

OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

No. 3

Summertime
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high

Edwin DuBose Heyward

You may say I'm a dreamer
but I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
and the world will live as one

John Lennon



St George's planters repainted – see page 4

Contents

Dates	p.1
From the Chair	p.2
Editorial	p.3
Membership	p.3
Annual General Meeting	p.3
Green Team	p.4
Social events	p.4
Gardening	p.5
Lending Network	p.5
History Group	p.5
Planning (HMOs)	p.6
Tree Champion needed	p.7
Your Letters and Views	p.7
Contact details	p.12



"I photographed this little corner of our garden this morning – it was home to a family of blue tits this season and gave us much delight!"

Janet Penton, 20th June.

OHSCA dates for your diary:

every Wed:	Towards 10,000 steps (p.4)	28th Aug:	Produce Exchange (p.4)
9th July:	Tapas on the Terrace (p.4)	1st Sept:	Archive Film Show (p.4)
11 th July:	History Group meeting (p.6)	3rd Sept:	Picnic at the Abbey (p.4)
14 th August:	Copy for Autumn Newsletter	29th Sept:	Annual General Meeting (p.3)

. . . social events, trees, gardening, history, Becket House, HMOs, housing needs . . .

FROM THE CHAIR

Three months have passed since I last stared at a blank screen and thought – what should I write? But with the General Election and all that happened in the few weeks before, and all that has unfolded since, it feels more like three years. By Canterbury standards, quite tumultuous times.

In April I pointed to ongoing matters with which your committee were involved, notably Mountfield Park and all that that entails, the future of the NHS, the K&C and Social Care, merger of East Kent Councils, the local Clean Air initiative, and planning applications. Since then council amalgamation seems off the current agenda, while the situation regarding Health, Social Care and the K&C seems to change day by day, driven by enormous uncertainties and the unfortunate reality that health is such an emotive issue: the NHS has become the proverbial political football. At the recent public meeting in Canterbury organised by CHEK (Concern for Health in East Kent), there were calls for the Chief Executive of East Kent Hospitals Trust, Matthew Kershaw, to resign. Whatever next we may wonder?

In the run up to 8th June I found myself challenged by BBC Radio Kent to comment on what it means to be living close to major housing developments. In the event I could not get through all the points I wanted to make. So I have turned the notes I made at the time into a personal account of what I see as some of the problems and possible benefits (page 7; and digital edition). Although I ran my ideas past fellow committee members, this is not a committee view, and it may not reflect your views. All I hope to do here is lay out a few of the issues, and the complexity that surrounds them.

As this issue “goes to press” comes the news that the government Planning Inspector Michael Moore, appointed to examine the latest version of CCC’s Draft Local Plan, has now submitted his report to the Council. Although a few further modifications have been recommended, his report states that the Plan is now ‘sound’ and ‘legally compliant.’ To those of us opposed to many aspects of the Plan, the inspector’s report makes depressing reading. It seems very likely it will be accepted – and the Local Plan finally agreed after years of wrangling – at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 13th July. If you want to read the report, go to <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/localplannews>. Print copies can be seen at the Council’s main office in Military Rd (08.30–17.00, Monday–Friday), and at the Library (at The Beaney, High Street).

Trying to address the strengths and weaknesses of a Local Plan these days is a highly technical matter. Two new consultations are more evidence of the ever-increasing need for expert knowledge – if residents’ associations such as OHSCA are to have any significant impact on local affairs. First, starting 11th July, a Planning Inspector will be presiding over a four-day enquiry into the so far rejected proposals to build up to 120 homes on the British Telecom Becket House site at New Dover Rd. OHSCA will be attending the hearing (unless it is again cancelled), as this site is so central to our area.

Second, there is now a consultation on the new Canterbury West multi-storey car park. While this is of course not in our area, the facilities available at the High Speed rail station will have a major impact on all our lives – especially in the wake of the Local Plan and Mountfield Park. Criticism of the design has been expressed (e.g. KM Gazette 22nd June, pages 15, 19). But if you want to have your say (in what is likely another paper exercise), do hurry as the ‘consultation’ closes on 5th July (<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say/consultations/station-road-west-multi-storey-car-park/>).

