

Planning Committee

Patrick Sherratt

It is with sadness the Planning Committee has lost the valued contributions of Bill Naylor who recently passed away, he will be greatly missed. This now leaves three vacancies on the Planning Committee, we are hopeful that one person has agreed to join the team and I would like to have one person from River and one from Whitfield as the Committee currently has no members from these locations. This will give a balanced view when discussing planning applications in particular as Whitfield continues to expand.

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR)

Nothing to report since comments in the last newsletter. This is possibly because DHB are waiting for the result of their application to extract sand from the Goodwin Sands. We continue to press DHB for "quality" within the project

Dover Leisure Centre

DDC have, as expected, decided the DOVER leisure centre will be located at Whitfield as a DISTRICT leisure centre. Consultations took place but were in fact only the process of ticking boxes to say the community had the chance to comment. My report of last month clearly detailed this. We are deeply concerned that Dover will now have no leisure facility and we shall continue to press for a facility similar to those provided at Deal (population circa 20k) for the 30,000 residents of Dover.

DTIZ (St James Development)

Breaking news is that there is contamination on the site that DDC had not allowed for and to remove this a further £5million is required. I

immediately contacted DDC upon hearing this but DDC have denied this as "mischief-making". It was also pointed out that the timescale for completion was well behind schedule but DDC refused to provide any revised timescale. DDC had previously given the following completion dates: Cineworld (Block B) June 2016, Retail (Block C) July 2016, Retail (Block D) August 2016, Retail (Block A) October 2016. Travelodge Hotel October 2016. Entire project complete October 2016.

If it is substantiated that DDC Contamination Report failed to identify all the contamination on the site this reflects the poor quality that exists within the DDC Planning and Regeneration Depts.

Although no update for almost six months in respect of outlets who have signed up a recent planning application for new site hoarding with names of outlets indicates that at least six are relocating from the existing town centre.

Castle Street

As reported last month. With the closure of several office/businesses in Castle Street there has been a surge of applications (six properties in the last six months). I have had several meetings with DDC, Residents and one architect who is representing three of the applications. Our view that this street is important to Dover and should not revert to a mass of one-bedroom flats akin to Folkestone Rd. seems to have worked as two properties withdrew applications and re-submitted for conversion to maisonettes. We have supported this type of residential development and suggested to DDC that

this should be the minimum standard for future applications. As these properties become inhabited we shall keep a close eye on the domestic refuse situation accumulation and anti-social activities

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990

We are deeply concerned that DDC are no longer interested in continuing this in Dover as they are now concentrating across the District. Yet again Dover suffers.

Western Heights and Farthingloe

The CPRE were successful at a recent High Court appeal and we await what will now happen. The summing up of the judges were highly critical of DDC and reflects many of the views made by Dover residents in respect of DDC failing to deliver quality projects for Dover, with a list of errors on major projects that supports our concerns about poor professionalism and possibly needs to be scrutinised.

Transport Matters

We continue to campaign for the upgrading

of the A2 from Lydden including a Whitfield Bypass. The need for variable speed on the A20 as well as support for a third Thames crossing as far east as possible. We have made written comments to the "Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission" as well as to KCC in respect of "Kent Local Transport Plan 4". The full potential of the High Speed rail service has not been maximized for Dover due to the failure of car parking facilities at Dover Priory and the service being available east of Dover after campaigning by our MP for Deal and Sandwich. We have over the years had lengthy correspondence with our MP and DDC but to no avail. Therefore, it was interesting that a recent application was made for a significantly reduced car park. Initially I had thought at least something is moving forward but a letter from Network Rail could indicate more delay as they quote *"Network rail are aware of the proposed development. However, they will not be in a position to transfer any land that will result in Network Rail being dependent accessing their maintenance facility across third party land"*.

COWGATE CEMETERY

Jeremy Cope

This summer has been, weather-wise, somewhat different. The early mild and damp months brought on considerable growth with the following dry period allowing us to strim the grass over the lower half of the cemetery. This all came to an abrupt end with the heavy rain ending the record breaking September heatwave leading to the cancellation of our Saturday working session. It's back to normal but hey-ho we will still enjoy both company and work.

Subject to weather working sessions for the months ahead are:-

Month	Thursday	Saturday
November	3rd	10th
December	1st	10th
	2107	
January	5th	14th
February	2nd	11th
March	2nd	11th
April	6th	22nd

We welcome volunteers - we need volunteers.

If you would like to come and try us out please contact me on 01304 211348 or email jeremycop@willersley.plus.com