

▶ Shepway District Council continued...

Shopping

With a range of independent shops, galleries and creative retail units as well as top brand stores, Folkestone can never be accused of having a 'clone high street'. The town centre has a new £30 million shopping centre, opened at the end of 2007, providing 200,000 square ft of retail space. Bouverie Place has attracted top high street stores including Next, Body Shop, George and Asda.

Alongside the new centre and the attractive existing pedestrianised high street, an exciting Creative Quarter is being developed. The refurbishment of the shops and properties in the historic Old Town is creating affordable work, retail and homes for artists and creative businesses. As well as galleries, there are shops offering designer floristry, home interiors, gifts, and bespoke fashion, as well as coffee shops and restaurants. There is also a thriving Farmers' Fishermen's in the harbour every Sunday.

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FOLKESTONE FACTBOX

- Fast train links that will get you to London in about an hour by 2009
- A major redevelopment proposes a marina, leisure and homes for Folkestone's seafront and harbour by award winning architects Foster and Partners
- An exciting new Creative Quarter is regenerating Folkestone's historic old town by providing a base for artists and creative industries
- A major new international art exhibition every three years, starting in 2008, and an annual literary festival
- A mile long stretch of coastal park leading down to the beach with an outdoor amphitheatre for music and drama and the largest free outdoor adventure playground in the South East
- A new shopping centre with top name stores along with independent shops, artists' studios and farmers', fisherman's and artists' markets
- A new City Academy and University, and a performing arts venue



An artist's impression of Bouverie Place, Folkestone

