

## Press Release

### Great News for Dover

On Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 after a two day hearing in the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division, Justice Mitting gave judgment on the application by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) for a judicial review of the decision by Dover District Council to grant planning permission to China Gateway International (CGI) to build at Farthingloe and Western Heights. At issue was a development of 521 residential units, a 90 apartment retirement village and a health facility of 730 sq m at Farthingloe together with 31 residential units, a 130 bed hotel and conference centre and other developments at Western Heights. CGI's plans also envisaged £8.8 million of public works including a £5 million visitor centre at the Drop Redoubt.

Mindful of the case of *Morge V Hants CC* [2011] PTSR 337 and the words of Baroness Hale of Richmond that "... *In this country planning decisions are taken by democratically elected councillors, responsible to, and sensitive to the concerns of their local communities*", Justice Mitting rejected all five grounds presented by CPRE in what must be regarded as one of the most significant decisions in the history of post-war planning in Dover.

*"... one of the most significant decisions in the history of post-war planning in Dover."*

Although CPRE may not have given up the fight entirely, the wholehearted endorsement of Dover District Council's decision-making processes represents a significant triumph that sends out a loud and unambiguous message that inward investors are welcome in the Dover District and that appropriate schemes will be supported one hundred per cent by a business-friendly planning regime.

Present in court number 2 of the Royal Courts of Justice to hear the judgment was David Foley, the Chief Executive of Dover District Chamber of Commerce which has supported the development from the

*"... example of best practice in public/private sector cooperation"*

beginning. He said: "CGI and Dover District Council deserve every credit for sticking to their guns. Every company, worker and resident in the area stands to gain from the significant economic stimulus this development will bring. It serves as an example of best practice in public/private sector cooperation that will be the envy of ambitious companies in other parts of Kent less well served by their local authority".

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#### Information

Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and gives business support to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich, Shepway, Thanet and throughout the East Kent coastal business community

#### Enquiries

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