Specifically on the proposed “South Canterbury Urban Extension” (Mountfield Park), the impact of the Judicial Review challenge is not yet clear. All along it has been our wish to engage with other residents’ groups, Canterbury City Council, KCC and the developers in the hope of getting the best possible solution. The fact that individuals in our Canterbury community feel so frustrated by the lack of engagement that they have resorted to such a high risk and potentially very expensive legal challenge is a good indication of what we are up against. With Whitehall reeling in the face of the election results, terrorist attacks, the Kensington fire tragedy and ‘Brexit’ negotiations, and our local councils still increasingly (and in the view of some dangerously) impoverished as a result of the policies of successive governments, we cannot expect to get our views heard without further struggles. It really should not be like this in “the mother of all democracies”! But try we will.

I had hoped that this issue would include summaries of two talks relating to air pollution and its measurement that we co-organised with Canterbury Christ Church University on 24th May – and preliminary data and conclusions from the St Dunstan’s air quality monitoring trial to which some OHSCA members contributed. But time and space have conspired against us. However, the event at Old Sessions House was well-attended by an engaged and appreciative audience, including some 40 OHSCA members. Moreover, it gave us confidence that the annual joint lecture and discussion series first mooted six

months back (the 'OHSCAs') will go ahead. We have now established a joint steering group with CCCU, and hope to launch the series in November.



Prof Stephen Peckham, together with CCCU PhD student Beth Gawthorpe, answering questions after their excellent presentations on 24th May. The event was organised by the University's Sustainability Research Network, in collaboration with OHSCA. As Peter Vujakovic, Professor of Geography and Chair of SRN, later noted: "This pilot lecture was a great success and, despite its theme, a breath of fresh air, with lively and informed debate following the talks. We are hoping to work closely with OHSCA in the coming months to put together a joint programme of open lectures on themes important to the communities of Canterbury and East Kent. As well as lectures, it is hoped that the engagement will also lead to research-engaged teaching opportunities and student research projects of benefit to our locality."

EDITORIAL

All seems well in the OHSCA 'editorial office' – although I really would like to receive more photographs, and especially more contributions for 'News and Views'. The AGM (this page) is fast approaching, and we will need new and additional faces on the committee if we are to continue effectively. One addition we desperately need is a Tree Champion (page 7). And, in light of my comments above about the ever-growing need for technical expertise, do we have amongst our wider membership people with the requisite skills and knowledge able to offer advice and guidance to the committee on an *ad hoc* basis? Please do contact us if you think you might be able to help on specific issues, and would be willing to do so.

We are trying to work out the best relationship between the newsletter and our website (<http://ohsca.org/>; last updated 12th June). We have added a new draft 'page' on the website called "Volunteering". In a few weeks time I hope this will have information about a variety of different volunteering opportunities being created by members of our committee, other OHSCA members (e.g. page 7) – and various community groups in Canterbury – notably, those concerned with open spaces, which are still lacking in our area, and, very regrettably, are likely to remain so under the Local Plan. Finally, Keith Rishworth

has provided a very informative account of the current situation regarding so-called 'HMOs' – houses of multiple occupancy (page 6).

*Dick Vane-Wright**

*Contact details for those marked with an asterisk can be found on the last page.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is at an all-time high, with 277 members paid up. Thirty-nine of you have, for some reason, not yet paid. We will be in touch, and hope that you will send in your £5 subscription as soon as possible. New members are always welcome.

*Sophie Scott**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

The first Annual General Meeting of OHSCA will take place at Kendall Hall, St Mary Bredin Church, 59 Nunnery Fields CT1 3JN, on Friday 29th September. Light refreshments will be available from 7 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7.30 pm. Formal notice of the meeting, including the Agenda, will be sent to all paid-up members on, or shortly before Friday 8th September.

