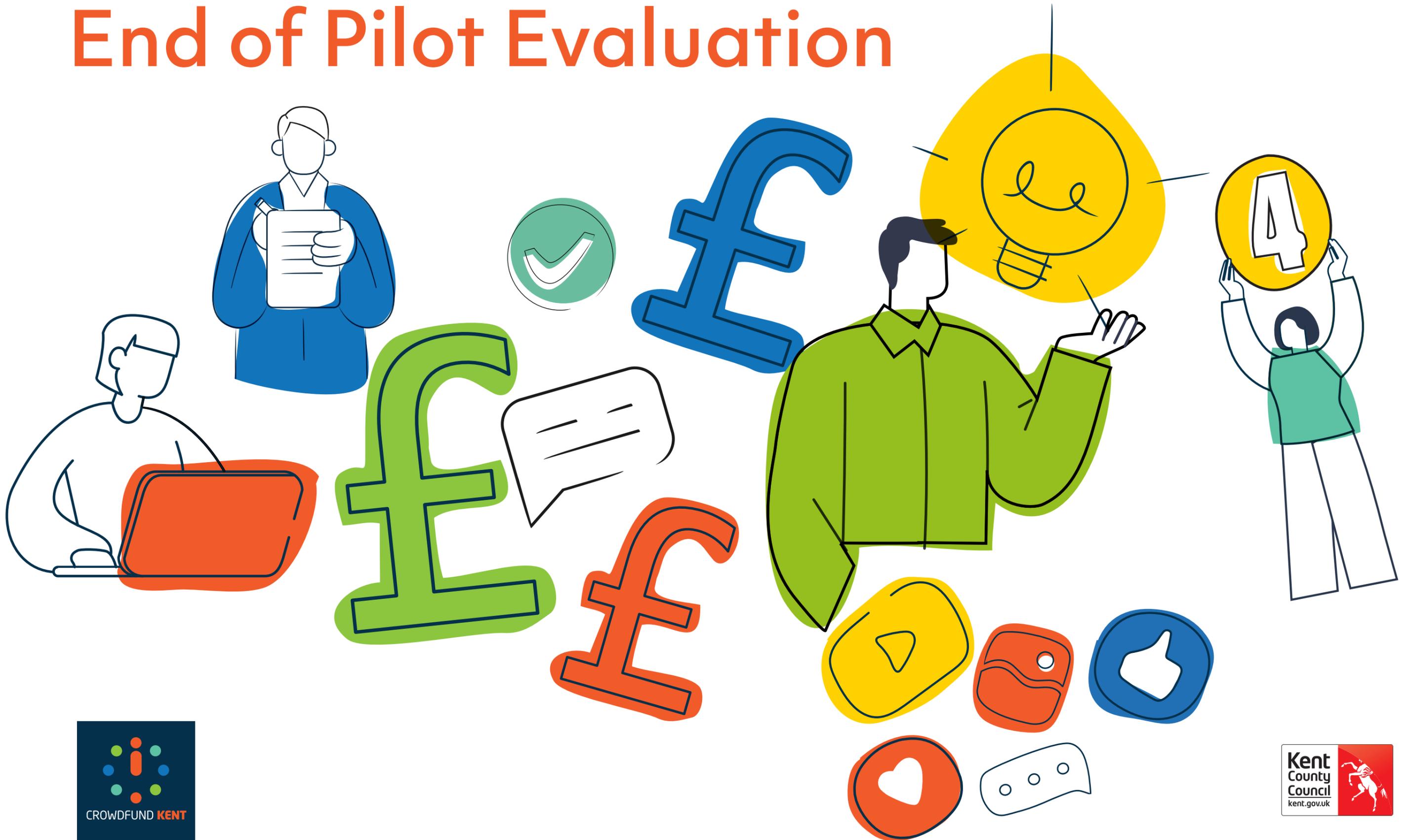


Crowdfund Kent

End of Pilot Evaluation



A Year in Summary

49

projects successfully funded across 2 years of the pilot

20

Projects for community action and people impacted by Covid



£629,992

pledged in support from the community

Total number of backers

3706

5

Projects focused on volunteer action in the County



£30,000

in additional funding from Folkestone and Hythe District Council



For every £1 investment from KCC



£1



£1

£1

£1

£

we saw £3 total project value

£ £ £ £



£931,603

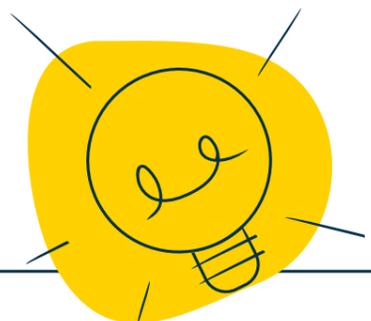
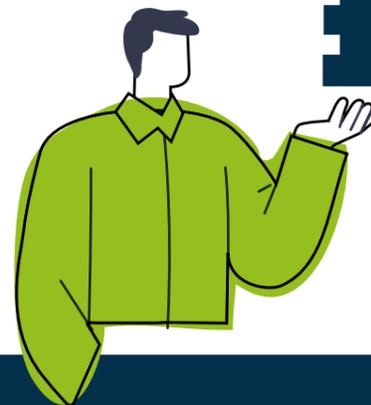
Total pledged on the platform

£301,611

pledged by Kent County Council

£24,084

raised above original targets across all three rounds



Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Crowdfund Kent programme two-year pilot, from its launch in March 2021 to October 2022, as we approach the final round of the pilot.

This evaluation focuses on providing an update on the end of year one report published in early 2022, including increased feedback from the projects involved who have submitted a final evaluation report as well as updated financial and impact data.



About Crowdfund Kent

Crowdfund Kent was launched in March 2021 with a fund of £500,000 following initial discussions in 2019. Development of the programme was accelerated by the Covid 19 pandemic where we saw the incredible response from organisations and communities to support each other and respond to local challenges.

