

Dover District Council Local Plan Student Workshop

The Ark, Noah's Road, Dover

Friday 12th October 2018

Student representatives from Astor College, Dover; Dover College; Dover Grammar School for Boys; Dover Grammar School for Girls and Sandwich Technology College attended a 2-hour workshop to feed ideas in to the Dover District Council Local Plan.

Our Vision for Dover District

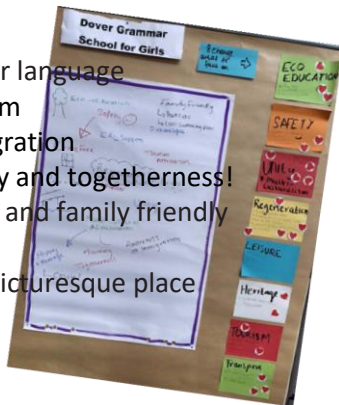
Each group was asked to describe their vision for Dover District in 2037 and identify 8 areas of change that they consider the Local Plan should focus on to get there. After sharing the outcomes with the whole group, students were then given 3 stickers to identify the areas of most importance.



Dover Grammar School for Girls

Vision:

- Promote Eco-education
- Regeneration!
- Provide English as another language
- Celebrate multi-culturalism
- Raise awareness of immigration
- Encourage unity, harmony and togetherness!
- Provide a safe, crime free and family friendly environment
- Popular, fun, bright and picturesque place
- Tourist activities
- Cool swimming pool
- Parks etc
- Pier - fun!
- Celebrate history and heritage (e.g. Dover Castle)



8 Change Areas to Focus on:

1. Eco Education

- Work closely with The Port of Dover
- Protect the District's Coastlines
- Schools to work closely with the Council



2. Safety (crime-free)

- Apply the 'Broken-window' theory
- Improve the appeal of different areas
- Create safer and crime free places
- Raise awareness of homelessness

3. Unity

- EAL support
- Celebrate multi-culturalism through events and education (e.g. food)



4. Regeneration

- Branded popular names (e.g. bring into the high street)
- Decorate windows on empty shops
- Pop-up art galleries

- Celebration of local Dover products (via a market?)

5. Leisure

- Parks
- Pools

6. Heritage

- Celebrate local history
- Host big events!

7. Tourism

- Promote tourist attractions
- Boat
- Variety of shops
- Park & Ride

8. Transport

- Link transport to tourist attractions (e.g. trams and cable car)



Sandwich Technology School

Vision:

- Change the perception
- More jobs
- Encourage small businesses
- More tourist attractions
- Promote landscapes and landmarks
- Coastal activities
- Make more use of the pier
- Stalls and markets
- Better security/emergency services
- Youth centres
- Money handling
- Better digital connectivity
- Easier access to the internet



- Linked public transport
- Making the most of high speed services
- Reduce environmental pollution
- Making more vehicles eco-friendly
- Charging points
- More eco-friendly houses
- Affordable houses
- Tackle homelessness
- Promote Dover
- Link together the coastal towns
- Tourist trail



9 Change Areas to Focus on:

1. Charging points and improve broadband
2. Affordable housing - eco-friendly
3. Clean up the streets and more seating areas
4. Eco-friendly buses - link to public transport
5. Charitable events
6. Use empty shops to start new businesses
7. Wind farms, charging ports, solar panels
8. More police "people" on streets

9. Make District more welcoming



Astor College

Vision:

- Make better use of heritage
- Cleaner
- Crime
- Add more social events
- Add refurbishments
- Add greenery and protect existing nature
- Add more independent stores
- Improve sense of community
- Add jobs for younger generation
- Become more eco-friendly
- Maintain other parts of the District (Deal, Sandwich)



8 Change Areas to Focus on:

1. Poverty
2. Lack of jobs
3. Litter
4. Negative perception
5. Poor sense of community
6. Retail
7. Crime
8. Support of integration into society



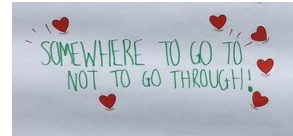
Dover Grammar School for Boys

Vision:

- Dover as a destination!
- High Street
- Tourism
- Gateway to England and Europe
- Heritage

- Multicultural
- New identity
- No stigma

"A gateway to England/Europe – somewhere to go to, not to go through!"