In addition to reports from the Chair and Hon Treasurer, the key matter on the Agenda will be nominations and voting for all officers and other members of the main Committee. Even those members of the existing committee wishing to continue must be nominated and re-elected if they are to do so. Completed nomination forms should reach the Honorary Secretary by Friday 22nd September. For each nomination the proposer and seconder must be independent (i.e. paid-up members from different households). The necessary form can be obtained from the Hon Sec*, it will also be included with the formal notice, and should be available to download from the website by end July. It is very likely that one or more members of the existing committee will wish to stand down this year – and we still have 'vacancies' for an editorial officer, someone willing to take an interest in licensing – and trees (page 7). Your nominations are vital if OHSCA is to continue – and be effective.

For light relief after the formal business, Dick Vane-Wright will offer "Six Six-legged Beauties of Kent" – a photographic essay about some rare and interesting butterflies that can be found on our side of the Medway. Dick is a member of the Linnean Society, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team has been very active this summer maintaining all its beds and trying to make sure there is always something to look at. This calls for careful planning! We are looking forward to the visit from the *It's Your Neighbourhood* (part of Britain in Bloom) assessor on 13th July and will be working extremely hard to have all our beds looking their best then. We would be particularly grateful if you can give a hand on Saturday 8th July at St George's Garden at 10 am to make sure each bed is good and that there is no litter or graffiti to spoil the look. Please let me know if you can spare some time that day. There will be a need for a last-minute check on Wednesday 12th July in Milton Road and at the Fire Station as well.

Regarding St George's, we are very pleased to say that the planters have just been repainted – with many thanks due to Rebecca Booth and Aidan Potts at CCC, who found the money and organised the work.

We are planning what trees to plant this autumn. We want to replace the dead tree between the Police Station and Augustine House with a suitable tree (a *Ginkgo* has been suggested) and we are also thinking of planting something on Pilgrims Way outside Pilgrims Lodge. If you would like to contribute to the cost of these trees we would be very grateful – please send any donations to the Hon Treasurer, Alison Culverwell*, making it clear that the money is intended for trees.

Kent County Council have already promised to replace the unhappy hornbeam in George Roche Road and the dead cherry in Ersham Road during the winter.

If you have a spot in mind which you think ought to have a tree, please do let us know. Sometimes there are underground cables or pipes which make a site impossible, but we are always open to suggestions.

*Sophie Scott**

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITIES GROUP

We meet monthly to organise events that bring OHSCA members together as a community. A small group of residents have been meeting once a week for an hour's brisk walk, *Towards 10,000 Steps*. There are regular and occasional walkers, but everyone is welcome to join us each Wednesday morning at 9.30 at the entrance to the K&C Hospital. We are aware that starting at the hospital might not be very convenient for those living more towards the Oaten Hill/New

Dover Road end of our patch. Have you thought of establishing your own regular walking group?

Our next event will be *Tapas on the Terrace* on July 9th at 33 South Canterbury Road, 17.30–19.00. The Neighbourhood Activities Group and our hosts Sarah and Phil Perkins invite you to this social event and ask you to bring along some snacks and your favourite tippie. As this is an outdoor event, if the weather is wet we will have to cancel.

Claire and Alison continue to work on the *Recipe Book and Tool and Equipment Share*, and will have been in contact if you have expressed an interest. It's not too late to get involved.



The south Canterbury recipe book is coming along well but we would still value more recipes, especially for meat dishes. Please send your recipe offerings to Alison Culverwell*, or contact her if you have questions.

This year the end of August and the beginning of September see a flurry of activities. The *Produce and Plant Exchange* will take place on 28th August at 20 Ethelbert Road, 10.30–12.30. This is a further opportunity to share any spare plants as well as produce grown over the summer months in local gardens and allotments.



A few of the many plants happily shared among members, friends and neighbours on 29th May.

On Friday 1st September Tim Jones from CCCU will be showing his *Archive Film of South Canterbury* at St Andrew's Church, Watling St CT1 2UA (19.15 for 19.30). Tickets (£5.00 per person; friends and neighbours welcome at same price) are now available from Dick & Hazel Vane-Wright (42 Cromwell Rd, Canterbury CT1 3LE); if possible please include an SAE with your cheque (made payable to OHSCA).

