

Planning Committee

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A belated happy New Year and let's hope some of the much heralded "Regeneration" projects are actually delivered this year.

It was in the March 2015 Newsletter that I used classics to describe the then current situation in Dover, little has changed as nothing has actually been delivered and "Comedy of Errors", "Much ado about Nothing" "Great Expectations", and Forsythe Saga" are still relevant.

Dover Western Docks Revival (DWDR)

This regeneration project has been the subject of many exciting visuals but delivery is slow, this is possibly due to the DHB application to extract sand from the Goodwin Sands. The Grade II pier has been partly demolished and much of the rubble from the DTIZ scheme, to be used for infill, has become a series of giant mole heaps. Planning applications for "The Cut" to the existing Wellington Dock but no application for the Marina. Several members have expressed concern that if a higher construction cost is incurred on the cargo berth area that the marina may be the sacrificial lamb. I sincerely hope this will not be the case.

Just announced is the Port Services Division (cargo handling, stevedoring operation) of George Hammond PLC will transfer to a wholly owned subsidiary of DHB titled Port of Dover Cargo Ltd. Within the DHB press release it is stated *"As a subsidiary of DHB, Port of Dover Cargo Limited will be best placed to take long term investment decisions aligned to generating significant growth and long term employment security"* We await with interest the future

cargo plans for Dover.

We continue to press DHB for "quality" within the project.

Although not the DWDR we must **congratulate** DHB on the "White Cliffs Christmas" event. How wonderful to see the old Marine Station (now Cruise Terminal 1) staging this with Ice Rink, stalls, eateries etc. Early feedback is the event was a success and I look forward to seeing this as the leading Christmas event on the South coast. The town must now also provide a series of activities to attract visitors to the "White Cliffs Christmas" to also visit the town.

Dover Leisure Centre

DDC Cabinet have endorsed the location as Whitfield. This had already been decided some twelve months ago, and public consultation was only "ticking the boxes".

Our concern that Dover will now have no leisure facility has been made to DDC without any response. We shall continue to press for a facility similar to those provided at Deal (population circa 20k) for the 30,000 residents of Dover.

DTIZ (St James Development)

Well in 2015 I dubbed this the greatest saga. So, it continues as the project should have been fully operational in autumn 2016. With the main contractor withdrawing from the development and some revised plans just submitted that show minor alterations and extended planning permission period to 2020 we await with baited breath.

In 2014 Terry Sutton asked me to take up with DDC the future use of original historic cobbles taken up from Dolphin Lane. Latest plans do not indicate any area of the DTIZ will have these re-laid as a "lane" feature, this particularly as the DTIZ site is themed on the original street/lanes of St James's area. Indeed, not used anywhere on site and despite at the time "in careful storage" I wonder if they have been used elsewhere in the District.

Castle Street

We continue to monitor the large number of applications as commercial properties continue to seek change of use to residential.

Section 215 of Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Following the apparent lack of action as reported in the last newsletter I am delighted that following a meeting with the Senior Enforcement Officer and his team at DDC things are back on track in particular properties in close proximity of the DTIZ area. We have always stressed that the Conservation Area next to the DTIZ should be maintained to a high standard.



White Cliffs Christmas Skating - Cruise Terminal 2016

Dover Hospital (Polyclinic)

The land next to the new hospital has just been sold at auction for £1.45million. Auction estimate was around £320k. It transpires East Kent Health Authority sold this land to KCC possibly for a sum around the auction estimate. I recently attended a CCG meeting pressing for improved intermediate care facilities that have been promised by our MP but to date not delivered. The CCG are preferring intermediate care at care homes which is far from satisfactory. The profit on the land sold will be used by KCC "for the benefit of Kent rate payers".

AGM Reminder

An early reminder that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 24th April 2017. All nominations for elected posts within the committee and any resolutions must be received by the secretary no later than 14 days before the date of the AGM.

Could you write an article or story, with a local theme, that would be of interest to other members of the Society, or write reports of meetings and outings? If you would like to submit something my contact details are inside the front cover.