

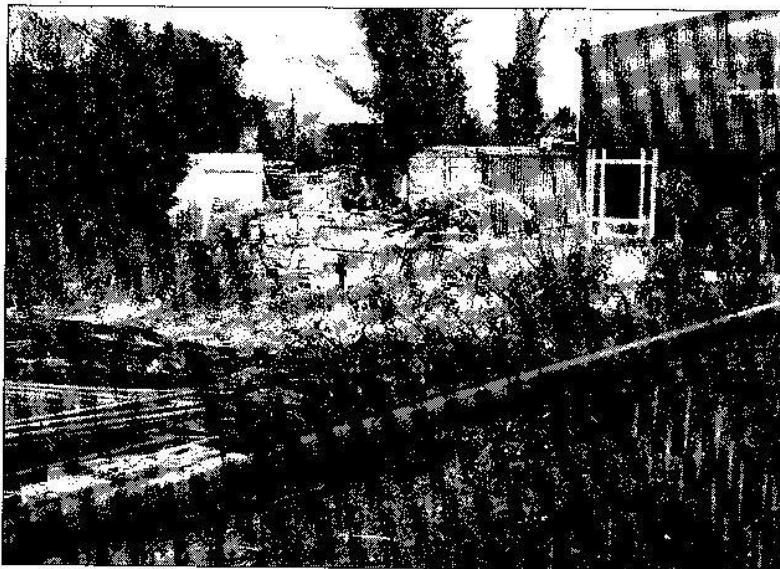
Isle of Thanet Gazette readers have also been having their say.

public consultation, but added: "what we don't want, though, is for this activity to be dominated by the vocal

NICK LAISTER said: "Many of our members are businessmen from the town and I am sure they will be

● Read Mr Hunter's statement in full in next week's Isle of Thanet Gazette.

# Latest round in farm feud that's lasted two decades



Workshops: The farmland has become more industrialised. lhpi150206northdown-3

**IT STARTED** with a dispute over land but has evolved into a bitter 20-year feud between neighbours which has cost taxpayers thousands of pounds.

Landowner William Friend and company director Peter Miles have been at war for two decades at East Northdown Farm in Cliftonville.

The latest round of hostilities was played out at Thanet council this week.

The dispute is said to centre on ownership of a field next to Mr Miles' home, East Northdown House.

Mr Friend inherited the farm and moved to the site in 1986, four years after Mr Miles set up home.

Over two decades fields have been sold off to build houses and industrial units created, to Mr Miles' displeasure.

## Exclusive report by **Nick Dorman**

His latest accusations are Mr Friend is running an "unauthorised and uncontrolled garden centre", leaving "piles of rubbish" and abandoned vehicles on site and allowing works to go on outside of agreed hours.

Mr Friend insists the concerns amount to nothing more than the latest in "a 20-year hate campaign".

On Wednesday, Mr Miles brought his latest batch of more than 50 separate criticisms to Thanet council where members of the planning committee decided against even visiting the site fearing their presence could further inflame the row.

One senior councillor privately described the situation as "daggers at dawn for 20 years". Mr Friend said of Mr



Past times: East Northdown Farm in the early 1990s.

Miles: "We have had an ongoing dispute over a range of property-related matters for more than 20 years.

"In April 2005 he filed a claim for adverse possession of land belonging to my aunts on which he has a licence.

"I am fighting this claim at present.

"There have been complaints raised separately with the environmental health department, dog warden, tree

officer and tree planning officer, KCC highways and the police.

"Each allegation made has had to be fully investigated at taxpayers' expense, and countered by me at my own expense, and yet their appears to be no mechanism in place to counter an individual repeatedly using public resources to further his own smear campaign."

Mr Miles said yesterday: "It



Defiant: William Friend.

has nothing to do with personal relationships at all.

"He appears to have overlooked the fact his actions are causing serious harm to the conservation area and are upsetting a great number of his neighbours.

"I'm aware that petitions have been presented to the local authority by residents. I hope Mr Friend will now do the decent thing and comply with the conditions."