

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Reported by JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL'S REPLY to our strictures on recent additions to Dover's architecture was cogent. The Council is constrained both by legislation and by market forces and opinions are subjective. Woolworth's is arguably better than the GPO which it replaced and London Road has unquestionably been improved. The prospect that the Bargain Centre eyesore will be demolished and replaced by three shops with maisonettes above is heartening indeed and we cannot pretend to be surprised that more aerials will appear on Burlington House roof. They help to pay the rent.

We are pleased that Dover will not have an elected mayor. As to the decision that future decisions will be made by the 'cabinet', we do not anticipate much perceptible difference. We are participating in the East Kent Area Investment Framework and in the Community Strategy Regeneration Board. The good intentions are admirable but there are no new resources. The September 11th atrocity has not improved the prospects. The same is true for the Kent County Council Vision for Kent. We look forward to the competitive proposals for the St James and York Street Areas.

Dover Town Council continues to applaud the concept of Buckland Village but will leave further initiatives to others.

We rejoice that Kent County Council has rejected the Astra proposal for a refuse incinerator at Richborough and will not countenance any alternative application for that site.

We have supported Dover Town Centre

Management in its dispute with Dover Town Council and are pleased that increased funding will continue for at least two more years. On the other hand we have backed the Town Council on a miscellany of matters concerning roads, traffic management, bus services... etc.

We are pleased that Dover Harbour Board, at the suggestion from our member David Atwood, is collaborating with Astor School to refurbish the plaque on the Prince of Wales Pier and that the YMCA plaque at the Gateway may also be refurbished. We continue to await details of the proposed Watersports Centre on Granville Gardens and suspect that the Westport Plan, if and when it materialises, will be wide open to environmental objections. We also continue to await the trial of Operation Circle which will divert excess traffic on Townwall Street to the Guston roundabout and back to the Docks.

We think that the fears of the Western Heights Residents' Association of new housing proposals may be unnecessary. Not only has Dover Town Council contributed handsomely to their funds, it is inconceivable that Dover District Council would give planning consent, which they refused some years ago, in a Conservation Area but were defeated by an appeal to the Minister after houses had been built. If necessary, however, we would support their fight. We successfully appealed to the Parliamentary Ombudsman against the Home Office philistinism for spoiling Dover's skyline with an insensitively obtrusive residential building.

Eye have a spelling chequer
Witch came with my pea see
And plane lea marques fore my revue
Miss steaks I mite knot sea.
I've past this poem threw it;
I'm shore your pleased too no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Contributed by Leo Wright