On Sunday September 3rd we are meeting at St Augustine's Abbey for a communal picnic, 12.00–14.00. We have no plans to provide refreshments so please ensure you have enough to feed yourself and any guests. As arranged by OHDS many years ago, all CT1 and CT2 residents are eligible for free access to this English Heritage site – although proof of address, such as a driving licence, may be required.

Finally we hope to end the year by organising a Christmas Fayre, probably to be hosted at

Eastbridge Hospital on Saturday 2nd December between 11.00 and 2.00. More on this later.

Looking to 2018 we are planning an indoor Spring Social Event and are happy to consider ideas about you would most enjoy. For example, do you want a quiz? If not, some other form of entertainment? What sort of meal? – one prepared by professional caterers, or a more simple buffet-type affair created by our own volunteers? Obviously there would be a trade-off of cost and effort! Please do contact Marion Bell* or Dick Vane-Wright* if you have suggestions or comments.

Hazel Vane-Wright
hazelvanewright@btinternet.com

THE GARDENING INTEREST GROUP – GIG

In the Spring there was a GIG visit to the Salutation Gardens in Sandwich. Although it was early in the season, there was plenty to see and plants to purchase. Recently, group members went on the first Herb Walk and Talk around Belmont Gardens near Faversham, with the Head Gardener and a herbalist.

We continue to visit each other's gardens. Helly Langley's garden in Norman Road is on the small side but densely and beautifully planted and has a large number of clematis. Ann and Nick Riding's garden in Cromwell Road has recently been overhauled and is now looking splendid with a number of 'pause' places on the meandering route through. Janet and Jonathan Penton opened their garden on New Dover Road to the group, exhibiting amongst other plants, arum lilies, a lovely flowering hydrangea and a monkey puzzle tree.

Upcoming events include two small group visits to Teng Rigby's small and micro-managed garden and to David Kemsley's allotment. Plant and Produce share is on August 28th (Bank Holiday Monday; details in 'Activities' above).

Members of GIG living near Milton Road and the fire station are supporting the Green Team by watering, planting and weeding the flower beds. It is also hoped that GIG members will help in the pre-assessment *It's Your Neighbourhood* tidy-up on 12th July, and join the assessor on 13th July – specifically, Milton Road will be assessed under this Royal Horticultural Society scheme by Brian Portway, starting at 3.15 pm. (See also Green Team news, above.)

The GIG consists of people who like gardens and who are enthusiasts rather than experts. Contact is principally via email so email addresses are shared between the group and the OHSCA Social Committee. If you are interested in joining

or hearing more about this group please contact either:

Sarah Perkins (sarah@perkinsnet.plus.com)
or *Alison Culverwell**

TOOL AND EQUIPMENT LENDING NETWORK

The OHSCA Tool and Equipment Lending Network is up and running. Members have offered a range of tools and equipment falling into the categories of gardening, DIY, kitchen and catering, camping. We have had offers including miscellaneous gardening and DIY tools, ladders of various lengths and types, a drill, a large teapot, ice cream maker, 2 gazebos, a 2 person tent, and surveying equipment (with help in using it).

Please let us know if you would like to borrow something and we will see if we can put you in touch with someone who is able to lend it to you. Corinna, who joined OHSCA quite recently, has kindly offered to oversee a Lending Network email account. We will let you know when this has been set up, but in the meantime please carry on using: claire.leggatt@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all those who have already offered their equipment and to those who are about to!

Corinna Burkhart, Alison Culverwell and Claire Leggatt*

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Future of Canterbury Museum and Woods Stores Goods. We are seeking assurances from Canterbury CC that the collection of goods from the former hardware store in Dover Street, donated by the local History Group, will be accessible to view under the new arrangements for the Museum. The collection has been recently photographed by member Derek Ray.

Protection of St Mary Bredin School House and Mound. We are working with others to protect the School House, which is of local historical interest, together with the mound on which it stands, which is believed to be of national historical importance.

