**A close up of a logo

Description generated with high confidence**

**Great Place Scheme**

**Pioneering Places: East Kent**

The aims of the programme are to:

• create exemplary places through connecting people, heritage and creativity;

• create models that impact on future planning development structures;

• pioneer, test and evaluate 4 distinct ways of developing great places, exploring and animating heritage to inspire artists and community;

• develop new models of community consultation; inspire active citizenship, create a meaningful legacy

• unite arts, heritage, public sector, education organisations and the wider community to understand and influence placemaking

All projects will be working with **Artswork’s South East Bridge**. The programme will enable young people to achieve **Arts Award** accreditation.

**The Projects**

**Folkestone**

**The place**

The project identified for Shepway is the old gasworks site on Ship Street and Foord Road.

The site was in fact the area first developed in Folkestone when the railway arrived and turned the fishing village into a fashionable resort. The town's first villas were built here in the 1840s and this area would be very different now if the villas had not been demolished to make way for the gas works that provided the gas for the new developments in Folkestone’s west end.

While the west end of town went on to be the area for royalty and nobility to visit, the Foord Road area, has attracted less attention. Pioneering Places will allow its history to be investigated and the people's history to be revealed.

In 2017 it was fifty years since the gasworks were closed leaving an area of polluted land at the heart of this community. It lies there abandoned as a testament to the failure of the property market where polluted land drags down the value of property around it, evidenced by the majority of houses being worth under £125,000, which in turn makes the development of the site unattractive.

**The people**

The Creative Foundation has a learning and engagement department that would work with the local population and schools on the project. Partnerships already exist with Council wellbeing teams and other partner organisations, and these too could be used to ensure the design of the site is rooted in its community and so together ensures a successful placemaking project.

The charity's festivals place a huge emphasis on co-curation, co-creation and co-production, working with individual citizens, community groups, arts organisations and with other government agencies, particularly in the field of health and wellbeing.

**Why it is needed**

Our project sits within LSOAs within the lowest 20% on the IMD for Kent. The nearest primary school is Christ Church CEP where 49.6% of its pupils are entitled to free school meals compared to 14.3% nationally. The local secondary school, Folkestone Academy, also has a high free school meal population, 40.4%.

Qualification levels are lower than the Shepway and Kent averages.

36.1% of households do not have access to a car or van for transport (20% in Kent) which makes it difficult for them to travel for work, leisure or educational opportunities.

**Arts, cultural, heritage assets**

The Creative Foundation became interested in the site when it was asked by the local residents’ association if the area could be included in the Folkestone Triennial so that attention could be drawn to the brown field site. As a result in 2014 the artist Jyll Bradley created the site specific sculpture, 'Green Light', to considerable acclaim. The work remains for the moment at the gasworks.

The project

Shepway District Council, mindful of the drag it places on the area, is negotiating the purchase of the land from the gas board and its partners. It will address the pollution and then develop it as a mixed use site, with private and public housing as well as self-build that will return some capital to the Council, allowing it to make an investment that will see no or little return within thirty years. Only an enlightened council could make this form of investment.

It would additionally massively enrich the scheme by bringing the heritage of the site to the fore and including it in people's engagement with the site and in the design of the scheme.

The local community, including children and young people in neighbourhood schools will collaborate with artists and architects to reimagine the future of the Gasworks site. Through the Artswork project nearby schools will research the history of the site to develop responses and ideas through workshops, enabling children to share their vision for the future of part of their town.

**Sustained partnerships**

This cultural led regeneration has formed part of the economic, community and cultural strategies for Shepway District Council and Kent County Council. This has led more recently to a partnership between the district and county councils along with the Creative Foundation in a Townscape Heritage Initiative with the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve the conservation area at the centre of the old town.

Pioneering Places will set out to develop stronger collaborative ties that show the value of arts, culture and heritage in placemaking. The question raised is what role could art play in helping the development of the site: could using artists and architects help address the failure of the market and so the blight on this community. The idea is that by working with the Creative Foundation's curator and his network of artists and architects who have either significant reputations, work with socially engaged practice, have specific artistic and design insights or are specialists in placemaking, the site could be transformed through its look, design, functionality and community engagement, while attention to the site brings with it people's energies, enthusiasms and potentially adds commercial value.

