

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 5, 2023 5:13 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

Hello [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your email of 4th August.

Do please ask [REDACTED] to let me have the following information, asap.

1. A copy of the minutes of the meeting on 10th March at Dover Town Council offices. Stakeholders DDC and DRPHT, but KARU not invited. DDC chap did the minutes.
2. The estimated cost of the PH bridge works before work began.
3. The actual cost of the bridge works when completed, confirming my advice.
4. That he is aware that due to inquorate meetings (and false claims) that no new RPH trustees have been elected and that the KCC trustee has wisely resigned. Charity Commission now investigating. Hence no decisions regarding the RPH are valid after 2022.

Please arrange that my earlier question to be put to DDC full Council meeting is placed on the agenda for the September meeting. [REDACTED].

All good wishes, [REDACTED].

On Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 9:12 AM [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I will send this across to [REDACTED] for his information.

Many thanks and regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 5:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

Hello [REDACTED],

Bridge over the River - Roman House.

Many thanks for your careful reply to my letter of. early July.

However, the engineers report was not fully comprehensive, just as it stated.

Although (carefully ignored) my view is that much more needs doing:

a. Removal of full decking to access 3 joists listed to be replaced.

Decking not even mentioned in the report.

b. All 15 joists must be replaced, not just three.

c. The central pier is not a bridge support (as stated) , but just a simple support for the services.

4. It is thus NOT a load-bearing element, was built as an exercise by two trainees and has no foundation.

e. The whole decking (not mentioned) will need renewing as it was badly worn.

f. The new decking will need non-slip paint (not mentioned) as the old was neglected by others.

g. Care must be exercised on the underlying services (not even mentioned in the report)

It is likely that this extra essential work will double the work and the costs.

Clearly, with [REDACTED] excluding me (as the builder and manager for 40 years) much could have been changed and costs and work saved. - His negative campaign started in June, 2022 and continues.

Clearly, another interesting episode - not yet over ???

Now making plans for the next 12 years.

All good wishes (my belated kind regards to [REDACTED]). [REDACTED]

On Thu, Aug 3, 2023 at 4:06 PM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, please find attached a letter from our Chief Executive, [REDACTED], regarding the Roman Painted House. Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Many thanks and regards,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
**PA to the Chief Executive**

**Dover District Council**

Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover  
CT16 3PJ

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk

Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>



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**From:** [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 August 2023 09:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dover Roman Painted House Trust. etc

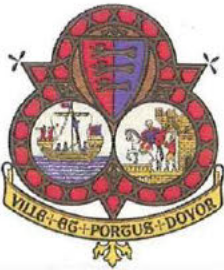
Dear [REDACTED]  
Good to see you on Firday – [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Also we briefly discussed the urgency of progressing the surrender of the lease for the RPH – see below for [REDACTED] reaction to finally reading the minutes nd realising what the Trust has resolved.

[REDACTED]

Could you let me have an idea of timescale for your process at DDC please? In the meantime I will consult Girlings again on behalf of the Trust to see what steps RPHT can legally take to hasten the conclusion of the matter.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Town Clerk**  
Dover Town Council,  
Maison Dieu House,  
Biggin Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1DW  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk  
Website: [www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 13, 2023 1:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dover Roman Painted House Trust.

To valid trustees and non-trustees.

**MAJOR WARNING. Surrender of PH major asset.**

A leading property agent has just brought to my attention to statements in the minutes of an (invalid) trustees meeting on 12th July sent anonymously (on 31st July)..

████████████████████ were unable to attend and the minutes unacceptably arrived the same day as the next meeting!. These also contain damaging personal remarks.

The meeting recommended the termination of the PH Lease with DDC which only covers the ground it owns. This will result in our cover-building, by far the major asset of the Trust, falling under the control of DDC. Please note.

1. Our Lease still has 17 years to run and certainly does not need to be surrendered.
2. I raised the money for the building and presentation scheme in 1975-6 which was valued £200,000 on completion, It won four national awards. DDC contribution was just £25,000.

There is not the slightest doubt that the cover-building belongs to the Trust.

