

# Environment Committee Janet Dagys, Chair

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The Environment Committee continues to meet at the Dover smART premises next to the Yacht Club on the second Monday of January, March, May, July, September & November. Members also communicate and share information through a WhatsApp Group. We continue to focus on the appearance of the town, cleanliness, litter, rights of way and tourism, taking action when and where we can be effective and can make a positive difference. The Dover Society includes many rural areas around the town and we would welcome new members from these areas to have their voice heard on these topics.

Ongoing areas of interest have been the Market Square development, the Dover Beacon Project on Bench Street, the Painted House, the state of buildings in the town centre and the seafront, the availability and condition of toilet facilities in the town and on the seafront, litter and conservation of listed buildings and trees.

A member has been following-up with Crown Estates which is responsible for the six badly rusted light poles on the seafront close to the Eastern Docks, two of which are missing a light. Progress on making the repairs is going very slowly. Crown Estates has initiated a project in its Capital Renewal Programme and options available are currently being assessed before it will go into design in 2024!

We continue to follow up on the very poorly maintained building above the Post Office in Biggin Street. Photographs have been posted to the DDC website but no action by the building owner has yet been taken.

We encourage Dover Society members to post photos of excessive litter they see to the

DDC website at <https://forms.dover.gov.uk/xfp/form/1184>; also photos of buildings in a poor state of maintenance in the town centre at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Report/Report.a.spx>.

The Environment Committee is keen to protect trees in Dover and recently started a new project to identify and document trees in the area which provide significant public amenity value. We are creating a list of these trees, along with photographs, which we will share with the Planning Committee to use when they are reviewing new requests for planning permission. Making a tree the subject of a Tree Protection Order (TPO) can be implemented only when a tree is under threat. This threat could be an immediate or foreseeable threat, for instance where it is known that a property could change hands in the future.

We continue to liaise with our colleague and Dover Town Council 'Walkers are Welcome' promoter, Pam Brivio, on walks in the town, and with Jayne Miles (Town Centre Manager, Dover District Council), Chris Townend (Growth & Development, Dover District Council) local Kent Police and other local town, district and KCC councillors.

**ben elsey**  
**piano tuner**

**phone: 07579 008 217**  
**ben.pianotuner@gmail.com**

