

Economic Development Project Updates

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Presentation content

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Rural Prosperity Fund
- Folkestone A Brighter Future update



Funded by
UK Government

UKSPF & Rural England Prosperity Fund

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

Folkestone
& Hythe

District Council



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UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) were allocated **£1,000,000** UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funding for year 1 was (finally) released in January 2023 with the total to be spent by March 2025.

FHDC are supporting the following key priorities:

- Community and Place
- People and Skills (Year 3)

Revenue and capital funding allocation:

- Year 1 – £100,035
- Year 2 – £200, 069
- Year 3 – £699, 896



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UKSPF - Year 1 spend

Homes Essential Fund:

- Boiler servicing to ensure boilers are as efficient as possible.
- Boiler replacement for items that are no longer suitable for use.
- Oil heating tune ups and support for residents that use oil for fuelling their home.
- White goods provision. To supply replacement or new energy efficient items to households including cookers, fridges/freezers, washing machines/dryers, microwaves and other items as appropriate.
- Beds and mattresses to homes that do not have suitable bed provision.

Rainbow Pantry Van Project & Assistance to Community Hubs:

Mobile Food Vehicle purchased and awaiting delivery & community hubs commenced work on signposting recipients to the relevant support of offer.

Cookery classes, financial advice and other wrap-around support is also being implemented as part of this project.

Total Y1 Spend - £60,000 with credible plan approved to carry forward remaining funds.



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Rural Prosperity Fund

The fund provides £110 million of capital funding to eligible Local Authorities – FHDC being allocated **£571,471** over a two-year period (23-25).

The Rural Fund supports activities that are seen as particular challenges in rural areas and encourages productivity and prosperity in places that need it most by supporting local business and community and place as investment priorities.

Key REPF priorities FHDC are supporting:

Business

- Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- Capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy

Community

- Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups

Capital funding:

Year 2 – £142,868 (awaiting deposit of funds)

Year 3 - £428,603



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Rural Prosperity Fund - Proposed Projects

How are we proposing to support businesses?

- Enhancing the rural economy through diversification opportunities to allow rural businesses to diversify income streams.
- Improving Energy Efficiency - Providing green grants for rural businesses which will benefit the environment whilst driving down costs.
- Tourism opportunities – Support the Coastal Destination Project which, in turn, will enhance the local economy, protect the environment and allow for all-inclusive activities including water sports and educational facilities.

How are we proposing to support communities?

- Cost of living opportunities to help our most vulnerable rural residents either boosting current provisions or implemented new schemes.
- Improving Energy Efficiency - Providing green grants for rural communities, again assisting with costs in the hope of our community buildings staying open during this difficult time.
- Transportation & infrastructure projects – work with Stagecoach in facilitating a new bus route to connect New Romney to the wider area opening new opportunities for our rural residents.



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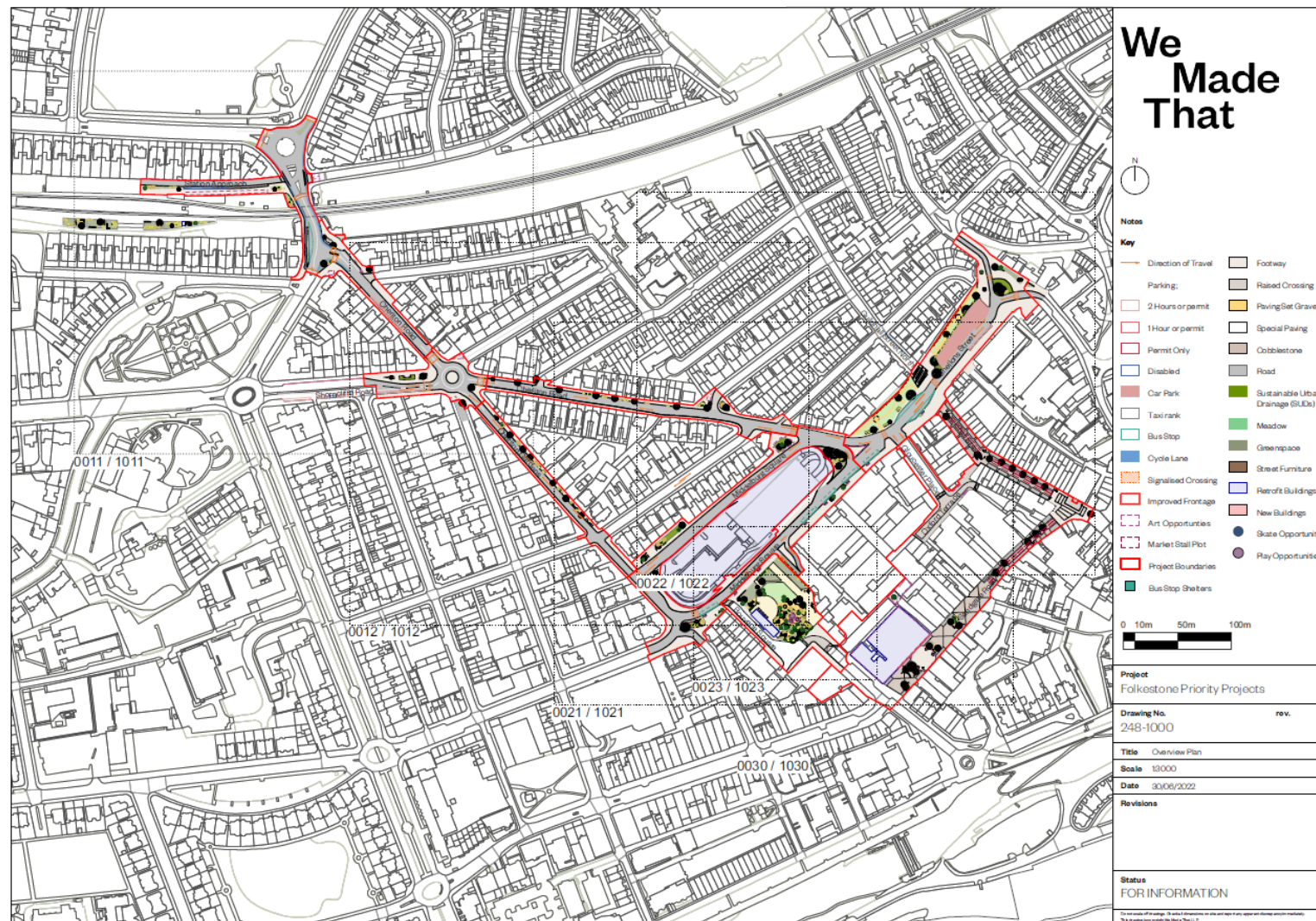
Folkestone A Brighter Future (FABF)