9 Change Areas to Focus on:

1. Maximising existing heritage
2. Linking new development with the town centre
3. Redefining the identity of the town centre
 - diversification
4. More seasonal events
 - successful ones becoming year-round
5. Embrace different cultures
 - multi-cultural destination
6. Bilbao effect – create a new draw to the town (e.g. maritime museum)
7. Joined-up thinking – all new development needs to form a meaningful part of a wider plan
8. Celebrate local businesses
9. Use all the above to dismiss the stigma



Dover College

Vision:

- Dive into Dover!
- A bustling town with independent shops
- Heritage appreciated
- Cable car to the castle and zip-wire down!
- Historic and modern, side by side
- Colourful
- Publicised, marketing, signposts, social media
- Environmental awareness (bins, plastic and recycling)
- Water fountains, free water refills
- Cycle paths and "Boris Bikes"
- Discovery Centre with performance space
- Entrepreneurial - independent shops
- Cafes
- Bond connection - 007 bus



8 Change Areas to Focus on:

1. Transport

- Zip-wire
- Trams
- Cable car
- Electric bikes and cars

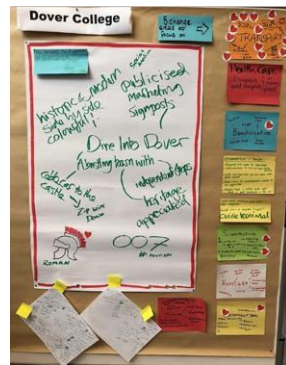


2. Healthcare

GP surgeries and dental surgeries in many places!

3. Beautification

- Fountains
- Bright
- Triumphal arch
- More flora
- Seaside town



4. Environment and tourism

- Recycling bins cross the high street
- Water fountains to fill up recyclable bottles
- Cable cars/zip wires from Dover Castle
- Lower rent for independent stores in the high street
- Flowers/trees and litter pick-ups!
- Make a good impression of the UK!
- Cycle paths making Dover safer and more acceptable
- Guided tours of Western Heights!
- Cruise Terminal



5. Signposting

- Get out of the car
- That's something to do
- Advertising tourism
- Keeping people here!
- A place to wander
- Hidden places revealed
- Banksy!



6. Heritage

- Castle
- Roman ruins
- Roman painted house
- Bronze age boat
- Re-enactment in the town
- Events
- Advertising

7. Encouraging Independent Shops

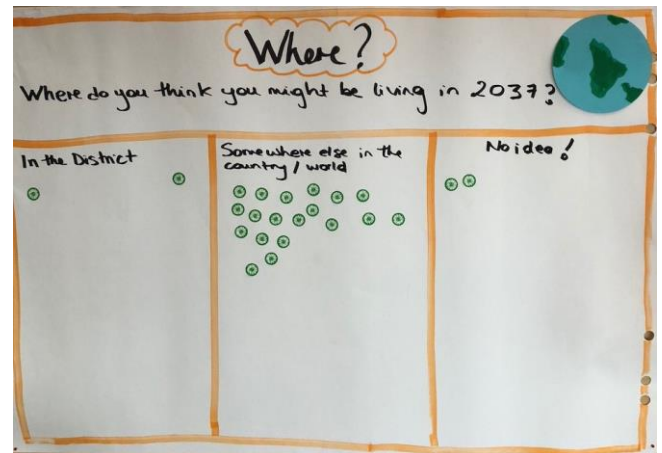
- Art shops/galleries
- Music
- Tourist
- Bakeries
- Coffee Shops
- Crafts

8. Tourism

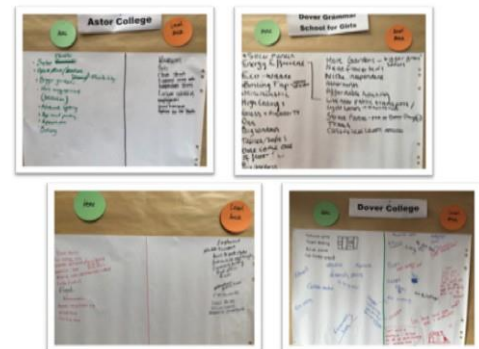
- Discovery Centre
- Roman connections
- 007 bus/James Bond
- Bench street
- Performance spaces
- Re-enactments (Roman, Medieval, Napoleonic, World Wars etc.)

