

FUTURE VIEWS

DOVER

FORT BURGoyNE: 26TH MARCH 2019

The Future Views workshop has been commissioned by Artsworld to engage young people and adults in a shared conversation to imagine a thriving, creative future for their local area. The session usually begins by exploring barriers that prevent young people from living creative and cultural lives, before imagining what this might mean in the near future. Together the participants discuss ways that creativity and local actions might help overcome these barriers, and the skills, values and attitudes needed to thrive.

In Dover the session was run with a group of 60 to 70 people with an interest in Fort Burgoyne and the future of Dover. Participants were seated at tables of between 8 and 10 people, and asked to consider the creative and cultural needs of local young people as they discussed the future of Fort Burgoyne. The majority were adults, with some participants in their early 20s. See appendix for full invite list.

This report outlines the main discussions that took place during this workshop, and the responses gathered from the room. Presentation slides are also available for context.



WARM-UP ON ARRIVAL:

THINKING ABOUT CREATIVITY AND CULTURE, WHAT WOULD YOU PERSONALLY LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN DOVER?

On arrival we invited participants to consider creativity and culture in Dover, and to discuss with each other what they would personally like to see more of. Each table fed back any key themes that were arising, which we have categorised below:

Cultural infrastructure

- More live performances
- More street events
- Access to new spaces
- Bookable spaces for projects
- Visual art, sculptures and murals

Thriving economy

- More local markets
- Pop-up shops in High Street
- An independent High Street
- Jobs, actually affordable housing, live/work space
- More access to higher education.

More care for community

- More recognition of its cultural diversity
- Making Dover more aware of recycling and helping the environment (make Dover a cleaner town).

QUESTION 1:

Following a brief presentation setting the context of the cultural and creative industries in the UK we shared a range of factors identified by young people in previous Future Views workshops as potential challenges to a thriving creative future.

We then invited the group to discuss the following question at their tables:

WHAT THREE CHALLENGES, IF TACKLED, COULD MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE HERE?

The main challenges identified by the group tended to relate to the local (and national) economy, and the knock on effects on work, transport and a disconnected cultural provision:

Economy

- Job insecurity in a general national context of economic uncertainty
- Lack of entrepreneurial financial stability, need for educational spaces to support this (HE/FE)
- Deprivation, a population with a generational lack of education, leading to a tendency towards a negative outlook

Transport and other infrastructure:

- Port traffic running through it cutting town off from the beach
- Poor or expensive public transport to travel elsewhere to access culture and jobs
- No homes to rent for local people

Lack of join-up

- Scepticism of other funded groups i.e. youth centre versus Cultural projects
- Unsustainable Partnerships
- Increased polarisation and tribalism of communities
- Knock on effect on individual's mental health.
- Local people: Feel disconnected and the connectivity is not for them. Doverians feel isolated despite the connectivity
- There isn't just one 'Dover' i.e. lots of different communities within the district

QUESTION 2:

HOW CAN WE MAKE THE MOST OF IT?

We invited the group to imagine a world in the near future where these things have not changed, before discussing possible solutions or ways in which challenges could be turned into positives. We have grouped their suggestions towards a positive future under three headings, People, Place and Organisations:

Dover's People

- Mentor scheme: get into schools, find out spark of every kid. Support new businesses. We all give up a bit of time.
- Idea to pull people together to pool anxieties. Problems mutually shared brings instant community.

- Intergenerational connectivity and micro-philanthropy, for example retirees passing on skills to younger creatives. Local practitioner skills relevant to the arts – between trades – get young people involved sooner e.g. boat building and heritage restoration.
- Also, bear in mind the contribution of the elderly and older population (will be an increase of over 60's by 25% by 2034).

Dover as a Place

- Dover being the place to access continental Europe and vice versa, to get a quick shot of Britishness. A place of arrival and welcome, with great restaurants
- Environmental improvements: The port, traffic, access, town plan design
- Dealing with the traffic: Sync the traffic. Build a solar-powered road for port traffic in the 'air'. Existing roads turned into thriving public spaces.
- A circular cycle route: electric bicycles or powered rickshaws. Interventions in landscape to shelter bikes from winds. Younger riders helping older people get out and about.
- Arts and culture opportunities that are a national destination, not just a local landmark. Dover – place to go to, not to go through.

