

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

All planning matters are important but some are even more important than others. Most important is the planning system itself and we are very concerned about the changes in local government. The public was not consulted on the options for change because, we learn, the necessary legislation had not been passed. We do not know why DDC has opted for a leader and cabinet rather than an elected mayor and we have been given contradictory information as to whether or not the Planning Committee still exists. On the one hand we applaud the new District Newsletter and Best Value Performance Plan for their laudable good intentions but regret that they must be funded without more government finance and presumably at the cost of other services. We are also aware that all other district councils are making similar bids for development. The simultaneous reduction of wards and of councillors adds another element of confusion and further prospective regionalisation ensures that controversy about boundaries and powers will persist.

Turning to matters of detail, we are pleased

to have been involved in Dover Town Council's success in the Town and Environment Committee's creation of Pencester Pavilion, and in the Transport Subcommittee's efforts to solve the problems of parking in Marine Parade and of accidents on the A20 roundabouts. With them we regret the abandonment of the 1987 scheme to solve the Coombe Valley Road access problem.

To further our project to create a "Buckland Village" Residents Association to upgrade the area, we contemplate the possibility of a publicity campaign to be followed by an exhibition and a public meeting funded by a possible grant from Dover Town Council. We continue to await visible signs of the HERS project.

We have suggested the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club itself might become the Watersports Centre. It would require listed building consent for interior changes, but already has refreshment and toilet facilities and is exactly on the preferred location in relation to the slipway. The objections to visual intrusion should be removed.

Noting that there has been an appeal against planning rejection for the proposed Amusement Arcade in Biggin Street, we shall repeat our objections to the forthcoming Public Inquiry.

Noting the Minister of Transport's U-turn to resuming road building, we must reconsider our stance on Dover's Transport Strategy.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2000

For basic administration of the Society we are dependent upon regular annual subscriptions so it is essential that these are maintained. Many thanks, therefore, to the majority of members who paid their dues on time.

Thanks are also due to members who have helped the Society financially in other ways. We have been fortunate recently in obtaining grants or sponsorship for specific projects. Members have also given generously towards the Flagstones Appeal and money is raised through raffles and refreshments at meetings and sometimes outings make a small surplus.

Bill Breeze, formerly of The Gateway, has now moved to sheltered accommodation near Cambridge. Friends may ask me for his new address as his niece tells me that he would like to maintain contact.

Due largely to introductions by existing members we welcome a record number of new recruits:- Mr. N. Turns, Mrs. Joyce Harris, Mr. S. & Mrs B. Slocombe, Mrs. P. Streater, Mr. I. Hurn, Mr. R. & Mrs B. Lang, Mrs. M. Haig, Ms. C. Bennett & Mr. R. Roberts, Mr. G. Fauquet & Mrs. A. Fauquet Elliott, Mr. W. & Mrs. E. Veale, Mrs. A. Wilmshurst.

M. Georges Fauquet was our erudite and enthusiastic guide for the Society's trip to Calais in July 1998 and we are delighted that he wishes to strengthen his link with our association.

Our total membership now numbers 410.

SHEILA R. COPE, *Membership Secretary*