Holman Meadow Story Board. We are investigating the design and siting of a story board illustrating the former use of the present day car park, as part of Holman's traction engine/agricultural machinery site. The firm were also outstanding in windmill design and construction (see our booklet, *The Holmans of Canterbury*).

The History of Oaten Hill. We are working on the history of St Sepulchre's Nunnery, Oaten Hill, Upper Chantry Lane, Cossington Road and Oaten Hill Place. Contributions from members

who may have memories, information or photographs should be forwarded to David Potter (D.L.Potter@kent.ac.uk).

Oral Histories. We continue to record oral histories of local people; new contributors are very welcome.

The Local History Group meets at 10.15 am at Kent and Canterbury Club every second Tuesday on alternate months. The next meetings will be on July 11th and September 14th. Please come along.

Visit our page on the Association's web site at <http://www.ohsca.org/history.html> to see details of (and to order) our publications.

Mike Brain, Chair Local History Group
Tel 767343 or familymbrain@gmail.com

HMOs and PBSAs

There is encouraging news that the City Council is beginning to address the problem of residential areas becoming swamped by student occupation, after we and others have made many objections to the loss of family homes by conversion to student HMOs (houses of multiple occupation). We had been told that in February 2016 an Article 4 Direction would come into effect, requiring planning permission if there were already 10% or more HMOs within 100 metres. However, when we objected later that year to new HMOs in Dover Street and Oaten Hill Place, we were told by both council officers and councillors that it had not come into effect, because it depended on the new local plan which has not yet been confirmed.

At that time we also requested a full and accurate list of HMOs to be made public, so that the HMO density was actually known, but were told that the council itself did not have a comprehensive list. We have pointed out that without such a list, no-one could be sure whether the 10% policy should apply or not, and we understand that one is now in preparation. In future cases, it would be very helpful if nearby residents could actually check the number of HMOs, as Jenny MacDonald has done in Cossington Road (below).

Protests about all this seem to have had some effect, and we have heard that a new student HMO at 18 Beverley Road, off Forty Acres Road, was actually refused planning permission in December 2016. The officer's report recommending refusal quoted 18.5% of homes there to be HMOs, and set out the Council's revised position on the 10% policy in some detail. It said that the new policies can only be given "limited weight" while the local plan is in draft, but the 10% threshold is a "material consideration",

and changes of use above that "are considered incompatible with adjacent uses due to the resultant shift in the social balance and character of an area."

In the draft local plan, these policies are set out in various paragraphs of section 2 and policies HD6 (HMOs) and HD7 (PBSA, purpose-built student accommodation). The objectives are to address housing need, community cohesion, and residential amenity, including car parking, bin storage, and design of extensions. PBSA policy aims to reduce the pressure on the housing market and to release family homes. A number of grounds for refusal are listed, including "leading to a concentration of students in an otherwise residential area, and therefore conflicting with the purpose of HMO policy HD6".

The new policies do not apply where there is already an "exceptionally high" level of HMOs, which we understand is taken to mean 70% or more.

In May this year another application has been refused, for 38 South Street, off Sturry Road. The officer's report stated that "significant weight" is now being given to the draft Local Plan, and with 10.2% of HMOs there already it would result in an imbalance of household composition and housing mix.



The old Air Training Cadet huts on Cossington Road – ripe for redevelopment – but with what?



Impression of current proposal for 45-unit student block.

In our own area, there is much concern about the proposed 45-unit student block on the former ATC site in Cossington Road (planning application CA/17/01037). Neighbouring resident Jenny MacDonald has done a careful house-by-house survey, and within 100 m has found as many as 31% to be HMOs. In terms of people, she calculates 64 students to 58 residents, already. This places the ATC proposal well within the 10% –70% band, where the new policies are a material consideration for refusal, affecting purpose-built student accommodation as well as HMOs. . . .

OHSCA is objecting to the application on these grounds, as well as traffic and design issues, and we await the outcome with close interest.

*Keith Rishworth**

IMPORTANT OHSCA VACANCY: TREE CHAMPION

OHSCA has urgent need of someone who can champion the cause of the trees in our area. Can you (together with a friend if that suits) please come to our aid?

