

## Cheerleaders' misery in search for new home

A GROUP of Dover cheerleaders may have to leave the district unless they find a new hall.

The 200 youngsters from the Vista Twisters could be left without a place to practice when Dover Leisure Centre closes.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke met with head coach Ruth McDade at one of the group's practice sessions. She said that the club had so far been unable to secure space at the new leisure centre in Whitfield for their growing programme.

The group have been looking for alternative accommodation in the district. But they have not found anywhere suitable – and fear they may have to move to Folkestone.

Mr Elphicke has written to Dover

District Council, urging them to help the Vista Twisters find a new place to practice.

He said: "The Vista Twisters are a massive Dover success story. The council must do everything they can to keep this club in the district.

"These youngsters always do the town proud when they perform in competitions across the country – and in tough European contests too.

"We should be looking after them – and helping them build on their incredible success here in Dover."

Ms McDade said: "The new centre has a much smaller sports hall and the council will not provide us with any guarantee that we can train in the new leisure centre. This is a real threat to our club."



Charlie Elphicke with the Vistas

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## New sport zone plan kicks off at hillside terrace

Council unveils vision for The Danes

By **Terry Sutton**  
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DETAILS of large scale work to create more recreational space at The Danes sports zone was revealed last week in a scheme to go before council planners.

The Danes is currently laid out in three separate hillside terraces off Old Charlton Road (also known as Chalky Lane) that links Barton Road, Dover with Guston. Only the lower terrace is used for sport, as a football ground.

The owners of The Danes, Dover District Council, now propose to re-level the middle terrace

to create another sports pitch while turning the upper level into an informal open space.

One aspect which the planners will have to consider is the width of Old Charlton Road where, at one pitch point, the road is just over three metres wide.

### Remains

Although the area, alongside the Dover-Deal railway line, is rich in history it is unlikely that any important archaeological remains will be found as a result of the redevelopment. Much of the area has, over the centuries, been excavated for chalk quarrying

and then used as a dumping ground for the town's rubbish.

In the First World War the middle terrace was occupied as a tented military camp while in 1940, if there had been a German invasion, The Danes would have formed one of the first "stop" defence lines with an anti-tank ditch linking over the hill to the Drop Redoubt near Dover Castle. Former tank obstacles, pill boxes and defence remains are still located at The Danes.

The council's planning application will go before the council's own planning department, and councillors, in the near future.

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