

Regeneration

* * * *by Jeremy Cope* * * *

I should change the name of this report to Refurbishment - the name we give our sub-Committee. Our aim is to encourage and work for making the best of what Dover already has. Regeneration is a word highjacked by planners and our political leaders to mean large scale redevelopments - something which does not directly concern us. However if Dover had only made the best of existing buildings and structures and of its history the Town would be a much better place to live and probably, with substantial tourism, would lead to real regeneration.

Good for Pat Sherratt, Chair of our Planners, leading the fight on implementation of section 215 of 1990 Planning Act (see December 2011 report). The Society is working with Dover Town Council and Dover District Council with our sub-Committee helping with the Society's contribution. I feel this has the potential to make a great difference to upgrading Dover.

I report some good news on litter. Following a report from Alan Sencicle I wrote to congratulate the manager of Morrisons for the much improved state of the area around their store. Alan along with a few other public spirited souls can be seen walking around Dover collecting litter.

One of our aims has been to see what may be done to get a decent pathway from Langdon Cliffs to the Castle via the Bleriot memorial. Our letters to KCC produced a result. The pathway across the A2 with KCC had been carefully signposted for walkers and it was suddenly discovered that it had been removed when the A2 was built back in the 70's. However this is surprisingly a safer way to walk than alongside the St Margaret's Road with its bridge across the A2. It's back to the drawing board!

Unsurprisingly with the subject street trees I am unable to report any progress with Kent Highways - they appear to have the funds to cut down but not to replant. Alan Lee our editor is now involved with the Society's efforts. Alan has become incensed by the way the trees in Cherry Tree Avenue have been ruined.

Terry Sutton and I attended the Heritage Consultative Meeting organised by DDC with considerable input from KCC. The aim is to have a strategy for how we safeguard our heritage and make it known to locals and to tourists. The richness of our heritage was emphasised and KCC are considering using the strategy for Dover as a model for other local authorities. My real concern is whether action will follow upon adoption of such a strategy.