

Refurbishment Committee Jenny Olpin

We are pleased that Refurb has now returned to a blend of face to face and Zoom meetings. We are now relocated to The Smart Project premises next to the Yacht Club which will be lovely in the summer months. We are also pleased to welcome four new members to Refurb, Carol Duffield, Lesley Easton, James Benjafield and Ben Elfey. They bring fresh thought and energy which is always welcome! We continue with our core agenda of the town appearance, cleanliness, litter, rights of way and tourism but thought you would be interested in my October visit to Kent Police, Dover, to give you a flavour as to the issues and discussions.

October 2022 Meeting with Detective Inspector Dan Carter

'Operation Sark,' the code name for the sad case of the murder of Julia James, had resulted in an extremely busy period for Kent Police (Dover). Although supported by other Kent areas the investigation was led by Dover. The total saturation of door-to-door inquiries, and the engagement with the communities in close proximity to the Snowdon woodland, resulted in an arrest and CI Carter expressed his gratitude in the support that was given to the police by the public.

The success of this investigation, speed and local engagement is now being drafted as a model/blueprint for Police Forces throughout the Country. Generally, crime in Dover is low. Trends are that burglary is very low whereas domestic violence is sadly increasing. There is a lot of activity with the Community Safety Unit at Dover District Council. Their Officers based at DDC are Inspector Paul Burrell and Sergeant Leigh Woolnough where activities are linked throughout the district, especially in rural

areas, with PCSO's who continue to be a crucial element of the policing team.

The PCSO's currently have an initiative called 'coffee with a cop'!! This community drive is also part of the impact from Operation Sark to build confidence in local policing.

High on the policing agenda is violence against women and girls and there are plans for a public engagement event that may be held monthly and includes Protection of Vulnerable People (PVP). Discussed at length was the impact on Officers following the case of Wayne Couzens and how the public image of the Police Force has suffered.

With reference to the pressure of County Lines DI Carter said that the success of their regular meetings with the Dover schools has resulted in a reduction in drug related issues involving our school children. Ashford and London are currently key areas.

Also discussed were the recent press and social media coverage of the appointment of Police Cadets. This again is to encourage young people to consider a police career and to improve the image of policing amongst teenagers. The initiative also includes visiting our local primary schools where children are appointed to be 'mini' cadets. These engagements are well covered on Twitter by following Kent Police (Dover).

Our next biannual meeting will be held in this month so do let us know if there are any issues you may like to be discussed.

I would also like to direct you to the article by our member Janet Dagsy regarding our current Listed Buildings project. This is very interesting and informative, and I am sure you will enjoy it.