

developer stating, "I am of the opinion that the rooms and overall size and shape of each unit is adequate", this sadly reflects DDC planning policy of ignoring the standards they set. We have drawn attention to this and as there is likely to be further applications for residential units above shops in Biggin Street we are concerned that if permitted this will set a precedence. We fully support the need to bring back life into disused buildings, however, not at the expense of creating over-intensified areas.

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Work continues on several buildings on streets adjacent to the DTIZ development

e.g. Castle Street, Russell Street.

Dover Hospital (Polyclinic)

I have previously mentioned the auction of the land by KCC last December that raised £1.45million. I ascertained under Freedom of Information (FOI) that East Kent Health Authority received £375k. However my request for a valuation report has so far not been successful even with the FOI. The almost £1million that KCC benefitted from has been "used for the benefit of Kent ratepayers".

Of positive news is a Dementia Village being built adjacent to the Buckland Hospital. £3million of the funding is coming from an EU source.

Cruise Terminal Restoration

Terry Sutton

Our chairman and vice chairman, Derek and Jeremy, were invited to a ceremony commemorating the £10 million restoration of the former Dover Marine Station, now the port's first cruise terminal.

The event was the unveiling of a National Railway Heritage Trust's awards plaque by Dover Harbour Board's chief executive Tim Waggott. Others at the ceremony included representatives of the Trust and Taylor Woodrow, the construction firm that sponsors the award scheme, who praised Dover Harbour Board for what had been achieved.

Mr Waggott, recalling the history of the 100 year old station, said it was closed to rail traffic in 1994 and two years later work began on restoration in order to receive the

thousands of cruise passengers arriving at the port.

He said the restoration work focussed on the station's 180 metre steel and glass Beaux Arts style roof which entailed installing a 60 metre 'rolling roof' which moved along the building as each phase of the work was completed. This, he said, was believed to be the largest single span roof system ever used.

But, he pointed out, "this is not a museum piece" and told how the former station was becoming a hub for cultural and community events for the town and district.

"This award is a humbling endorsement of the work we have done. And the work we're yet to do," said Mr Waggott.