3. The same minutes state that the Trust did not have the ability to deal with work and finances, but forgets to say that this was successfully done over the past 40 years. Indeed, I ██████████ recently won grants of £18,000 which were added to our existing banking and investment funds. Alienating those managing the RPH over decades is counter-productive and offensive.
4. The false inability claim (above) relates to a recent building survey, arranged by the Town Clerk, which is seriously flawed. This has been produced by a small firm based on The Beach ██████████ near Kingsdown, but is unwilling to show its address on its reports. It ignored existing protocols and knowledge and came up with a shopping-list of faults., such as:

- a. New emergency lighting needed. - No. This was replaced just last year by a reputable Dover firm.
  - b. Poor house-keeping. - No. The rubbish by the front door was obviously waiting to be removed.
  - c. Poor level of lighting. - No. This is deliberate to protect the Roman wall-paintings.
  - d. Rotted floors. - No. There is only one soft spot, where rain comes under the front door, which we reported weeks ago and can be fixed in just two hours.
  - e. Old furniture. - Some is almost new and the rest donated by supporters to save costs.
  - f. No disabled access below. - This was fully explored with a Dover disability group several years ago. New disabled toilets were then created, glass panels put in the south gallery and ██████████ it was agreed that it was not possible to put in a lift to the basement.
  - g. Vegetation outside not cleared. - This is the certain responsibility of DDC (not RPH) and done every three years.
10. The building is constructed of "bricks and cement". - No. There is not a single brick in the building and you cannot build anything with pure cement. You need mortar. This casts doubt ██████████ on the experience of those giving expert advice.

It is now important to identify the trustee who put up this hugely damaging proposal and to see if he has any link to DDC. To dispose of the Trust's major asset, without good reason, is a breach of trust. Clause 21 of our Charter, clearly identifies this as "wrongdoing" with certain liability. Do not add your name to this !.

I urge everyone to reject this disastrous proposal and help identify who proposed it.

This is very important. Please do not ignore this vital matter. Yours in haste, ██████████

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 October 2023 15:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Angela Simmons  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Roman Painted House

Dear [REDACTED]  
I am responding to your email dated 1<sup>st</sup> October, copied below, which [REDACTED] has forwarded to me to reply.

Firstly, I can confirm that your question to Council (intended for the July Council meeting) has been added to the agenda for the meeting on October 18th as requested.

As regards the works to the bridge, I note your comments regarding the cost. As the works are now complete, I don't anticipate any further expenditure will be incurred.

Finally, as regards your criticisms of the building survey, as sent to [REDACTED] these have not been shared with me. Perhaps you could forward a copy for my attention.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Strategic Director (Place & Environment)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Roman Painted House

Hello again [REDACTED]

Have you placed my question (intended for July Council meeting) on the agenda for the October meeting, as already requested ?

I note that the bridge costs at the RPH (everything included) now exceed £22,000 with more to come.

Has [REDACTED] seen my long list of criticisms of the failed building survey of the RPH, as sent to [REDACTED] ?

All good wishes, [REDACTED]

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 4:35 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

So many thanks for your prompt reply, much appreciated.

With VAT the bridge estimate comes out at £17,360.  
It seems likely that the final cost will be much more.

I am very puzzled that you say [REDACTED] is dealing with all our matters. There has been total silence from him. Yet, he knows I discovered the Roman House, saved it from destruction twice, raised the funds for the project, constructed the cover building, created the total presentation, won four national awards, managed it for over 40 years, attracted 700,000 visitors at no cost to DDC and certainly the only person in the World with all the knowledge of the place. Others say he prefers to deal with [REDACTED] who has done none of the work in 20 years.

Its a funny old World. - Private Eye taking an interest !

All good wishes. [REDACTED].

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 11:31 AM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your email of the 5<sup>th</sup> August, please find the below response from [REDACTED], which hopefully provides the information you have requested:

- 1.No minutes of the stakeholder meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March were taken by DDC as the meeting was arranged and chaired by Dover Town Council.
- 2.The quotation for the works to reconstruct the bridge was 14,466.23 + VAT.
- 3.I understand that the works will be complete in the next few days. I am not expecting any additional costs to have been incurred.
- 4.We will continue to work with all of the trustees to realise the potential of the RPH to support the Council's wider regeneration plans.

Should you have any further questions, please direct them to [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)> who has been assisting with all of your letters/emails regarding the Roman Painted House.

