



Letters to the Courier 18 November 2005

Spot the Grot - Stop the Rot

I cannot too highly applaud your feature (Courier 4 Nov 2005) on the appalling neglect of key buildings in Tunbridge Wells. The decrepit ABC cinema, right in the centre of town, cannot fail to be noticed, yet has now remained derelict for years.

My experience is that it takes prolonged lobbying by champions like Daniel Bech before the council eventually wakes up to its responsibilities. But why so long, as you rightly point out, given the clear powers available to council officers by Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act?

The message must be for the council, under its new chief executive Sheila Wheeler, to get with it, get out and about to see the true state of our many neglected buildings, and get on with facilitating real improvements. That way we might just have something to celebrate next year for the town's 400th anniversary.

Peter Chatfield

Grot Spots

'Congratulations to 'The Courier' and to Daniel Bech for focusing readers' attention on some of our town's 'grot spots' (Courier 4 Nov 2005).

Sadly the tattiness starts with the signs set at all the main entries to the town: 'ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS. TWIN TOWN WIESBADEN they proudly declare. But the paint is peeling and the rust is coming through.

Not a good introduction to our once sparkling spa! We are privileged to have as our partner one of the smartest spa towns in Germany. The Mayor of Wiesbaden will be visiting Tunbridge Wells in June next year to join in the 400th anniversary celebrations.

How can we make sure that the signs and the town will be given back some of their sparkle by then?

Michael Holman, Chairman,
Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association