

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 11 July 2013**  
**at St Paul's Parish room, Dover**

**Present:** Derek Leach (Chair), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

The chair introduced Ray Newsam, the proposed chair of the River Dour Group. He gave a presentation on the Catchment Partnership Fund. See the attached paper for details. He proposed The Dover Society, as a charity, to make an application for funding on behalf of the existing River Dour Steering Group. **WCCP would produce a management plan. After discussion, TS proposed, AL seconded and it was agreed..**

He then gave details of the Peoples Health Trust. He was speaking on behalf of Anita Luckett who was requesting The Dover Society put in an application for a grant. As the application was due in by Monday 15 July it was felt it was too short a notice to give due consideration to this request. TS proposed to decline with regret due to the time limit, MW seconded **and it was agreed..**

The chair thanked Ray for his presentation.

**1. Apologies**

Susan Jones

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2013 were accepted as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

Sue Jones was making enquires about the litter on the A roads.

**4. Chairman's Report**

DHB are awaiting a consultant's report before applying to a new Heritage Lottery Fund to help regenerate the gun turret. The funding could be used to make it safe for public access. It is a unique building of very specialist interest and would only be opened occasionally. It could be promoted as part of a Dover Town Heritage package.

Blue Plaque Stalisfield Lodge, Temple Ewell. The documents have been viewed and there is not enough evidence to confirm that Sir William Crundall ever lived in the house, **although his father did buy the land.** The **Chairman was making further enquiries.** The Dover Society would not consider putting up a plaque **unless there was satisfactory evidence, but the occupier could always install his own plaque.**

DL, JC and PS **had considered the draft** DDC Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. DDC are considering upgrading 6 main parks and off loading other open spaces to town and parish councils. Community engagement and volunteers are welcomed but with support of DDC technical staff. A lot of money is to be spent on fencing, **but we were objecting to fencing and possible locking of Pencester Gardens.** At Kearsney Abbey Park there is severe congestion and additional parking is required. Bushy Ruff **House** is an eyesore so enforcement action is required. Connaught Park needs more parking **and we were suggesting that MOD land off the Guston Road be used. Any floodlit sports facility should also be sited there and not in Connaught Park.. We were also proposing a River Dour Green Park policy from source to sea as well as urging replacement of street trees.**

**5. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The figures had been circulated by email to committee members prior to the meeting.

Subscriptions received last month for this financial year totalled £242.00. We received donations totalling £24.00.

From the Publication Fund we took £1686.99. We paid £95.99 for payment of the Heritage Day leaflets and £1591.00 to Adams Printers for payment for the printing and artwork of 1000 Town Hall books.

The Publication Fund did receive £108 from the sale of Town Hall books

At the previous meeting it was agreed that we would hold money on behalf of the River Dour Steering Group.

During the last month Temple Ewell Parish Council has donated into this fund £100.00 and The Royal Society of St. George, Dover Branch, has donated £200.00. The amount we now hold is on behalf of the River Dour Steering Group is £300.00.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

We have one new member: Yvonne Miller, minute secretary. Last allocated number 1159, total members are 457.

## **8. Projects**

- **Cowgate** – Not much work at the moment but the cemetery is looking good.
  - **River Dour** – Ray Newsam gave his presentation and is proposed to become chair. Funding, sub catchment area bids with WCCP help. People Health Trust already discussed. Meeting to be held on 18 July to decide on a management committee. Suggest all committee members are Dover Society members whereas volunteers may be associated members. We will ask for ideas for the future, comments from WCCP, EA and DDC and comment on the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
  - **Plaques** – made an offer of **up to** £100 toward cost of architect's drawings to Dover College.
  - **Paths** – Connaught Road/Godwyne Path, received a letter from KCC recommending making an order for path. There shouldn't be any problems but an appeal **is possible**.
- Dover Big Local Trust** –we should receive acceptance forms of our bid as LTO within a week.

## **9. Refurbishment**

**Meeting** – JC and PB had a meeting with DCI Barlow. To be taken ahead by PS and Jenny Olpin.

**Litter on A roads** – JC to write to MP and Paul Carter regarding litter on "A" roads.

**Brighter Dover** –attended the opening event on Tuesday 9 July. There is a danger the public will not take care of the planting. JC is pressing for a watering solution, to write to DDC and DTC. Sylvie Parsons praised for doing a good job.

**Granada building** – expressed concerns over this building and its uniqueness. Proposed Big Local to deal with this.

**GPO King Street** – JL looking at the then and now photographs of the old GPO building in King Street, JC to be introduced to the owner.

**Cleanliness** – some areas are improving and JC to write to R Walton for improved training.

## **10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours**

Roger Walton has promised a meeting **soon on the future of the building**.

**Roger has no objection to Dover Society applying for a grant for educational resources.**

## **11. Social Secretary's Report**

There are still spaces for the July trip to Quebec House and Chartwell House and will run at a small loss. Started receiving the balances for the St Catherine's Dock and Silvertown Music Hall trip in September. We have received the first cheque for the Christmas Feast. The quest for entertainers is ongoing.

## **12. Planning**

- **DTIZ** – noted revised plans in respect of change of use for Block B and alterations to Block A. A larger floor area such as a mezzanine, to increase floor area for lead store.