It is important for us to have someone who can keep a caring and watchful eye over all the trees we are fortunate to have locally, and be able to bring matters of concern to the attention of the committee. The only essential qualification for the role is a passion for trees – although good photographic skills would be helpful.

Regular commitments entail scrutiny of applications to the City Council for tree works in our various conservation areas within OHSCA, as well as looking at planning applications solely from the perspective of trees (e.g. net loss or gain, aesthetics, mature size/shape, environmental impact, species selection, etc.).



We benefit from many fine trees in our area – but it seems an ongoing struggle to keep matters so.

Although the committee would like to receive regular reports from our nominated champion(s), full attendance at all committee meetings isn't essential (though you would be very welcome). The committee is very keen to elevate the profile that trees have within CCC planning policies, and it is hoped that our champion will be able to promote that aim with energy and enthusiasm.

Our OHSCA Green Team has an ongoing programme of new tree planting in our public spaces and our champion would be expected to support this initiative actively. If you think you can help and/or would like to discuss the idea further, please contact Dick Vane-Wright*, Sophie Scott* or David Kemsley*.

YOUR LETTERS AND VIEWS

This section is open to all paid up Members to share news, thoughts and/or opinions – subject to editorial control and consistent with the constitution of the Association.

Housing needs in Canterbury – a personal view from the Chair



Chair on Air, 31st May.
Image: courtesy of Glenn Thompsett

As noted on page 2, during the run-up to the General Election, I was approached by BBC Radio Kent with a request for an interview about housing – with the angle “What is it like living in an area earmarked for big development?” Not surprisingly, I could not get through all the points I had in mind. So I have turned my preparation notes (for which I had input from Keith Rishworth, Sophie Scott and David Kemsley) into a personal view about what I see as the problems and possible benefits. The five subheadings are the questions that I was asked in advance to be prepared to answer; the comments that follow reflect my thoughts at the time.

What is the real housing need? There is a genuine need for more housing in Canterbury. This includes the backlog on the housing needs register, mainly for so-called affordable housing – but there is also a demand from others who work or have the opportunity to work locally.

How many more homes do we really need? The housing register indicates a current backlog of about 2000 homes. According to a 2015 commissioned report to CCC, about 650 new homes per year are currently required. Project this figure to 2031 and we see a potential need for about 10,000 new homes – assuming current demographic factors persist (which they probably will not). The council target of 16,000 by 2031 has been imposed by the Central Government inspector [the one who has just signed off on the Local Plan]. This elevated figure opens the door to speculative development.

What's the answer to the need for affordable housing? A really good question. Young families so often move away in search of housing they can afford. Creative ideas are needed, requiring cooperation between local authorities, housing associations, developers – and residents groups such as ourselves – all working together constructively to find imaginative and even radical solutions.

In my view we should turn away from the current so-called affordable housing policy, where rents

are set at about 80% of full market, to social housing – where rents are set at about 50% of commercial. This is council housing of a sort. There is a need for a supply of cheaper land – and a re-boot of housing associations and how they are funded and operate. Councils might re-engage as niche developers – if that were possible with respect to social housing, that would be positive.

A drive for cheaper homes could result in more energy inefficient, very small dwellings being constructed – hovels of the future. We need to help try to prevent that.

What are the concerns you have about development where you live? For a start we feel squeezed at the city margin by encroachment of student accommodation, at the periphery by the prospect of huge housing estates cutting us off from the country and, within, by more and more building on gardens and any other little green space that is left.

Our major concerns include the doubling of the number of dwellings in the southern quadrant – and adding thousands more in other areas that include Thanington, Sturry and Hersden. This will mean more traffic congestion, more air pollution, loss of all hope of public open space for our existing residents, negative impacts on Canterbury's World Heritage Site, more stress on basic services, from fresh water to education and the NHS, and loss of good agricultural land. We have grave doubts about the current plans, which we consider piecemeal and poorly integrated.

