

The work of the **PLANNING** *Sub-Committee*

Report by
JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

I was wrong! No Dover Open Prison, despite the national shortage of prisons! Marginal Constituency? Proximity to Duke of York's Royal Military (Boarding) School? All-Party Protests? Posters? Marches (Dover Society included)? Who knows? But what a precedent! Marchons! Marchons?

English Partnerships, like SEEDA (which ultimately rescued the Buckland Paper Mill rebuild) is a government agency, which, we are now told, is suggesting mixed housing and leisure development for Connaught Barracks, not Hospital or Dover University Campus as some hoped. Can we do more than wait and see?

Our Town Centre Trees (THANKS, Mr Solley) and planters replanted. The Pencester Skating Park improved. Dover Priory transforming for the forthcoming High Speed Rail Link (but earlier closing - which we are contesting - for the new Ticket Office). A 20kw Wind Turbine to generate electricity for Dover District Council Offices at Whitfield (as if wind there was in short supply). Assurance (which we query) from Dr Mathi Chandrakumar of Kent Health Protection Service, uniquely, that the traffic fumes in Townwall St. are not a danger to health.

As to the proposals for four new berths, with a new marina, hotel and restaurants, etc, thrown in, at the Western Docks, with or without a buffer zone, with

a new Marina and possible new beaches and fishing facilities, we applaud Dover Harbour Board's foresight: but are not convinced that a Wellington Dock without sea access, and a mere single extra flyover to M20 are the best possible solutions. We shall argue on! Meanwhile we support the government's proposal to relieve Operation Stack with a mighty lorry park near the M20.

As to the rash (if not plague) of applications to turn houses and hotels into small flats, from Folkestone Road both to Townwall Street and Buckland Bridge, we approve Dover Town Council's reservations on density and environmental quality but are aware that refusals by the District Council, constrained by governmental dictats, may well mean even more successful appeals and costs.

We have repeated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Prime Minister-in-Waiting) our multiple objections to the Barker Report on the Future of Planning, which virtually abolishes it. We have had no reply, unlike the apology from a Dover District Planning Officer for persistent failures to acknowledge or process a stream of comments and objections. We can't lose them all!

Tea Timely News

Ken Short



This is a spoof news item designed to be published around All Fool's Day on April 1st. I hope that the spoof is not immediately obvious when read silently. If read aloud however, it will be immediately clear that if you order Aegean Tea you will get a gin and tonic (A 'G' and 'T').