Let's Talk Houses!

Students were invited to indicate where they thought they might be living in 2037.



Students were then asked to describe features of future homes in the District and the area around them that are important to them.



Dover Grammar School for Girls

Home:

- Solar panels
- Energy efficient
- Eco-waste
- Boiling tap/instant hot water
- Minimalistic
- High ceilings
- Glass
- Oak
- Projector TVs
- Big windows
- Tables/sofas that come out of the floor
- Big gardens
- Semi-detached

Local area:

- More gardens/bigger green spaces
- Neat flower beds
- Niche, independent restaurants
- Affordable housing
- Live near public transport/cycle lanes (with bikes to hire)
- Street parties – part of "Dover Day"

- Trams
- Close to local schools to houses

Sandwich Technology College

Home:

- Solar panels
- Low energy bills
- Internet connections (online banking, TV, music)
- Responsive lights
- Recycling waste water/food/plastic/cardboard
- Gardens (medium)
- Food
- Moveable walls/flexible house
- Owned houses
- Charging points for cars

Local area:

- Employment
- Affordable transport
- Access to youth clubs
- Interactive neighbourhoods
- Community building
- Post Office
- Banks
- Restaurants
- Local parks
- Leisure centres
- Responsive high street lights

Astor College

Home:

- Solar panels
- Open-plan (kitchen diners) – flexibility
- Bigger gardens
- More energy efficient (insulation)
- Natural lighting
- Balcony
- Off-road parking
- Affordable

Local Area:

- Wind farms
- Parks
- Clean streets
- Lowered crime rate
- Independent stores
- Leisure activities
- Employment
- Good transport
- Options for the youth

Dover College

Home:

- Hypocaust system
- Triple-glazing
- Solar power
- Low-carbon outputs

- Colourful
- Carbon-neutral
- Nice feeling
- Affordable
- Aesthetically pleasing
- No boringness!
- Environmentally friendly
- Staggered – all building have views of the sea and not overlooked

Local Area:

- Playgrounds and parks
- Nice views
- Green!
- No 60's blocks
- Lively
- Barn conversions
- Bright – more windows, less brick
- Trees and flowers
- Nice community
- Nice buildings
- I want houses which aren't built in a rush and so close together like all the "Lego-Land" estates being built at the moment
- Less brick, more stone, wood, glass and alternatives
- Don't build in the countryside and instead use all the empty building we already have and re-generate

Dover Grammar School for Boys

Home:

- Solar panels
- Electric car-ports
- Vice activated
- Interesting design (current new houses look like they're from the 1980's – why are they so boring and looking the same?). Just because it's happening, it doesn't mean it's right and what people want.
- Planners need to support new approaches to design (modular, pre-fab, new styles, more exciting, allow architectural experimentation)

Local area:

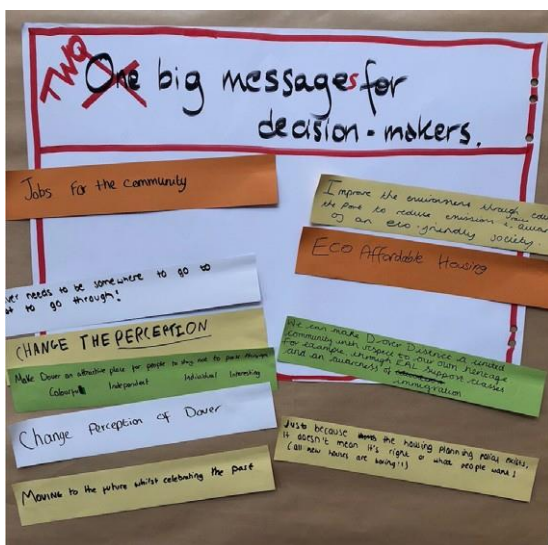
- Accessible sport
- Sport for girls/women
- New houses near new infrastructure, amenities, schools, shops and public transport
- Utilities
- Local shops in villages
- Reduce carbon-footprint

One BIG Message for decision-makers!