Dover's Organisations

- Genuine collaborations for sustainable funding, with different sectors who all care about young people/community supporting each other
- DDC thinking out of the box to help boost economy and support tourist infrastructure
- Signposting and workshops with schools – with more arts integrated into curriculum – government signposting to realistic solutions.

QUESTION 3:

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR FORT BURGOPYNE?

We asked the group to think specifically about Fort Burgoyne, and how the site could be used towards a thriving future for Dover. Some of these ideas are already in place (such as tours and summer events for families) but they all illustrate how broadly the site could be used:

A location for events and activities

- Pop-up events (with affordable/low rates)
- Tours of the Fort
- Summer events for families
- Evening events: cinema pop-up, silent disco
- Live music and performance
- Theatre (open air possibility)
- Art galleries, arty shops, wonderful gardens.

A space to exhibit stories and artworks

- Historic exhibition: permanent installation that brings to life the many stories of the Fort in the past
- Artwork exhibits (local artists)
- An Art gallery
- The public realm used as a canvas, telling Dover's different stories.

A **place** where people and ideas can come together

- A flagship cultural venue like the Turner Centre
- More joining up with big organisations e.g. English Heritage and National Trust, and Museum of British Folklore!
- Something unique to Dover: destination – cultural quarter
- This would be an amazing place/adventure open for kids/teens from Kent, East London, northern France and beyond
- Place of joining of nations
- A hive of activity: The Fort site having 28 units of leisure and shopping. Lots on, such as free kids sessions, outdoor activities, places to go for all. A ‘front door to Britain’ exhibition to attract visitors from France/continent.
- Vibrant ‘port’ not ‘fort’: the fort site could see all kinds of exchanges between generations; an alternative art school; mentoring to overcome anxieties
- Changing perception of Dover: events of international standing, so you go to Dover and not through it.

An **opportunity** to develop future skills and capacities for Dover

- Sustainability workshops (waste, recycling, gardening etc.)
- Activity centre, an outdoor education centre. Youth outdoor centre. Backpacker accommodation. Skate park. Open walls to urban artists.
- Access to space to experiment
- Creative apprenticeships – Music; classical opera, open-air music e.g. Kenwood, Holland Park
- Good quality creative industry jobs
- Free spaces for people to go and create the art in a safe and inclusive place.
- Sustainable cultural involvement and development
- Pop-up refugee kitchen, refugees cook their cuisine as a pop-up restaurant. They get any profit, customers from community get to meet and learn about the newcomers and welcoming them into the community (this is very successful in Scandinavia).
- Change in the curriculum: students can get into the working world through multiple, slow-burning initiatives, some of which can be linked to the Fort developments.
- Healing – used by young people – always involve young people. Exchange worries and solutions – climate crisis – money crisis
- Leader in sustainability and source energy – inspired by Eden project.

QUESTION 4

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The group were very generous with their time and suggestions for how to move plans forward for Fort Burgoyne. These responses could become a useful starting point for further consultation with communities.

Building local connections

- Make it feel part of the community: shared communal space, a nursery, garden etc. Non-monetary exchange
- Come for a journey, if there’s a cycle route go for a ride, visit units here of people who might be making or mending bikes, or doing other crafts such as glassblowing.

- Opportunities to play, to do random things. Also people need to keep up-to-date with constantly emerging tech skills. Offer that to people of Dover.
- Has to have long-term sustainability not just an instant feeling of inspiration. Needs to hold people, let them practice and develop new ways of living.
- Increase in people over 60 by 20% (projected) so need a need vision and purpose for older people.
- Links from town can grow opportunities at Fort and in Castle – brings the benefits of these attractions to the town itself
- Access plus engagement – Physical and emotional access to the local opportunities – Local people need to feel like they're part of what happens and what exists in Dover
 - Castle = for tourists
 - Ferries = the jobs
 - Anything new must start as something for real people

Supporting local skills

- Heritage conservation skills – the college could use the Fort as focus (e.g. a Heritage skills Academy)
- An alternative training approach: Being able to learn in short, easy ways when you want to learn skills

Working with local partners

- Work with Homes England to create a place for future community around the Fort
- Housing should combine future thinking (e.g. about sustainable housing) and the past, so young people come to be inspired about construction
- Landmark Trust is keen to support developments
- Group of ambassadors – Pioneering Places, Dover heritage, community engagement, themes for site, authenticating, events for well-being/elderly and the arts

