

progressively declined. Earlier this year the Planning Enforcement Department at DDC was moved out of Legal Services and transferred into the Planning Department and this has resulted in a marked change in approach. Representatives of DDC Planning Department have made a visual survey of the town and have produced a list of properties that are in need of remedial work and progress is being made to bring about the necessary improvements. You may have noticed a number of properties in the Town with scaffolding erected at the front and some of this will be as a result of these actions. We firmly believe that when the town centre looks scruffy it is a deterrent to visitors and is depressing for residents, so these improvements are vitally important for all. Long may it continue but hopefully not be necessary in the future.

**Local Plan:** According to the DDC website, the Local Plan sets out the vision, strategic objectives and overarching development strategy for the growth of the district over the period to 2040. It provides the planning policy framework to guide the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities for housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure, as well as the basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed

places. There have been two drafts of this plan published in January and October 2021 and we made detailed comments to both of these drafts in the hope of making improvements that we see as beneficial for the future. The plan has since been passed to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the plan and hear oral evidence during November and December 2023. We await the final publication of the Local Plan with great interest as it will be used to guide and justify decisions that are made, and we too will refer to it in our responses to planning applications and other major developments.

**De Bradlei Wharf:** Since the sad demise of the *De Bradlei Wharf* retail outlet in Cambridge Road, Dover Harbour Board has submitted a Planning Application for the demolition of the buildings. They were built in the mid-19th century and were used as boat building yards and for other marine related activities, until becoming redundant due to changes in ship design and changes in requirements by the Royal Navy. Interestingly, they were used in Operation Fortitude, as part of the 1944 deception plan to make the enemy believe the invasion of Europe would come from the Dover area. This involved the use of dummy tanks and landing craft, many of which were built or stored at these yards. The popular restaurant, *Cullins Yard*, uses the name of one of these earlier boat building enterprises.

## **Dover Society Visit to The Duke of York's Royal Military School [now a Royal Military Academy] Alan Lee**

On Thursday 3rd of August, following his talk at the AGM, Andrew Nunn, School Trustee, accompanied by Rachel Robinson, School Alumni & Development Officer, welcomed a group of fourteen Society members. There then followed a most interesting, comprehensive and

knowledgeable talk and guided tour which took in various buildings including the original dining hall and the school chapel. The Society wish to thank Andrew and Rachel for their help and organisation that made the day a huge success.