

▶ Dartford Borough Council continued...



The Orchard Theatre offers premier entertainment for the South East

Plans to introduce more structure to the town's markets through a market square

which was purchased in 2005, includes the historic Acacia House, ballroom and fitness centre plus sports facilities and open space.

Plans to restore the park to its Edwardian splendour were unveiled to local residents, visitors and businesses in February 2007. These plans were incorporated into a lottery bid which was successfully awarded in the sum of £200,000.

Commercially the town centre is also under the microscope. The town's decline has been steady over a number of years and piecemeal attempts to turn it around or energise the area have been, in the main, fruitless.

New guidelines, under the strategic headline of a policy-based 'area action plan' for the town centre, identify the town's potential growth and regeneration over the next 20 years, incorporating more residential units in the centre of

town and an increase in the facilities for leisure and recreation.

The main entrance routes into Dartford have been identified for improvement so that visitors to the town have a sense of arrival, either by road, rail or bus – and find a warm welcome however they arrive.

At the centre of town are plans to introduce more structure to the town's markets through a market square – reminding shoppers of the town's market heritage. An anchor-store to the south will be at the centre of the regeneration of Lowfield Street which is also expected to include bars and cafes with park-facing apartments. Expansion of the existing shopping centres will increase the size of commercial units, aimed at encouraging retailing multiples into the town to act as a draw for new shoppers.

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Princes Park includes sports and community facilities