Many thanks and regards

[REDACTED]





[REDACTED]  
PA to the Chief Executive

**Dover District Council**  
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover  
CT16 3PJ  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk  
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>

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4. That he is aware that due to inquorate meetings (and false claims) that no new RPH trustees

have been elected and that the KCC trustee has wisely resigned. Charity Commission now investigating.

Hence no decisions regarding the RPH are valid after 2022.

Please arrange that my earlier question to be put to DDC full Council meeting is placed on the agenda for the September meeting. Little medical matter prevented it for July.

All good wishes, [REDACTED].

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Many thanks and regards

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**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

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Bridge over the River - Roman House.

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Decking not even mentioned in the report.

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Now making plans for the next 12 years.

All good wishes (my belated kind regards to [REDACTED]). [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

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Many thanks and regards,



**PA to the Chief Executive**

**Dover District Council**  
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover  
CT16 3PJ  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk  
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 October 2023 14:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Roman Painted House  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello. Hello [REDACTED]

Quite shocked to have a message from you after years of total silence.  
The others said you had retired and gone somewhere very warm !

Now I must reprimand you for your incorrect statements to DDC that the PH cover-building is owned by the Council.

It is certainly not. I raised all the money for the building and presentation programme. My own contribution

as unpaid Project Manager (404 days non-stop) was greater than DDC (£25k) and DOE (£12k) put together.

Then my two teams carrying out all the unskilled and semi-skilled tasks thus contributed some £90,000.

The effective cost was thus about £200,000. - DDC simply own the land, but even this may need checking,

as the land was occupied by privately owned houses (Yewdens Court)..

Now you say that you don't have sight of my list of corrections to the seriously flawed building and safety surveys arranged by

the Town Clerk, done totally without my knowledge even though I am the only person with all the facts of the

structures and protocols. The other trustees say that [REDACTED] gives you all the reports and minutes. If he has failed

to do so this time, then I could arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

I have also been told that your Museum staff have accessed our collection of artefacts housed in the RPH. These

form part of our ongoing major programme of professional research and publication and such interference is

totally unacceptable and unprofessional. Kindly desist as you certainly don't have our consent.

Please advise

who gave consent and access ?

I am looking forward to the Council meeting on 18th when my question can be put, perhaps in 5 mins. I am told that we are allowed a supplementary question too, over some six minutes. This should be useful and

you might even get a mention. - Genuine cooperation seems to have gone out of the window and this is proving

expensive and hugely counterproductive. It cant promote future development..

It has a familiar ring, but the good guys always win in the end.

On Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 3:50 PM [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I am responding to your email dated 1<sup>st</sup> October, copied below, which [REDACTED] has forwarded to me to reply.

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Finally, as regards your criticisms of the building survey, as sent to [REDACTED] these have not been shared with me. Perhaps you could forward a copy for my attention.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Strategic Director (Place & Environment)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 1, 2023 11:07 AM  
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**Subject:** Re: FW: Roman Painted House

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All good wishes, [REDACTED].

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Hello [REDACTED]

So many thanks for your prompt reply, much appreciated.

With VAT the bridge estimate comes out at £17,360.

It seems likely that the final cost will be much more.

I am very puzzled that you say [REDACTED] is dealing with all our matters.

There has been total silence from him. Yet, he knows I discovered the Roman House, saved it from destruction twice, raised the funds for the project, constructed the cover building, created the total presentation, won four national awards, managed it for over 40 years, attracted 700,000 visitors at no cost to DDC and certainly the only person in the World with all the knowledge of the place. Others say he prefers to deal with [REDACTED] who has done none of the work in 20 years.

Its a funny old World. - Private Eye taking an interest !

All good wishes. [REDACTED].

On Mon, Aug 7, 2023 at 11:31 AM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

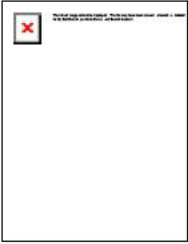
Further to your email of the 5<sup>th</sup> August, please find the below response from [REDACTED], which hopefully provides the information you have requested:

1. No minutes of the stakeholder meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March were taken by DDC as the meeting was arranged and chaired by Dover Town Council.
2. The quotation for the works to reconstruct the bridge was 14,466.23 + VAT.
3. I understand that the works will be complete in the next few days. I am not expecting any additional costs to have been incurred.
4. We will continue to work with all of the trustees to realise the potential of the RPH to support the Council's wider regeneration plans.

