

A report from Ted Kennard, Chairman of the Listings and Conservation Areas Sub-committee.

In our September 2010 Newsletter Vice Chairman Tony Malone revealed that a Listings and Conservation Areas Sub-Committee had been formed. It held its first meeting in May 2010 and has held a further eleven meetings since then so that you will see that we have been quite busy!

It soon became apparent that there was much work to do and that it had to be done in a systematic manner. Furthermore a closer relationship with the staff of English Heritage would probably enable our applications to be processed expeditiously.

Various aspects of our work have been allocated to each member of the sub-committee who are at present Tony Malone, Natalie Cropper, Sue Belton and Bill Geddes. These aspects include preparation of submissions to English Heritage, inspecting buildings, photography, research, correspondence and liaison with the WBC planning section.

Representatives of English Heritage were entertained to lunch at Beach House in September 2010 and then taken on a tour of some of the buildings which may be candidates for listing as well as Marine Gardens and its environs.

The listing of buildings of special architectural and historic interest is essential to protect and preserve our built heritage. There are three grades of buildings prescribed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. These are Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II. The Dome Cinema is an example of a Grade II* building. There is a further grade of Local Listed Buildings which have no statutory status but nevertheless we will be helping the planning department to update and review this useful list. The Connaught Theatre is an example of a locally listed building. We are also preparing a schedule of buildings which are listed and at risk, being seriously dilapidated and possibly dangerous. An example of such a building is Castle Goring.

There are twenty six Conservation Areas in the Borough of Worthing and to date we have discussed the problems related to their administration with and have offered our help to James Appleton the Head of Planning Regeneration and Wellbeing, to assist in reviewing them. This will of course be very time consuming and we may be asking for help from members in due course.

For a more detailed account of specific campaigns please click on the sub-menu within the "Campaigns" Link.