Building a national reputation

- Architectural vision – international landmark combined with modern design
- Renaming of fort – demilitarise its reputation and brand?
- But also, bring out its history – views into the history of the place in many ways.
- Better promotion of our historic assets. We should be a holiday destination not a holiday thoroughfare.
- Access exists for external people – ferries – HS1 – Eurotunnel – M20, A2

NEXT STEPS

The thoughts and feelings expressed during the Future Views workshop touched on a wide and disparate range of ideas. While reflecting on the workshop and planning your next steps, you might want to consider the following:

- A few points were raised about the accessibility of the site, which can only be reached by car, and it will eventually be necessary to pass through a housing estate to get there. Work needs to be done to forge a connection to the town, so that people don't see the distance as a barrier.
- While there was discussion about turning the fort and therefore Dover into a destination for people coming in to the area, this shouldn't distract from the needs of the people already living there. How can the fort benefit them first?

- Involving the community in planning and testing ideas for the site should go beyond consultation. Can you give some control to Dover? What would people do if it was theirs? Can you invite local colleges, scouts and guides, groups, clubs, organisations etc. to spend a period of time 'in residence'.

Some useful projects and case studies to explore

- National Trust's [Rainham Hall](#) was opened to the public in 2012 with the support of local clubs and organisations who were involved in making some of the exhibits. A key concept in the development and consultation phase was that Rainham Hall belongs to the local community.
- [Derby Museums'](#) Silk Mill, a former industrial museum which was re-imagined by Derby's communities (including staff, partners and volunteers). Derby Museum is an independent trust and organisation run for, and on behalf of, the people of Derby. They are member of the Happy Museum network, who offer a useful case study here: <http://happymuseumproject.org/remake-the-museum/>
- The [Happy Museum Project](#) looks at how the museum sector can respond to the challenge of creating a more sustainable future. It supports museum practice that places wellbeing within an environmental and future-facing frame, rethinking the role that museums can play in creating more resilient people, places and planet. Through action research, academic research, peer networking and training it supports institutional and community wellbeing and resilience in the face of global challenges.

APPENDIX

Future Views Invite List 13/03/19

Gavin Oakley Albion Inc.
 Millie Oakley YP
 Polly YP
 Paul Campling Time & Tide Brewery
 Carl Adams Primal Roots
 Rebecca Presley Primal Roots
 Dawn Maddison Dover SmART
 Willow Dover SmART
 Pam Brivio Coastal Communities
 Joanna Jones DAD
 Joseph Black Artist 20's
 Chevonne Lane Artist 20's
 Fraser Doyle Artist 20's
 Sarah Demich Artist 20's
 Lisa Oulton Future Foundry
 Nic Dehayes Artist
 Peter Cocks Albion Inc.
 Cheryl Garrett Journalist
 Will Thompson 20's Tidal Compass
 Will Greenham Smuggler's Records

Ned Kelly Walk/Don't Walk Gallery
 Miles Caulley London Hall Gallery
 Steve Thomas Designer
 Richard Taylor Jones Wildlife Photographer
 Simon Costin Museum of British Folklore
 Fergus Moffat Museum of British Folklore
 Hilary Williams Museum of British Folklore
 Mellany Robinson Museum of British Folklore
 Ross Gandon Angels & Demons Brewery
 Jen Howell Howell & Hicks
 Linda Hicks Howell & Hicks
 Charles Holland Charles Holland Architects
 Jenny Coyle
 Amandine Lucas
 Mark Sainsbury
 John Orchard Albion Inc.
 Noel Beamish - Dover Outreach Centre.
 Steve Wisbey - NIC.
 Montu Modi - P&O.

Nienke Evinesse
Richard or Jane Phillips
Arron Crascall
Paul Hendy Evolution Productions
Emily Wood Evolution Productions
Anthony Ralph tg designer homes
Thomas Dean Thomas Assoc
Indra JO
Eva Irvine YP
Lydia Lockwood YP
Ellie Holland YP
Freida Lawson YP
Tracy Evans
Vic Evans
Tim Stephen
Liz Gibney Lee Evans Architects
Joe Gibney YP
Chris Valdus The Land Trust.
Jane Garret Trustee The Land Trust
Diederik Smet Destination Dover Manager
Christopher Townend Strategic Tourism
Manager Dover District Council
Barry O'Brien Dover Tales
Glynis Farthing Guston Parish Council
Cllr Keith Gowland Guston Parish Council
Karen Pamplin-Brown
Andrew Page Positive Views
Phillipa Wall