Each group was invited to feedback 2 BIG messages for decision makers, as follows:



- Jobs for the community
- Dover needs to be somewhere to go to, not to go through!
- Change the perception
- Make Dover an attractive place for people to stay, not to pass through. Colourful, independent, individual, interesting
- Moving to the future whilst celebrating the past
- Improve the environment through education and the Port to reduce emissions and raise awareness of an eco-friendly society
- Eco-affordable housing
- We can make Dover District a united community with respect to our own heritage. For example, through EAL support classes and an awareness of immigration
- Just because the housing planning policy exists, it doesn't mean it's right or what people want (all new houses are boring!)



Students were then invited to offer any final messages about priorities for the Local Plan:

- My personal message to the council would be to give Dover some TLC, and better sports facilities (e.g. use the cricket ground for more than just Dover College as that's selfish!).
- One of the things that I would like to change about Dover is that I would like for it to have more tourist attractions so more people will

enjoy staying at Dover instead of driving past it without noticing.

- Affordable housing for young people and homeless people
- Tackle homelessness
- Affordable housing



- Don't play safe! Take what you have and celebrate it and raise it up. Make Dover a place you would want to visit. Make Dover a place that you would want to live. Think differently!
- When making decisions, think of Dover as the welcome to the UK. Let's bring colour, creativity and culture!
- Don't forget the past when planning for the future.
- Sort out the recycling system. Why can we not get our recycling rate up to around 97%?
- There needs to be a radical reconsideration of what Dover is and what it is going to be. We can't keep doing things little by little (one development at the time). It needs to be part of a wider plan to create a new identity for the area; to redefine it as a destination. There has to be an element of risk in what we do or nothing magnificent will happen.
- Get rid of that BAD stigma that exists around Dover. That's what is dragging Dover down. At the end of the day, Dover is the first thing people see coming off the ferry. Let's make it a good example of what England has to offer.
- Make Dover more attractive. Re-furbish shops and old buildings. Make areas for young people. Bring in independently owned shops – import a sense of place.
- My personal message is to change the area and perception of Dover Town as it feels like it has been left to rot. There's poverty and no respect therefore clean the streets, stop petty crime and give Dover a completely different reputation.
- More leisure activities. Use the derelict buildings that are littered throughout the town.
- More eco-friendly resources.
- Dover needs more opportunities for people

- after school or university. People need a reason to come back to Dover or to come here in the first place.
- Dover has a bad stigma and it's stopping Dover progressing and being attractive to the rest of the world. Stigma needs to be more positive.

Finally - students were invited to



comment on the session they had participated in:

- I enjoyed taking part today and having ideas put forward for the community
- This morning has been good, allowing various views from the youth. Gave us a chance to voice our opinion.
- It was lovely to have a part to play. Apologies for the bluntness of my colleagues!
- I found the experience very interesting and I felt I was listened to.
- The experience of today was very interesting and felt like we were listened to.
- The experience has been interesting and felt hope for areas within the Dover District that action may actually be taken, so very positive emotions

- Today was a good experience and I am now more well-rounded on my knowledge of Dover as a whole. This will help me when using Dover as my case study in the up-coming exams.
- This experience has been very good as we have been able to give our opinions and have our say on the path Dover needs to follow. Thank you, I hope it opens up your eyes
- I hope it is not just ticking the 'local consultation' box and what has been said will be listened to.
- Today has been an interesting look into the future of Dover District and I hope that our suggestions are considered properly!
- Informative, enthusiastic, immersive, team work, insightful!
- I found this experience very good because it shows me how to change Dover District and I hope to see a change in future years.-
- I felt this experience was a good opportunity to gather people's ideas around the District and what they want to change/keep
- I enjoyed today and found it interesting
- I enjoyed this session we had today
- The experience of today was good and I feel that my points were valued.

