

INTRODUCTION

This project, organised within the A4E lottery funded programme, resulted in an exhibition of artwork based around the theme and format of postcards being produced by Thanet school pupils, in collaboration with local artists and architects, and displayed in a range of readily accessible places in Margate.



AIMS

The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness among young people in particular, and the general public, of the regeneration taking place in Margate.

The project aimed to show young people how their views on the place where they live and their vision of the future of their town can be both valued and shared.



PROJECT REVIEW

Thanet schools were invited to participate in the creation of artwork for an exhibition about how young people see Margate now, and how it might be in the future- in the format of 'before' and 'after' postcards. Thanet-based artists and architects were invited to apply to take part in the project, working with one or more schools, in return for an honorarium.

KAC prepared an Information Pack for use by the schools and artist/architects. This contained background information on regeneration in Margate, a series of maps, historic and contemporary, lists of key questions to pose in relation to identified areas of the town and a photocopyable 'postcard' template to ensure consistency of format in the artwork produced.



Schools and artist/architects were matched and they then liaised to carry out the work within a mutually agreed timetable. Pupils were asked to produce two 'large postcards'. The first was to be a view or

picture of Margate as it is now, which could be a photo, digital image, drawing, sketch, painting, print-in fact any form of 2D artwork. On the back of this 'postcard' would be a message from the pupil about the view on the front, perhaps saying why they liked or disliked this particular part of town. The second large postcard would be a picture of how they would like Margate to look in the future, together with a written message on the back explaining the picture.

Artwork was submitted by the schools and the artist/architects and considered for inclusion in the exhibition by a panel. It was decided to find display space for all the work submitted. Five pairs of 'before' and 'after' postcards were selected for reproducing as sets of real postcards, which could be sold or distributed in Margate.



KAC researched venues for displaying the artwork, the criteria being 'shop window' type locations within Margate where the general public could easily view the work. Arrangements were made for all the artwork to be encapsulated to protect it during the display period. Sets of the limited edition postcards have been distributed to the local Tourist information office and Museum, so that they can be made generally available to both locals and tourists. A short celebration event was arranged to thank the participants, make awards to the schools submitting the best sets of postcards and congratulate the pupils whose artwork was selected for the set of postcards, to round off the project.



Feedback from both teachers and artists about the project was very positive, and the standard of the artwork submitted was testament to its success.

