

bearing in mind the prestigious location and proximity to historic buildings, we have been disappointed that this scheme has not been a more high-quality development. We are also concerned about the height of this additional five storey block. However, whilst there will inevitably be some disruption to this locality during the construction phase, this will provide a real economic boost to the businesses on the Curve, potentially rivalling the success of the Folkestone Harbour Arm as well as to the town more widely.

Housing Delivery - update: I wrote at some length in the last Newsletter about the problems of getting approved plans for housing actually delivered. We also wrote to the Housing Minister and our MP Mike Tapp to express these concerns. We have now had a reply indicating that the Government is well aware of these issues and is actively pursuing possible solutions to the problems and refer to, now closed, consultations of which we

were not aware at the time we wrote. In May 2025, the Speeding Up Build Out working paper was published which invited "views on options to increase build out rates. This includes incentivising and supporting models of development that build out faster, use of conditional confirmation of Compulsory Purchase Orders, and exploring giving local authorities the ability to charge developers a 'Delayed Homes Penalty'. It also confirmed that we will implement reforms to completion notices." Some of these ideas we had previously suggested (in less technical terms) in our response to the consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A further change to the NPPF is now subject to consultation. It seeks to ensure major development proposals are capable of being implemented within a reasonable period. It sounds so obvious! We shall be making our comments broadly in support of the proposal.

AGM

A reminder to all members

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held at
7.30pm Monday 20th April 2026 at
the Silver Screen, Market Square, Dover.

All resolutions for discussion and nominations for officers and committee members must be received by Wednesday 9th April 2026. They should be supported by a proposer and seconder and nominations must include the written consent of the potential candidate, then submitted in writing to:-

the Hon. Secretary Carol Duffield, 46 Friars Way, Dover, CT16 2WD,
 Tel: 07855 045650 Email: cddoversociety@gmail.com

All members are urged to attend this most important meeting of the year.