
Refurbishment Committee

Jenny Olpin

During the past three months the Refurbishment Committee have met to discuss and debate several issues that relate to the appearance and well-being of the parishes and wards of Dover. To understand what we do our regular agenda headings for our monthly meetings are;

- Improvements in quality and appearance, including run down properties and empty shops
- Conservation areas and listed buildings
- Cleanliness including litter control
- Highways and pathways
- Anti-Social Behaviour

The meetings often invoke lively discussions and on occasions we have visitors such as DDC Litter Enforcement so as to help us understand strategy and operation.

Our recent focus has been on tourism and what impression visitors have of Dover on arrival and departure. We recognise that our overwhelming strength is our history and we are just beginning to work alongside DDC in developing a local tourism plan. This is early days but hopefully an exciting development that will coincide with the opening of St James' and Western Docks improvements. With tourism in mind the Banksy (on old Harts Furniture Store) is concerning. We have discussed this with DDC who are equally working to try and retain this interesting and surprising addition to Dover's attractions.

With recent heavy rain, and the resulting deluge, drains have been a topic of conversation. Having 'googled' Kent

County Council drainage, www.kent.gov.uk, I discovered very helpful information and contact details, including telephone numbers, to report or ask questions regarding a problem drain. Experience has been that this site is very responsive.

As with most of our members we have been concerned as to the reasons for the unsightly litter that recently stretched along both the A2 and A20 roads. There are councillors, both County and District, who are tasked with leading on this matter and we have actively inquiring as to what actions were being taken to clear this eyesore. As you are reading this report it is hoped that these verges are now clear.

Air pollution caused by traffic has also been a recent topic and it was interesting to learn via the web site www.kentair.org.uk that the air quality recording monitor that is positioned on the Townwall Street side of the Leisure Centre is recording level 2 out of a range of 1 (low) to 10. This site is well worth a visit.

Refurbishment members continue to meet bi-annually with Kent Police and do let us know if there is any anti-social behaviour issue that you may wish us to raise.

If you are interested in joining our committee then please contact either myself Tel: 01304 825011 email: jennyolpin@gmail.com Jeremy Cope Tel: 01304 211348 email: jeremycop@willersley.plus.com we will be only too pleased to answer any questions.