For the Crowdfund Kent programme, Kent County Council partnered with Spacehive, a funding platform for local projects, who have the highest fundraising success rate of any UK crowdfunding platform and a proven record of working in partnership with other local authorities, companies, and foundations, notably the Mayor of London, Veolia and the GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited) Community Foundation.

For the duration of the pilot, we have managed a total of four funding rounds, with the most recent launching in July 2022 and still actively running, with projects due for assessment in November 2022.

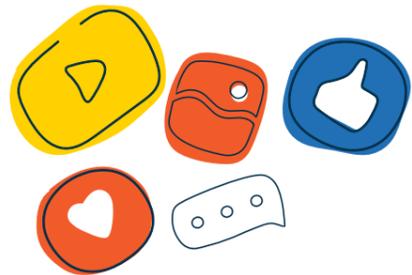
At the time of writing this report, Crowdfund Kent has pledged to and supported 49 successful projects, at a cost of £301,611 to KCC.

Crowdfund Kent Objectives



The programme has attracted national attention with other local authorities approaching the team in Kent to discuss how they could set up their own similar programmes within their local area.

The publication of the Crowdfund Kent **"Year One Evaluation Report"**, highlighting the progression of the programme, was positively received and shared both internally within KCC and with external partners such as the District Councils, through our Voluntary and Community Sector networks and nationally via Spacehive.



The fund forms part of Kent County Councils' wider commitment to supporting the social sector as outlined in the **KCC Civil Society Strategy**; the strategy recognises the essential role of civil society and the social sector in the County to achieve strong and resilient communities and sets out how our funding of infrastructure support will support the sector further.