- **Buckland Hospital** – attended as non-speaking public on the 18 June Health and Wellbeing Board meeting. There is still no support from CCG regarding intermediate care beds. We need to campaign to secure public support for this facility as well as people to complain to their GPs that there are no beds at the new hospital. .
- **DHB and Seafont** – Three new Board members appointed. Very positive move based on these individuals professional qualifications and could deliver what is required for Dover. Toilets on seafont, DTC sought tenders to operate.
- **DCC – Land Sites**. Awaiting final report from DDC following the consultation period. The Dover Society made comments.
- **Dover District Green Infrastructure Plan** – No further information. Possible Plan update at some future date.
- **ABC Cinema, Castle Street** – No further information than reported at the 7 May meeting.
- **Consultation re Open Space Policy and Standards** – Comments to DDC by 25 July 2013. Working Group of DL, JC, PS, and Ray Newsam prepared response from Chairman.
- **Western Heights** – awaiting details of Planning Permission, not currently on website, to compare with Case Officer recommendations. In particular, it is crucial that the heritage package is in position with the English Heritage involvement and support. Also the density of housing at Farthingloe. Application has been called in and will possibly be subject to Public Enquiry with Ministerial decision. .
- **River Dour Cycle Route** – Nothing further than that reported on at the 7 May meeting.
- **Section 215 Stage One (Town Centre/Castle Street etc)** – No alteration to that reported on the 4 June meeting.
- **Section 215 Stage Two (Folkestone Road)** – Update walk-about to be arranged.
- **Section 215** - Help to members. No new requests.
- **Update on police (following request at Executive)** – PS met with the new Divisional Commander, Chief Inspector Barlow. Raised concern over “fringe area” when new town Zero Tolerance introduced. CI Barlow “All of District is Zero Tolerance”. Concern regarding the closure of the Dover Detention facilities. Not likely to reopen despite any petitioning as it is too small and does not comply with the latest standards and facilities. As an after thought should The Dover Society seek DHB support.  
Drug and alcohol problem, reporting on “101” does not seem to tie up on Police stats to the actual incident location as two reported by PS in April show as Taswell Street. As such not prepared to continue reporting using “101” and therefore this is why crime reporting is possibly down. CI Barlow to investigate.  
Provision of “Wet Rooms”. Based on his experience in Canterbury where a “24hr help unit” was operating. It attracted more users from outside Canterbury. Would Dover wish to be seen as welcoming such users?  
General view is it is not worth contacting Ann Barnes as only “admin” by staff.  
Parking on pavements. Sgt Sam Parker said sometime ago that a leaflet was being prepared for placing on windscreens but nothing as been seen. CI Barlow to establish situation.
- **English Heritage at Risk** - As per comments made at 7 May meeting.
- **ARWP Dover Priory Station** – Still waiting for KCC to attend. Have repeated request through DDC Enforcement Officer.
- **Options for a new Lower Thames Crossing Consultation Document** – first draft discussed and waiting for mileage confirmations the MW will provide as could alter remarks in respect of “Green Issues”. Comments by 16 July. There are three options, but the further East it is, the more it is favourable for this part of Kent.
- **The Dover Society Non-Voting member of DTC Planning Committee** – PS to resume as The Dover Society representative and withdraw from DTC Councillor on this Committee, in effect at most meetings has been required to declare The Dover Society interest.

#### **DTC Planning Committee**

Last meeting on 10 June and minutes on DTC website.

### **Correspondence**

Continues correspondence with hospital including securing The Dover Society on list of "Stakeholders" regarding CCG activities.

Comments made about one planning application, DOV/13/00376, back garden development at 26 Park Avenue.

### **AOB**

PS letter to Charlie Elphicke regarding the parking at Dover Priory Station, copy attached. Note CE responded and taking up with both Network Rail and Department for Transport. AS regarding 37 Castle Avenue has KCC Highways agreed?

Date of next meeting on Monday 16 September 17.30 hrs at Castle Lea.

### **13. Press Secretary's Report**

Report of the Port Consultation Committee on which Terry Sutton represents the society. Dover Harbour Board has decided to wrap up the Port Consultative Committee (PCC) and replace it with two forums in a move to "provide better opportunities for engagement and debate between the port and the local community".

One new forum is to be the Dover Port Users Group where private discussions can take between DHB management and stakeholders such as the ferry companies, set to meet twice a year.

The second (of greater interest to us) is the Port and Community Forum (PCF) on which the society, as now will have one seat along with at least a score of other organisations. This forum will have no legal decision or port policy-making role but is designed to make port managers more aware of the views of the local community.

Interestingly two members of the general public are to be recruited to this forum (not representatives of any organisation). If too many apply the selection will go to a ballot by the other members or their names will be drawn from a hat.

TS had found the PCC meetings useful but DHB chairman George Jenkins suggested they were more like lectures than general consultations.

There is no doubt that under the new regime DHB is trying to work more closely with the local community.

### **14. Editor's Report**

The deadline for the next newsletter is 18 September – before our next meeting.

### **15. Publications**

Nothing to report.

### **16. Any other business**

There is no guide for visitors from the cruise ships about the history of the town. Pat Simmons has submitted a draft for consideration. The Chairman is checking whether Philomena Kennedys guide is being updated by Jon Iveson. Foreign language versions are desirable.

Suggested a crisis committee of four, DL, JC, MW and PS. TS proposed the motion and seconded by AL. Agreed.

Seafront – Cambridge Terrace. Pigeons can be heard in the new renovated buildings.

Website – need advice to get rid of old website. Agreed to retain old site for two years and pay the fee to divert to new site.

Lorraine Sencicle is adding two articles a day to her website.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 19 September, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.

Note – committee members and partners are invited to the Athertons on Sunday 22 September from noon.