Pioneering Places will allow this partnership to turn from a conversation into a rich reality by supporting the investigation into the site, the design of the scheme, the engagement of the community and the commissioning of artworks. All of these will be accomplished by 2020 and presented at the fifth Folkestone Triennial later that year.

Partners in this project would include the new Folkestone Museum which opened in 2017 along with Canterbury Christ Church University who have already investigated much of the history of the town. University College London and their Architecture School will provide insight into urbanism and design.

**Embedding arts, culture and heritage into local plans and strategies.**

Pioneering Places would provide an architect and artist to work with SDC on the Master Plan for the site and surrounding area. The local people’s history investigation would inform the design team of the context of where they are working and provide community and schools engagement with the project. Artists would work with the community, the architects and master planners and future users of the site on works for the public realm. The outcome of the project would be included in the new Folkestone Museum’s output.

**Thanet**

**The place**

The Ramsgate Royal Harbour is a unique monument to Georgian civil engineering, under promoted and little known despite its international historical and engineering significance. It is the reason why the town grew, and its existence has shaped all other developments in the town for 250 years. It was not originally constructed as a port, but rather as a place of refuge for sailing vessels seeking shelter from Channel storms – such as the Great Storm of 1703. Its position between the Goodwin Sands and the North Foreland (in the world’s busiest shipping lane) has meant that Ramsgate and the Harbour are inextricably linked to maritime rescue, life saving and salvage and have strong connections with the Napoleonic Wars and World Wars I and II.Yet there is currently no visitor interpretation or promotion of Ramsgate Royal Harbour as a heritage destination. Thanet District Council’s ownership of the Listed site provides a significant opportunity.

**Why it is needed**

Such an extraordinary site, which is so tied to human life and survival, deserves an extraordinary approach to community engagement which enables residents of the town to connect deeply to its past, present and future in a meaningful and inspiring way. This rich history is not currently communicated at the site, yet needs to be celebrated and has huge potential to drive tourism in the town.

Ramsgate was ranked fourth behind Blackpool, Clacton and Hastings in the ONS rankings for Coastal Community Deprivation (2014). The town has high levels of deprivation within four of its seven wards each containing LSOAs within the bottom decile. Severe income deprivation is found in five of the seven wards and the town is struggling with low education and skills, affecting adults, children and young people. Educational development and attainment is poor particularly in Newington, Northwood and Eastcliff where there is also a higher percentage of children with special educational needs.

**Arts, cultural, heritage assets**

The artist and designer chosen by the children (Arts and Heritage Leaders) will have an extraordinary opportunity to create new works inspired by the community’s response to the harbour, and its rich history. The Arts and Heritage Leaders will be able to inspire them with information about relevant themes, including the development of the diving bell; the Ramsgate Meridian and Ramsgate Mean Time; associations with George IV and Princess Victoria; The Channel Fleet, the Gunpowder Store, WW1 Naval Blockade, shelling and bombing raids; the ‘Berlin Coke Riots’, WW2 civil defence; the Dunkirk Evacuation; early wireless transmissions; early ice production; Frith, Van Gogh, Turner, Coleridge, Dickens, Wilkie Collins, Karl Marx, Pugin; convict ships and Ernest Shackleton and the *Endurance.*

**The project**

Building on Turner Contemporary’s expertise in developing children’s leadership through the arts, we will identify 60 primary school children (30 in each of 2 schools selected in collaboration with Artswork Bridge and the LCEP) to lead the project. They will become Arts and Heritage Leaders, and through them the project will reach hundreds of other children and adults in their communities. They will lead the recruitment process for Creative Practitioners and Historians to support them, and will spend time with Turner Contemporary’s learning team and resident Philosopher to build their leadership, thinking, listening and communication skills. They will research the history of the harbour, create their own artwork in response, develop interpretation for the harbour, and engage the community through discussions, events and exhibitions to understand what inspires others about this extraordinary site. They will all also work towards achieving an Arts Award. *Hands On Philosophy*, a technique pioneered by Turner Contemporary, will help them to make decisions, listen to each other better, question assumptions and test their ideas.

