

Press Release

**5th March 2019
Little Farthingloe Farm**

The Dover District Chamber of Commerce was invited to present the case for the development of Farthingloe and Western Heights at an evening meeting organised by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

Under the Chairmanship of Richard Knox-Johnson, Chamber Chief Executive David Foley outlined the many advantages of the proposed scheme for 521 new homes and associated facilities.

Firstly, he gave the 27-year background to the development and referred to the plea of the then president of the Chamber, Peter Sherrard, who was quoted in The Times of 16th January 1992 as saying: “We are hoping that someone will develop a hotel on Western Heights”.

He then pointed to the economic benefits to the district where currently the unemployment rate for 18 to 24-year olds is four times higher than in neighbouring Canterbury. He added that according to the latest study, tourism in the Dover District was a major employer accounting directly for 4,200 jobs and a business impact of over £280 million a year.

Finally, he said that he expected final planning to be granted this year. He concluded that it was very much a matter of regret that so many families had been denied a home for so long and that 90 elderly citizens had not been able to access the modern care facilities the development is expected to deliver.

Encouraged by Dover District Council, the developers have earmarked over £8 million for public works. He expected that when these are completed and the new 130-bedroom hotel is constructed at Western Heights, there would be every encouragement to visitors to stay overnight which could have a dramatic effect on the revenue to Dover shops and restaurants; more customers, staying longer, spending more, just what Dover needs.



David Foley, (standing) is flanked by Richard Knox-Johnson (Chairman) and Hilary Newport of CPRE.

Information

Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and provides professional business support to the private and voluntary sector. In liaison with its sister body, Thanet & East Kent Chamber, the Dover District Chamber of Commerce operates the East Kent Business Advice Clinic which gives commercial guidance to companies of all sizes trading in East Kent.

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