

Commendation in Best Project category

Pioneering Places East Kent

Submitted: Five10Twelve / Creative Folkestone (Heritage and culture)



Pioneering Places aimed to make East Kent an even better place to live, work and visit by empowering communities to engage with planning, planners, architects and placemaking through culture and heritage.

Pioneering Places delivered outcomes

focused on four different heritage sites in Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Ramsgate. Each of the sites had been abandoned, fallen into disuse or was otherwise not meeting its full potential for development, cultural or community use. Pioneering Places empowered communities to identify new uses for these sites and bring them to the attention of local authorities to bring them back into community use.

The judges considered Creative Folkestone had produced a creative and innovative project with wide reaching community engagement and benefits.

The judges were impressed that the project set a clear vision around social value from the outset. The vision also linked strongly to the implementation and delivery phases; including a focus on measured need outcomes which were established into principles.

The judges found the submission to showcase an exceptional example of collaboration and place making for a range of historic sites, providing access to areas previously closed, and for the benefit of diverse communities. The project incorporated an impressive outreach programme at its heart, within a group of particularly deprived localities. The connections into the wider locality were very strong across all projects – with a case for positive impacts on the local community. This innovative community engagement highlighted many transferable methods which could be utilised across numerous projects nationally.

The judges were very interested in the approach to partnership working. Pioneering Places actively sought to include planners into the strategy team to set the agenda, manage the process for risk mitigation as well as provide cultural leads for the vision. This was combined with the outreach programme to bring planning skills as part of a school programme, inspiring young people into the profession and related professions and by incorporating their perspectives to push straight the outcomes straight back into the community.

The judges are proud to commend **Pioneering Places East Kent** for Planning Excellence at RTPI SE Awards 2022.