We are also confused – who are these homes for? Local people? People with social needs displaced from London (as at Howe Barracks)? How will enough work be created locally in an economy increasingly dominated by students and day-tripper tourism? If new houses just suck in commuters from London, at Mountfield they will be up to 2 miles from the high speed rail link, separated by the medieval city and the notorious ring road. Would that make sense? And we are frustrated – by a council that listens to our challenges mutely, and is not even willing to debate the issues.

Even so we are retain some optimism – because our residents are highly motivated to get the best possible outcomes for our area, now and in the future. We care passionately about our environment – and want mature debate with both the Council and the developers. A well organised alliance of all Canterbury's many residents' associations now exists, and is engaged on the issues and prepared to work. We cling to the idea that we live in a democracy. We don't say "they should do something about it" – we say we want to help find the best solutions.

What would you call for from the next government in terms of housing policy?

Councils are in a difficult position, what policies do you want to see adopted? Make housing a truly local issue, subject to guidance and information from central government, not diktat. The current centralist policy does not work. Government should ensure that local planning is not set by meaningless long-range targets, but is run by an ongoing, dynamic local planning process, able to adjust to changing realities over a period of a few years, not decades. This would require gathering far better data than we currently have, from the outset – and a reverse from the sort of planning where hundreds of houses can be built *before* work on transport and services infrastructure has even started. This of course has huge financial implications which would have to be addressed.

Essential is a *commitment to the cardinal principle that development should always lead to an improvement in quality of life*, including that of existing residents, rather than accepting incremental deterioration in air quality, health care, education and recreation facilities, and so on. Government needs to do far more to ensure that we benefit from a fully implemented planning process based on consultation and collaboration between existing residents, developers and a revived and revitalised local government system. Local government is currently broken – and one has the suspicion that this is covert government policy, and has been so during successive governments over the last two decades. If true, we believe this is wrong.

*Dick Vane-Wright**

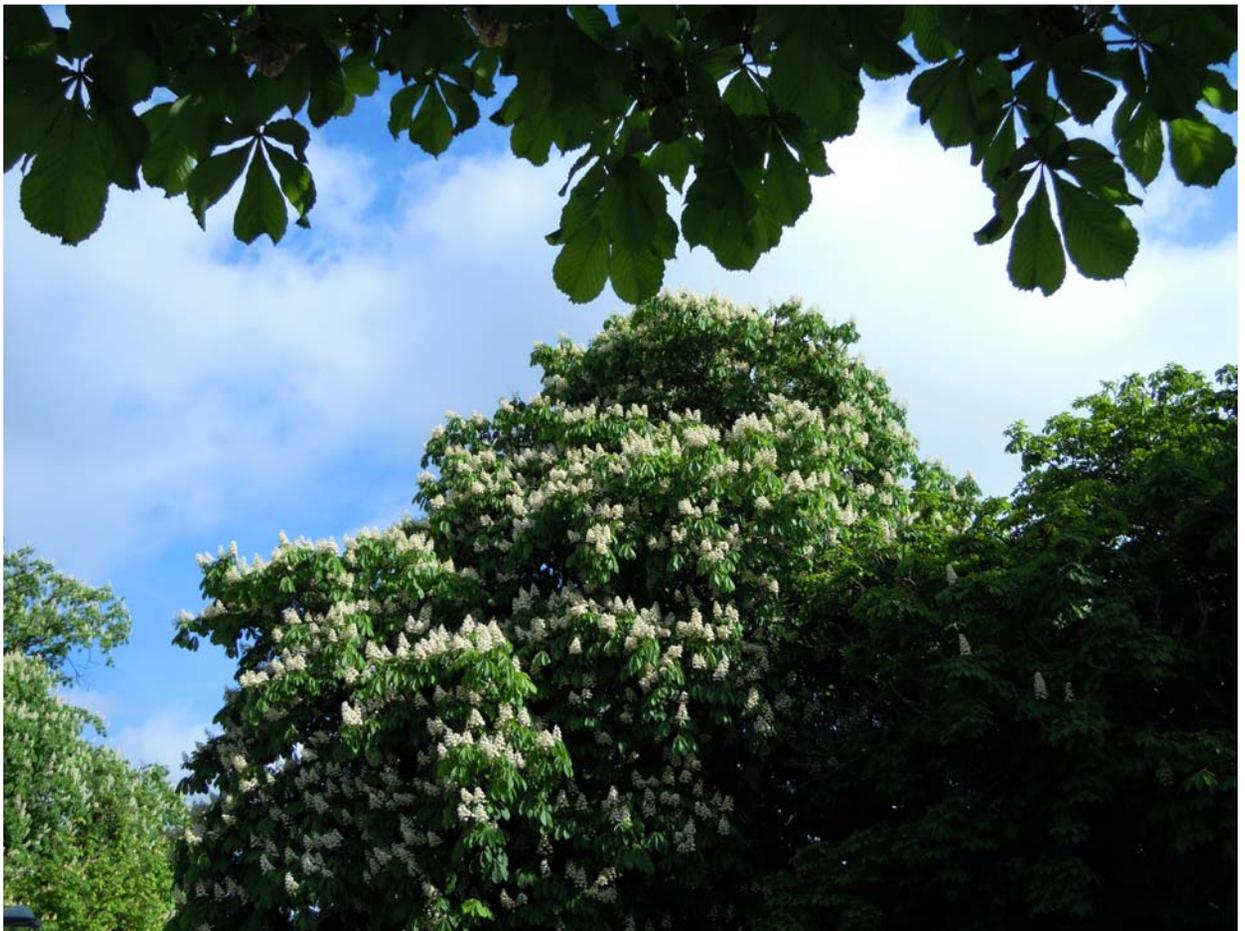
[Those curious about how the parlous state of local government has come about might be interested in the critique by Tom Crewe, *The Strange Death of Municipal England* (*London Review of Books*: <https://www.lrb.co.uk/v38/n24/tom-crewe/the-strange-death-of-municipal-england>).]



