



Thanet District Council



Margate is a name that's well known as one of the country's most popular and best-loved seaside resorts.

It's also a town that's undergoing a rapid transformation which will see Margate building on its long tradition of culture and creativity. The first seaside resort in the country, by the early nineteenth century, Margate was home to one of England's greatest landscape and marine artists, Joseph Mallord William Turner.

The town inspired many of his most famous works and his name will live on at the new Turner Contemporary, an international venue for visual arts, due to open in Margate in 2010. Designed by Stirling Prize winning architect David Chipperfield, the stunning building will be clad in white opaque glass and will offer visitors the panoramic views out to sea that first inspired Turner. It is key for Kent County Council's vision for Margate's regeneration.

Building on the arrival of Turner Contemporary, work is already underway to transform Margate Old Town, with its wealth of historic buildings from the Georgian and Victorian period, into a vibrant cultural quarter.

The area is already home to a number of niche shops, workshops and galleries, complimented by seafront restaurants and cafés and residential development centred around the seafront piazza.

Much of the work is being undertaken by a range of organisations, including Thanet District Council and the Margate Renewal Partnership, which is investing over £35 million in funding to bring forward key redevelopment schemes.

One such project focuses on the town's High Street, hit by the loss of anchor store Marks and Spencer, when it moved to a new town centre development at Westwood Cross in the centre of Thanet. Now the building and land nearby has been purchased by Thanet District Council using funding from SEEDA (South East of England Development Agency).

Recognising the need for modern retailing space, the property will be used for a mixed development, incorporating the much needed element of modern retail, together with commercial floor space and residential use, bringing people back to live in the centre of Margate. With the prospect of a fast rail link into the area by 2009 and land values beginning to rise rapidly, Margate is a town that's attracting national interest from the media, investors and businesses.

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David Chipperfield design for Turner Contemporary, which will celebrate JMW Turners association with Margate.

Margate Main Sands, one of the country's top beaches, still draws thousands of visitors each year