In Ramsgate we will test a new approach to Master Planning, with the brief clearly written to align to the aims of Pioneering Places. Project representatives and a young person will sit on the interview panel, and the successful applicants will take part in a planning day with project partners and stakeholders. Creative practitioners will lead community consultation in collaboration with the Master Planners in year one of the project, based in the harbour, but also including disadvantaged communities through partnership with Ramsgate Arts, Project Motorhouse, Early Years and Preventative Services and Local Children’s Partnership Groups for example.

Turner Contemporary’s *Creative Enablers* course will be introduced in Ramsgate, with 20 parents and carers trained to support the children and ensure that the wider community connect with the project. Working with local partners and the LCEP we will ensure that the most disadvantaged adults benefit from this opportunity.

**Sustained partnerships**

Turner Contemporary proposes to work with Thanet District Council, Ramsgate Town Council, Coastal Communities Team, Artswork Bridge, the East Kent Local Cultural Education Partnership, Ramsgate Heritage Action Zone, and others to bring its pioneering child-led approach to community engagement to Ramsgate Royal Harbour through a new development of *Art Inspiring Change*.

We will work with local organisations, potentially Project Motor House or Ramsgate Arts, to recruit 15 disadvantaged teenagers who will select and work with a professional photographer/filmmaker to document the process, and exhibit their work. They will also work towards an Arts Award at Bronze to Gold level.

Embedding arts, culture and heritage into local plans and strategies.

Pioneering Placesin Thanet will inform the Master Planning of Ramsgate Royal Harbour, enabling the whole community, led by primary school children, to connect creatively with this important process. The Master Plan will build in opportunities for children, in consultation with experts and their community, to commission a major artwork and create new interpretation for the site, driven by their own ideas, interests, historical research and creativity. Supported by Turner Contemporary’s significant expertise in successful place making, this project will place children at its centre, bringing the community together, inspiring pride and active citizenship and making Ramsgate a better place to live, work and visit.

Pioneering Placesin Thanet will enable us to test a truly pioneering process of Master Planning, and child-led community engagement and commissioning. Its success will impact future Master Planning in Thanet and beyond. Working with ambitious artists and designers in this unique way will be of interest to our peers in the arts and heritage sectors in the UK and internationally. Our work will impact on stakeholders locally and nationally, providing a deeper understanding of how the arts, culture and heritage enable Great Placesto develop and thrive.

**Canterbury**

**The place**

Canterbury Heritage Museum (CHM) is housed in the Poor Priests’ Hospital, one of the city’s finest heritage buildings, a magnificent Grade 1 listed medieval building with oak framed roof, a spectacular ‘great hall’ and a labyrinth of period rooms. This remarkable building has lived through 600 years of the city’s history, serving many purposes including almshouse, hospital, and workhouse. It's even been an organ builder’s workshop and a WW2 ambulance station. It is now underused and largely ignored, playing a diminishing role in the city’s cultural life and contributing little to its creativity, cultural identity or its economy.

The museum currently houses an eclectic mix of exhibits from Canterbury’s museum collection. Over the years, considerable changes have been made to the internal layout and appearance of the medieval building to accommodate exhibits and related interpretation. Some changes disguise the building’s internal assets and significant heritage value. The museum and the interpretive offer is tired, which is reflected in the low visitor numbers, which continue to decline.

**The people**

The local appeal of the museum is particularly limited, with only 11% (1,177) of its 10,778 visits in 15/16 being local residents, in stark contrast to the city’s flagship museum and art gallery, The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, which enjoys over 300,000 visits per year.

**Why it is needed**

The museum is no longer playing a major role in the cultural and creative life of the city, and the wonderful building and the collections are seen by very few people. The building itself, however, occupies such an important place in Canterbury’s history and landscape that there is now a compelling need to breathe new life into this important but neglected heritage asset so that it can once again play a key role in the cultural and heritage life of the city and East Kent, opening its doors to new audiences and participants who will be inspired by the building itself and the activities and experiences that take place inside it.