The east wall of Pilgrim's Way rail bridge a few days after treatment with anti-graffiti paint. New graffiti is already evident at the left end – but the difference now is that it can be very easily removed. More details about this remarkable volunteer project, run by OHSCA member Cathy Sales, will appear shortly on our website (<http://ohsca.org/volunteering.html>).



A fine view of the Cathedral (10,000 steps, 17th May 2017)



Horse chestnuts at K&C in flower (10th May 2017)



A gang of 8: the ringleaders



Plant share (29th May 2017)



Windows at St Mary's Nackington dedicated in remembrance of Richard and Hannah Mount, 1866. The Mount family may soon have 4000 houses in their memory too.

OHSCA COMMITTEE and contacts list

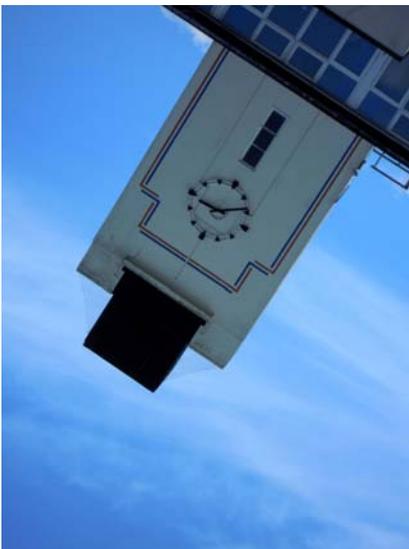
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ACRA = Alliance of pan Canterbury Residents' Associations

SCA = Southern Canterbury Alliance

NB: If you need information or to discuss an issue, please contact Hon Sec or info@ohsca.org

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Are matters getting even worse at the K&C? Page 2, and see also News at www.ohsca.org



Look out this summer for the lovely Clouted Yellow – an occasional migrant butterfly that sometimes reaches our southerly shores in great numbers. Not to be confused with our only other 'Yellow', the resident Brimstone, which is slightly larger and has a 'point' on each of its wings – unlike the smoothly rounded outline of the Clouted Yellow (*Colias croceus*), pictured here. This is one of the six six-legged beauties that will be presented on 29th September (see page 3!). [Image: © Wikimedia Commons; Zeynel Cebeci.]