlington House now down.

The developers have not announced any new names for the DTIZ shops since last September and there is some concern that existing high street names may relocate. At the time of planning application for this project we drew attention this could occur but were reassured with the exception of Marks and Spencer's, all outlets would be new names to Dover. We wait with interest and what action Dover District Council may take if existing high street shops vacate existing locations.

DDC have appointed a new Conservation Officer, in addition the officer now has an assistant. Great news we thought but alas early days with several conservation issues in Dover and the need for a Conservation Area Appraisal as well as Section 215 matters. We see little activity, when challenged "very busy on other matters". This we have taken as "non Dover activities" that we have on many occasions raised with DDC as there is greater action for Deal and Sandwich. A letter to DDC Chief Executive and Leader of the Council has been sent and we await a reply.

Those members with e-mail were sent the response that we made in respect to the "Managing Freight through Kent" consultation". There was a risk that the

Dover TAP (Traffic Assessment Project) that holds traffic on the A20 outside Dover was not being supported by KCC. The KCC Cabinet member for Transport was contacted and made aware that the system, when in operation, eases traffic congestion in the immediate vicinity of the dock area. As an experimental system it has been successful but needs some "tweaking" in particular a variable speed limit rather than a fixed 40mph and traffic to be held west of the Aycliffe estate to reduce noise and pollution to residents. As I write this report indication that the variable speed control will be very soon introduced. There is also initial support from KCC in seeking the dualling of the A2 from Lydden; however I have no doubt this will be a long running saga.

I attended the annual Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) meeting and again sought that intermediate care facilities are introduced at Buckland Hospital. With no beds at the hospital our pressure at the time of the planning application for the hospital was successful in protecting the adjacent hospital land, owned by EKHUT, from being sold. The hospital planning agreement protected this land for five years as designated for "community development", this could provide intermediate care facilities. With only two years left of the five we shall continue to press CCG/EKHUFT and our MP.

Well the Leisure Centre in Dover has been declared "time expired", DDC have their ideas of relocating to Whitfield. I hope there will be a full public consultation and any views you may have please let me know as

we shall be making comment at the appropriate time and members views are always appreciated.

Finally, the Dover Harbour Board (DHB) Western Docks scheme has started, see my comments in the last magazine. Dover needs major regeneration and we have always sought to secure quality with any development. Our fear of sacrifice to quality with the Western Docks scheme seems to have some justification based on the latest application (DOV/15/01254). Derek, Jeremy and I met DHB last July and expressed the need for a quality development particularly the replacement pier area. We were given assurance the Marina Curve, this is in place of the historic

Prince of Wales Pier, would reflect quality and the steel piling will be cosmetically dressed. Sadly this is not reflected in the latest application and DHB have confirmed to Derek it is not their intention to cosmetically dress the Marina Curve.

I have previously mentioned the full detail of what is proposed for the Western Docks scheme should be made available to the community and not a series of artists' impressions. The Planning Committee is united in the view that challenge will be made on this and any future plans that fail to deliver a development that can provide a legacy for future generations, just as our ancestors provided a legacy (Prince of Wales Pier) for community use for over 100 years.

Sir William Crundall and Jack the Ripper

Sean Crundall

I am a direct descendant of Albert Edward Bechley Crundall (1862-1950), younger brother of Sir William Henry Crundall.

When a boy I was told a story by my father that the notorious Whitechapel murderer of 1888, dubbed Jack the Ripper, was identified at Dover, and that he was a "Shylock". This information apparently came from Sir Robert Anderson, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Director of the C.I.D. at the time of the murders. Anderson was a close friend of the Mowll family and knew Crundall. Anderson often visited and stayed at Dover.

Anderson, in his 1910 memoirs, "The Lighter Side of my Official Life", claims that Jack the Ripper was identified when confronted with a witness. In 1987 further corroboration of Anderson's claims were provided by the discovery of retired

Superintendent, Donald Swanson's copy of Anderson's memoirs in which Swanson elaborates on Anderson's 1910 claims (in pencilled notes), that Anderson's suspect was identified at the "Seaside Home", and that the suspect's name was Kosminski.

My research leads me to believe that this identification took place at Morley House Seaside Convalescent Home, located at St Margaret's, near Dover. Crundall was on the board of governors' at Morley House; his wife was also a life governess. The Home maintained strong links with the City of London police and Dr Frederick Gordon Brown, Chief Police Surgeon of the City police, was one of the Home's surgeons. Dr Brown also conducted the post mortem examination on Catherine Eddowes, the Ripper's fourth victim, and was involved in the investigation of Mary Kelly's murder, the Ripper's fifth and last known victim.