Background

3 work packages

1. Station arrival and town centre connections
2. Improved town centre gateway
3. Folca, Sandgate Rd and Guildhall St

The scheme aims to enhance the quality of the urban environment, increase green spaces, improve civic pride and provide better travel experience for all.





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Folkestone A Brighter Future

Highways and public realm

Progress to date

- Delivery partners appointed
- Programme Governance process in place
- Communications and Engagement strategy developed
- Phase 1 concept design delivered
- Phase 1 public engagement underway (**259 visitors** over 2 day event and materials on line)

Key next steps

- Phase 1 survey works
- Development of digital twin
- Phase 2 concept design

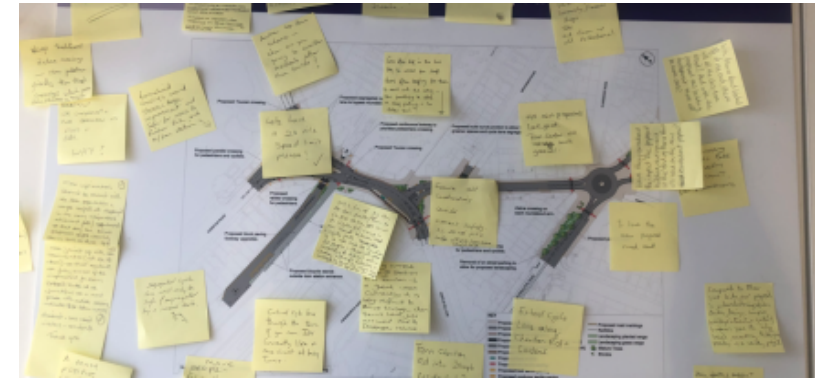
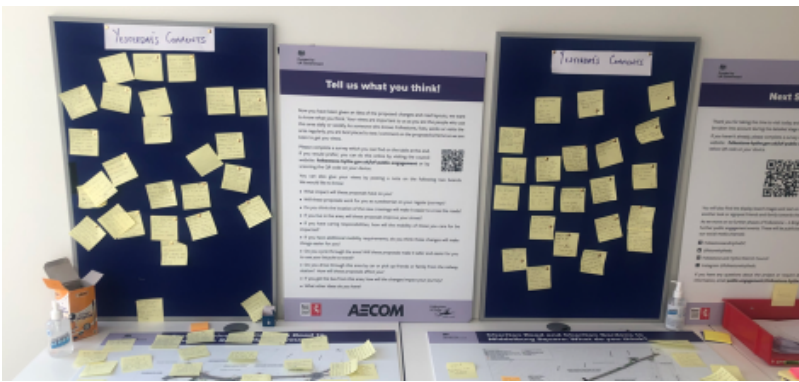
Folca 2 refurbishment

Progress to date

- Pellings LLP appointed for oversight of initial works (Nov '22)
- Investigative surveys complete
- First phase of asbestos removal (in support of site separation)
- Tender paperwork being developed for building contractor
- Commission of architect for RIBA 1-3 (Kent portal)

Key next steps

- Tender published for initial works building contractor (Kent portal)
- Building contractor appointed
- Phase 2 asbestos removal
- RIBA stages 1-3 architect appointed



Phase 1 public engagement

Two-day public event held at Bouverie House Business Centre on 5th and 6th July with **259 visitors**

Draft plans for station approach, station arrival and town centre connections (Cheriton Rd and Cheriton Gdns.) shared.

Opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on plans.
Survey open until 23rd July (online) 24th July (hardcopy)

Email public.engagement@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Concept Design

- New and upgraded pedestrian crossings
- Improved cycling and pedestrian links from Folkestone Central towards the town centre
- New roundabout at Cheriton Rd/ Cheriton Gds/ Shorncliffe Rd junction
- Improved street scene, seating areas and green spaces