

Derelict buildings to get new lease of life

Listed property to be flats, thanks to 'No Use Empty' scheme

Report by **Kathy Bailes**

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A DERELICT property in London Road is to be converted into flats, following a cash injection from Kent County Council's No Use Empty scheme.

The three-storey listed building, which is some 100 years old, has stood empty for more than four years. In that time, it has been targeted by vandals, used as a dumping ground by fly-tippers and become a haunt for drug addicts.

Original features

A £175,000 loan from No Use Empty to development firm Ver-non Investments will pay to turn the building, at 306 London Road, into nine self-contained flats with a large shared rear garden. To retain the character of the building, some of the original features are being recreated with moulds taken from original fixtures.

The renovation is expected to be complete by February 2012. Kent County Council cabinet

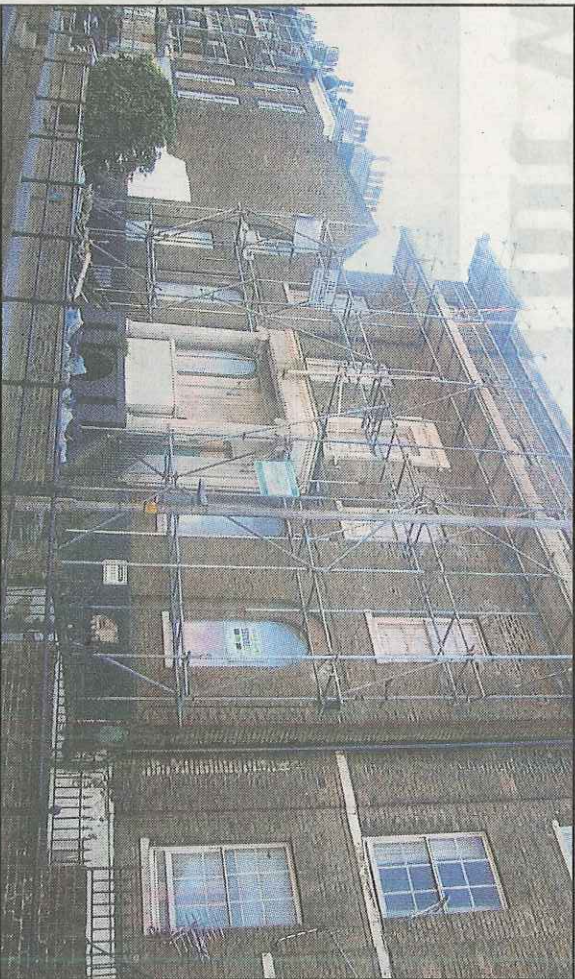
member for regeneration and economic development Kevin Lynes, said: "This is a perfect example of how this scheme can make a direct difference to people's lives."

The project is being supported by Dover District Council.

DDC private sector housing manager Robin Kennedy said: "As well as Kent County Council, we have been working in partnership with the London Road Community Forum to try and secure improvements in this part of Dover. Prominent position

"The building is in a prominent position near local shops, the town centre and public transport services, and has been a wasted resource while it stood empty."

Through the No Use Empty scheme, set up by KCC in 2005, property owners can get a loan to help them finance refurbishments and make properties habitable again. To be eligible properties must be either sold or rented after completion and the loans repaid in full. The money is then recycled to pay for another project.



Regeneration: Schemes such as the London Road development (above) can "make a direct difference" says KCC's Kevin Lynes (below)



In brief

Do you want to join council?

A VACANCY has arisen on Sandwich Town Council and a request is now being made for any interested person, wishing to be considered for co-option to complete a candidate's consent to nomination and to submit a personal statement to the town clerk by 5pm on Tuesday, May 31. For more information, call 01304 617197 or e-mail tracey@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

Lantern danger

Fire chiefs have issued a warning about Chinese lanterns after one set fire to a roof in Deal.

A paper lantern with a candle inside is understood to have landed on the roof of a property in Great Mongeham Road on Sunday, May 8. One fire appliance from Deal was called out to attend the scene just after 9.20pm.

Generator fire

FIREFIGHTERS had to visit a Sandwich construction over the weekend to extinguish a power generator that had caught fire.

Crews were called out to Princess Drive at 6.47pm on Saturday, May 7. They had to use a powder extinguisher for almost 30 minutes to fight the fire and make the area safe.