Marlowe Theatre requires a new space to run its creative activities, including youth theatre, community programmes, learning, new writing and production, currently run in a small and dilapidated building near the theatre whose physical limitations are now curtailing the Marlowe’s ability to develop and fulfil their ambitions, restricting the number of people who can participate in their creative learning projects and programmes. Finding a new city centre space to enable the Marlowe to develop and deliver its creative work and nourish its growing partnerships is one of the theatre’s highest priorities, and the CHM opens up exciting possibilities.

**The project**

CHM’s core activities will be consolidated into the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge and the Roman Museum. The Marlowe Theatre, working with a local literary organisation, Workers of Art, will then move into the CHM building, where they will deliver existing and new participation and creative activities, and new projects that will increase, improve and diversify access to Canterbury’s heritage collections and to one of its finest heritage buildings. A Writer’s Centre will be created where local creative talent with spoken and written word will be engaged and nurtured, inspired by Canterbury’s past and its literary heritage. They will continue to develop their work around commissioning and producing new writing and theatre productions. With Workers of Art and other partners the Marlowe aims to co-produce the Canterbury Children’s Literature Festival, expand the Marlowe Literary Associate and the Roar! Programmes - all nurturing and supporting local creative talent.

Key elements of the CHM collections will be retained in the building to inspire and integrate with the creative programmes. An ‘escape room’ will specifically engage young people, both residents and visitors, with Canterbury’s heritage and collections. Exhibitions will be developed relating to the city’s important literary heritage. The project will create a digital space to record and curate responses to the city’s heritage and museums’ collections. An educational offer will be developed for young tourists to improve the understanding of Canterbury’s heritage and providing work opportunities for local creative practitioners. A minimum of 100 local children will work to obtain an Arts Award, through the programme from Explore to Silver, with 4 schools committing to the Artsmark journey. The programme will consist of high quality performance, theatre making and writing outcomes for young people and Inset training for teachers.

A programme of performances will be delivered in the Great Hall including plays, music, comedy and children’s shows, providing more opportunities for local, regional and national artists, generating more income, more visitors and improving economic impact. New jobs and skills development opportunities will be created for practitioners, graduates and undergraduates, encouraging cross-fertilisation of heritage and arts knowledge, skills and experience.

Our aim is for ‘The Kit’ to be an exemplar, eye-catching and exciting new approach to the challenges of opening up heritage buildings, bringing heritage to life, encouraging engagement and development of individuals, communities and supporting creative collaborations and partnerships. The scheme offers a truly integrated meeting of arts and heritage practice and the building will once again be part of the city’s lifeblood, celebrating its past and investing in its future.

**Sustained partnerships**

The development and delivery of the project will be led locally by Canterbury City Council, via the Marlowe Theatre, supported by the City Museums Service. One of the Marlowe’s key partners is the local company, Workers of Art.

**Embedding arts, culture and heritage into local plans and strategies.**

This collaboration will make The Kit a truly transformational and innovative project by creating an open, welcoming and trailblazing new cultural space in the heart of Canterbury that brings arts, heritage and creative production seamlessly together to the benefit of the local community, visitors and those who support and work in culture and heritage. It will bring this underused and increasingly invisible building back to life.

**Dover**

Dover is an area with a particularly rich heritage that stands to gain hugely from culturally led placemaking. To date this has been more limited than in other parts of East Kent.

Pioneering Places will work with agencies in Dover on a new placemaking project.

The Pioneering Places Project Director will lead the process to engage Dover partners and identify a potential project, plan the works and deliver the project.

The project will have the same criteria as the other exemplar projects, identifying a historic area that has lost its original purpose which through understanding its past and working with communities will allow contemporary artists to imagine and deliver a new use. The project will work with 3 local schools (involving 90 children achieving Arts Award) to commit to the Artsmark journey. 6 teachers and 4 arts/heritage professionals will be trained as Arts Award Advisors.

The benefit of this fourth exemplar project will be that it shows how an area can, with support and some budget, make the type of culturally led placemaking that makes a community a better place to live and work.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with high confidence