

building become unusable and in 2015 approval was granted for its demolition. The land has remained unused ever since. This is a particular case that illustrates the problem of the nation's slow house building programme. It is not that Local Authorities hold up the planning process, but rather that developers fail to deliver the schemes that are approved. In a recent national newspaper article, it is reported that there are over one million brownfield sites which have been granted planning permission, but the developers have not yet built on them. The proposed changes to planning legislation seek to accelerate the house building programme by relaxing planning controls but they will not address the problem outlined here. We will end up with the worst of both worlds! More recently, a planning application has been made to install an array of solar panels on the Westmount site. Whilst the generation of green energy is to be welcomed, we have expressed concerns that this scheme might

frustrate the development of the site for housing. We wait and see.

Marina Curve: Sufficient people including the Dover Society wrote to object to the plan to use shipping containers to build a hotel and retail facilities on the new Marina Curve, that the planning application went to the full DDC Planning Committee. Unusually, the heads of tourism and Inward Investment wrote in support of the scheme so we wrote back to them setting out our support in principle for the beneficial impact that this would have for the town but objecting to this particular scheme. Whilst not actually refusing planning permission, DDC has deferred the decision and we understand that it is now no longer likely to go forward.

It appears that winter might actually be coming to an end at last and things are slowly getting back to normal. I wish you all well and an enjoyable Summertime.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS **Sheila Cope**

As I write, we number 480 and so members are to be congratulated for maintaining their subscriptions at a time when two virtual AGMs have taken place and there have therefore been no opportunities to hand over subs. in person. Many members have set up new Standing Orders or paid by Direct Debit, but old fashioned cash and cheques are equally welcome.

About 40 members have now opted to receive a Newsletter by email thus saving postage in many cases. However, if you change your mind, please inform Jeremy on jeremyclope@willersley.plus.com. The

same applies if you wish to stop or start receiving our intermittent email messages.

The hand-delivery of Newsletters continues, and we do appreciate the help of those who undertake this vital task. Especially we thank Anne Mole who has delivered in the Priory/Tower Hamlets area since the early days and has now handed over to Frances Sykes.

We have recently welcomed to membership: Mrs A Mole, Ms J Pearson, Mr H Mayhew, Mrs G Barlow, Mr C & Mrs S Borley, Mr G & Mrs E Toland, Ms E Sanchez-Magner and Mr R Arthur.