Should you have any further questions, please direct them to [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)> who has been assisting with all of your letters/emails regarding the Roman Painted House.

Many thanks and regards

[REDACTED]



██████████  
**PA to the Chief Executive**

**Dover District Council**  
Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover  
CT16 3PJ  
Tel: ██████████  
Email: ██████████@dover.gov.uk  
Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>



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---

**From:** ██████████  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 5, 2023 5:13 PM  
**To:** ██████████@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

Hello ██████████

Many thanks for your email of 4th August.

Do please ask ██████████ to let me have the following information, asap.

1. A copy of the minutes of the meeting on 10th March at Dover Town Council offices.  
Stakeholders DDC and DRPHT, but KARU not invited. DDC chap did the minutes.
2. The estimated cost of the PH bridge works before work began.
3. The actual cost of the bridge works when completed, confirming my advice.

4. That he is aware that due to inquorate meetings (and false claims) that no new RPH trustees have been elected and that the KCC trustee has wisely resigned. Charity Commission now investigating.

Hence no decisions regarding the RPH are valid after 2022.

Please arrange that my earlier question to be put to DDC full Council meeting is placed on the agenda

for the September meeting. [REDACTED]

All good wishes, [REDACTED]

On Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 9:12 AM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. I will send this across to [REDACTED] for his information.

Many thanks and regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 5:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK)>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

Hello [REDACTED],

Bridge over the River - Roman House.

Many thanks for your careful reply to my letter of. early July.

However, the engineers report was not fully comprehensive, just as it stated.

Although (carefully ignored) my view is that much more needs doing:

a. Removal of full decking to access 3 joists listed to be replaced.

Decking not even mentioned in the report.

b. All 15 joists must be replaced, not just three.

c. The central pier is not a bridge support (as stated) , but just a simple support for the services.

4. It is thus NOT a load-bearing element, was built as an exercise by two trainees and has no foundation.

e. The whole decking (not mentioned) will need renewing as it was badly worn.

f. The new decking will need non-slip paint (not mentioned) as the old was neglected by others.

g. Care must be exercised on the underlying services (not even mentioned in the report)

It is likely that this extra essential work will double the work and the costs.

Clearly, with [REDACTED] excluding me (as the builder and manager for 40 years) much could have been changed and costs and work saved. - His negative campaign started in June, 2022 and continues.

Clearly, another interesting episode - not yet over ???

Now making plans for the next 12 years.

All good wishes (my belated kind regards to [REDACTED]). [REDACTED]

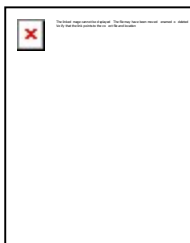
On Thu, Aug 3, 2023 at 4:06 PM [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, please find attached a letter from our Chief Executive, [REDACTED], regarding the Roman Painted House. Apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Many thanks and regards,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
**PA to the Chief Executive**

**Dover District Council**

Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover  
CT16 3PJ

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk

Web: <http://dover.gov.uk>



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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 December 2023 17:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Roman Painted House

Hello [REDACTED]  
Yes, good timing. We have a Trust meeting tomorrow to agree what we are planning to do. Very keen to open next Spring for as many days as possible and support DDC in this. RPH has secured around £11k in funding to support volunteer and Friends of activities and events.  
When are you around to chat?  
Hope all well with you.



[REDACTED]

**Town Clerk**  
Dover Town Council,  
Maison Dieu House,  
Biggin Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1DW  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk  
Website: [www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Sent:** lunes, 4 de diciembre de 2023 17:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** Roman Painted House

Hi [REDACTED]  
It would be good to have a chat at some point so that I can understand what the trustees of the RPH see as the next steps for both the Trust and the RPH.  
We're keen to make plans for the RPH to reopen next Spring, but I don't want to start shaping any such plans without understanding first what the trustees want to happen and their role in this.  
Grateful for your thoughts.

Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Strategic Director (Place and Environment)**

White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ

Email: [REDACTED]@[dover.gov.uk](mailto: [REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)

Tel: [REDACTED]

Web: [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 December 2023 17:25  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House

Thursday or Friday afternoons this week are both Ok with me. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Strategic Director (Place & Environment)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 17:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** RE: Roman Painted House

Hello [REDACTED]  
Yes, good timing. We have a Trust meeting tomorrow to agree what we are planning to do. Very keen to open next Spring for as many days as possible and support DDC in this. RPH has secured around £11k in funding to support volunteer and Friends of activities and events.  
When are you around to chat?  
Hope all well with you.  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
**Town Clerk**  
Dover Town Council,  
Maison Dieu House,  
Biggin Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1DW  
Telephone [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk  
Website: [www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dovertowncouncil.gov.uk)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Sent:** lunes, 4 de diciembre de 2023 17:09  
**To:** [REDACTED]@dovertowncouncil.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** Roman Painted House

Hi [REDACTED]  
It would be good to have a chat at some point so that I can understand what the trustees of the RPH see as the next steps for both the Trust and the RPH.  
We're keen to make plans for the RPH to reopen next Spring, but I don't want to start shaping any such plans without understanding first what the trustees want to happen and their role in this.

Grateful for your thoughts.

Regards



**Strategic Director (Place and Environment)**

White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ

Email: [redacted]@dover.gov.uk

Tel: [redacted]

Web: [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk)

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**From:** trustees@romanpaintedhouse.org.uk  
**Sent:** 01 February 2024 16:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Next steps with the Dover Roman Painted House  
**Attachments:** signed Kevin Mills letter.pdf

You don't often get email from trustees@romanpaintedhouse.org.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Cllr [REDACTED]

Please find attached our letter with regard to partnership working to re-open the Painted House.

Best Regards

Trustees of the Dover Roman Painted House

## DOVER ROMAN PAINTED HOUSE TRUST

New Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9AJ

Email: [trustees@romanpaintedhouse.org.uk](mailto:trustees@romanpaintedhouse.org.uk)

*To protect the oldest and best-preserved Roman wall paintings in Britain, to open to the public and exhibit finds from Roman Dover*

Registered Charity Number: 270499

1 February 2024

### **Re: Partnership Working to re-launch the Dover Roman Painted House**

Dear [REDACTED]

During the past year, the Dover Roman Painted House Trust has undertaken a serious review of how it can best deliver its objective "to secure or endeavour to secure the preservation of all objects records buildings or earthworks belonging to or geographically connected with the Roman Painted House" alongside a stated aim of opening it to the public as cost-effectively as possible. Having surrendered the lease in the interests of securing better conservation and care for the House and its associated artefacts, the Trust very much looks forward to working in partnership with the District and Town Councils as well as Historic England and a wide range of other organisations and individuals who want to contribute to the preservation and re-imagining of Dover's archaeological jewel.

We are writing to set out some of our thoughts about the contribution we can make as the Dover Roman Painted House Trust and would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of DDC to discuss how these might best work.

As we have already said the fundamental purpose of our Board is cultural preservation and we believe that in the case of the Roman Painted House this is best done through close collaboration. We are already working with Jon Iveson and a number of noted Romanists to re-frame the narrative for the structure in the context of modern archaeological thinking.

Alongside the academic and historic significance of the site, we also believe the House will attract tourists and visitors both local and from farther afield. We are keen to rebuild a cohort of volunteers and resources which will enhance the visitor experience in Dover and offering educational programmes which will contribute to the economic stability of the House and the town even before any major funding for redevelopment is won.

The sharing of common goals such as these will attract local people, the skills of the archaeological community which has long been excluded from the Painted House and other useful resources. Through community engagement involving the local population we can raise awareness of the town's

history and heritage providing material to support any funding bids the partnership decides to put together.

Alongside the building of a large, well-trained group of volunteers, the Trust would like to set up a Friends of the Roman Painted House with a programme of perhaps monthly events in the House offering educational and social opportunities with fundraising as one of its core purposes

By pooling our resources together, the Trust, councils and other stakeholders will be able to achieve more, looking to a major restoration and redevelopment project delivering dynamic skills building and research programmes as well as capital investment.

As a charity, it may be that the Trust will have more flexibility and access to grants and funding sources which councils may not be able to access directly and we would very much like to partner with you and others to deliver the full potential of the Dover Roman Painted House. The Trust would welcome the chance to pool resources and share expertise for the benefit of the House's preservation, development and future sustainability.

