

## INTRODUCTION

Kent Architecture Centre was commissioned by Canterbury City Council to facilitate a community planning exercise, including activities to engage local children and two Community Planning Days, as part of the Herne Bay and Whitstable Coastal Regeneration Programme (SRB6).

The purpose of the Community Planning events was to provide an opportunity for a wide selection of local people to air and share their views about how their town might develop, as the Coastal regeneration Programme and other such initiatives unfold.

Working with young people during the preparatory stage of the project was a key element within the overall engagement and consultation process of local people. Mindful of the constraints of curriculum and timetabling, primary schools in the two target wards were contacted three months before the project would take place about the opportunity to become involved. Only one school, St Philip Howard RCP School in Herne Bay responded positively to the preliminary enquiries about involvement in the project, leaving Whitstable without a participating school. An opportunity arose to work with the young people of the Whitstable Saturday morning Children's Art Club, as an alternative to working with a local school, and the activities were modified to reflect the more recreational nature of an out-of-school activity session..

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the work with young people were:

- Start to build links between local schools and the SRB programme
- Leave a 'legacy' of resources and ideas for the teachers to use in future work
- Raise awareness amongst the citizens of tomorrow of issues to do with planning, regeneration and community involvement
- Provide an opportunity for local schools to address the new curriculum issue of 'citizenship'
- Produce visual material for display at the Community Planning days reflecting young people's views about their town
- Encourage the parents of the young people to participate in the Community Planning Day



## FORMAT

A series of three linked sessions, led by an experienced Architect-in-Education, were held during normal school hours during March and April.

Session 1 'Our Patch' took place in school, using maps and photographs of the town to generate a list of issues from the pupils' perspective.



Session2 'Walkabout' involved pupils and adults exploring the town on foot, observing and recoding information.



Session 3 'As we see it' took place in school, and involved pupils producing sketches and writing about their town, which were then assembled together with the photographs taken by the pupils in the previous session, to create a 'graffitti wall' which was displayed at the Community Planning Day.



The pupils visited the Community Planning Day, taking great delight in spotting their photographs and artwork on display.