

The work of the

PLANNING

Sub-Committee

Report by
JACK WOOLFORD, Chairman

It is good to have some good news. Purchase of the Connaught Barracks site by English Partnerships (government-controlled) presumably guarantees that Dover will get its 500 eco-houses (with community facilities) which, provided jobs for their occupants become available, is excellent news. Should the number of greenfield sites required for other projected housing in, for example, Whitfield, be correspondingly reduced, the benefit would be multiplied. Construction of the new Sea Sports Centre seems guaranteed.

Although controversial, construction of the slip road from the Eastern Docks has at last been sanctioned and can scarcely make the traffic congestion problem worse. Meanwhile the impending (and necessary) resurfacing of A20 next year can hardly do otherwise. Cross fingers for good weather and for no French transport strikes, (etc, etc)!

Substantial improvements to the approaches to Dover Priory Station, in addition to the recent internal refurbishment, are now guaranteed and most welcome. We have, however, pointed out that since the coming of the High Speed Rail Link to Dover in 2009 is hoped to increase commuting to London, the provision of a mere 29

parking places is grossly inadequate. Our figure is 200!

Because it is outside the Society's constitutional area, we have not commented on the proposed wind farm at Eniver Down, to which there is so much local opposition on combined environmental and economic grounds. We must do our homework. The breakwater might be the next.

Dover's Town and District Councils continue at odds about developments at Pencester Gardens and the new Sports Pavilion on the Western Heights. The Town Council is to be congratulated for having solved the long mystery of the ownership of the land fronting B&Q and the Dour, and Netto for licensing them to improve it.

Retrospective planning applications continue to increase, suggesting that persistence pays. We have reported an unauthorized development to Dover District Council who referred us to the Highways Authority which has referred us back to Dover District Council. Can "buck-passing" be the name of the game? Meanwhile the White Paper on planning proposes a speed-up of the planning process in favour of development...