We would like to propose a meeting between the Trust and the District and Town Councils to agree the ways in which we can and will work together, our joint expectations and plans and more immediately a schedule and plan for the re-opening of the House to the Public as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



PP. The Trustees of the Dover Roman Painted House

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 February 2024 23:12  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Roman Painted House, Dover

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for the further insight, it all makes sense and I amongst I'm sure many others will be pleased to hear both the Council and the Trustee are making progress and wish this project well.

Regards

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK">  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** "Cllr-[REDACTED]<Cllr-[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]"  
[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 4 Feb, 24 At 19:49  
**Subject:** RE: Roman Painted House, Dover

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

The Kent Archaeological Unit led by [REDACTED] discovered the Painted House in the 1980s and he was for many years responsible for opening the site to the public on behalf of the trustees. As I understand it, he is no longer a trustee. The Roman Painted House Trust is still in existence and, whilst it has surrendered the lease, is very keen to see the house thrive and to be part of the future. As to how the trustees arrange to work with the council, I think that this is a matter for them to decide. I don't believe that they have a specific trustee in mind for this role but am not party to their discussions so really don't know. They do however have trustees that are archaeologists.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust are still very active across Kent, and I have been fortunate to have worked with many of their staff over the years. However, they are of course not the only unit working in Kent and we would need to procure archaeological work in line with our standing orders. There are also volunteer run groups, and I would single out Dover Archaeological Group for praise here as they are very active and well led – by a former Canterbury Archaeological Trust archaeologist.

I think that the support of councillors in this is vital, and again we are fortunate, in that the desire to support the Painted House is cross party.



Thank you again for your concern.

Regards and best wishes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 3, 2024 5:45 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Cc:** Cllr- [REDACTED] <Cllr- [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Subject:** Re: Roman Painted House, Dover

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your very very timely response to my inquiry, which I'm very pleased to receive. Clearly, there are considerable changes afoot and as you indicate to make the facility useful for public viewing will be quite costly but surely a benefit to the town. I would certainly be pleased to hear more as plans develop although can't promise that I would be in a position to offer much practical help. However, always happy to give consideration to such matters.

You mention the lease has been surrounded by the existing Trustees and then talk of future Trustee involvement and collaboration with the District Council. Are you implying that a new Trustee would be created for the purpose of managing the Charity as outlined going forward? I believe the existing Chair is a a long standing driver of all things Painted House and a well established and respected Kent based archaeologist, all be it of retirement age. The importance of someone who is knowledgeable and enthusiastic will be unquestionably needed, such projects in lay councillor hands could be fraught with difficulties I would think - just an observation!

I do recall, although perhaps incorrectly, there may have been some past or present connection to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust - CAT, which I'm a member "Friend". I know they are active across Kent and have masses of expertise on board.

Anyway, seems much to be done and gained from this important centrally located town asset. Thanks again for sharing an outline of plans, I look on with interest.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK">  
**To:** "[REDACTED]">  
**Cc:** "Cllr- [REDACTED]" <Cllr- [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 Jan, 24 At 19:42  
**Subject:** Roman Painted House, Dover

Dear [REDACTED],

Councillor [REDACTED] has asked that I reply to your recent email regarding the Roman Painted House.

The Roman Painted House Trust (RPHT) were, until recently, responsible for running this historic site. The monument itself belongs to the District Council but was leased to the RPHT. This is no longer the case, and the lease has been surrendered by the trustees. We have just begun work on two projects relating to it. The first is to put it into a state whereby it can be opened to the public. The second is to look at what it could become. The outline of this latter is likely to involve extending the cover building to the south and re-excavating the Roman bath house that sits beneath the lawn. To achieve this a very large sum of money will be required, and undoubtedly a bid to NLHF and/or a similar body will be required once the planning is complete.

The ambition is to get the site open to the public for the summer, and to achieve this we have already replaced the access bridge, but there remains much to do. It is quite early in the process, but it would make sense for projects to be carried out in tandem with the trust as they will have access to charitable funding that isn't available to the district council. I suspect that once the planning is complete, we (whether as DDC or the Trust or a combination of the two) will be looking for volunteers to help with fund raising, guiding and all manner of other roles. We haven't yet begun recruiting these, but I am more than willing to keep you in the loop so that you can become involved if you wish.

Thank you for getting in touch, and for your concern.

Regards and best wishes



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