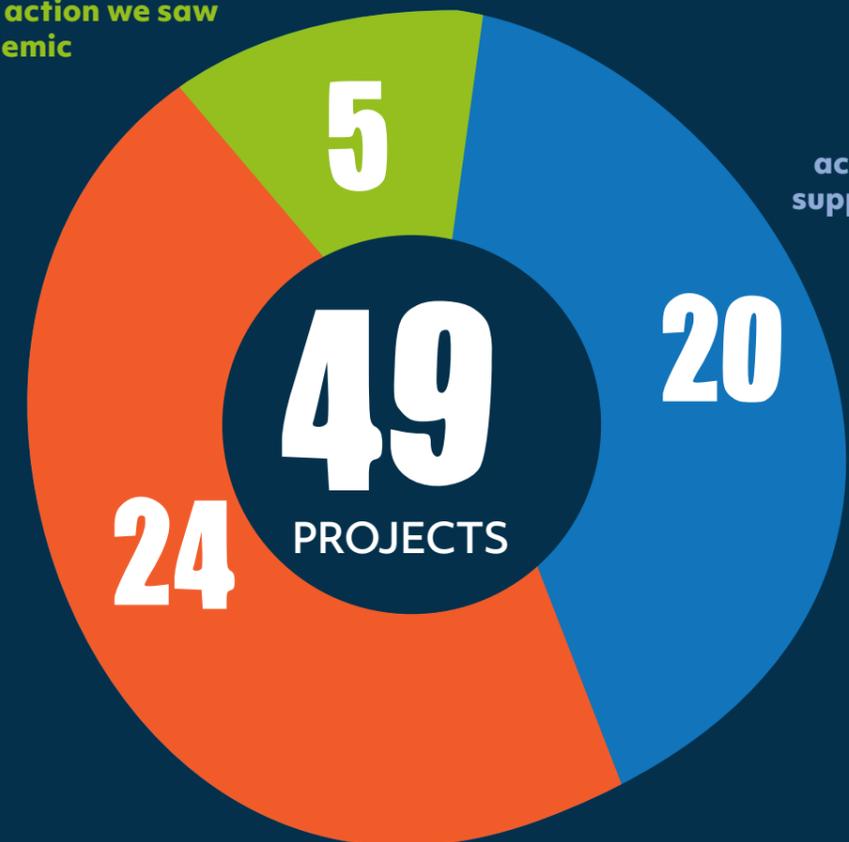
For the duration of the pilot programme, Crowdfund Kent has focused on engaging with projects that respond to one of three key objectives:

1. Delivering community activities in Kent that are focused on supporting people who have been particularly impacted by Covid, for example BAME communities, those living in poverty, victims of domestic abuse, people with mental health problems, vulnerable children, carers, people with learning disabilities, care home residents and older people.
2. Supporting community assets and venues in Kent, that contribute to our local communities and local connections, improving wellbeing.
3. Helping to maintain the volunteering offer/social action we have seen during the pandemic post Covid 19.

Helping to maintain the volunteering offer and social action we saw during the pandemic

Delivering community activities in Kent supporting people particularly affected by COVID19

Supporting community assets and venues in Kent





What is Crowd funding?

Crowdfunding is a form of fundraising that uses smaller amounts of funding from a large number of individuals and organisations in order to fund a new project or venture; it uses the vast reach of social media and word-of-mouth to bring backers and project creators together.

Many of the projects who have participated in the Crowdfund Kent programme have never used this form of fundraising before for their organisation or community group.

At the beginning of each Crowdfund Kent round, a number of "Project Creator Workshops" are organised and attended by KCC and Spacehive. These sessions allow for local organisations and groups to attend a virtual presentation, hear about the funding available and get advice from Spacehive and KCC on how to run a crowdfunding campaign.

The dates for these events are promoted via KCC and Spacehive Social Media Accounts and shared through various professional networks in order to attract as many interested groups as possible.

On submitting their initial expression of interest, project creators are encouraged to create their pitch outlining the scope and costs of their project. Following initial assessment by Spacehive for eligibility, KCC review the project to identify any potential issues or questions that may need to be raised with the creator.

The crowdfunding target is calculated based on the full amount required to deliver the project as described on the project page and platform fees. Any funds secured towards the project prior to crowdfunding can be represented by the project creator against their target at the start of the campaign.

Following this, projects are verified and accepted onto the platform where they are provided with a personalised project page and are encouraged and supported by Spacehive and KCC to begin their crowdfunding campaign.

Once their campaign has commenced and has been running for approximately four weeks KCC staff will assess their progress and agree upon a pledge amount between 35-50% of the crowdfunding total and

no more than £20,000 (this changed to £15,000 for round 4 commencing in July 2022); this is then discussed with and signed off by the Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services.

Project creators receive their pledge from KCC into their crowdfunding campaign and it is displayed on their project page. They are encouraged to use this as leverage to obtain more funds from other community backers. Once a project is successful in

reaching their target, Spacehive collect all funds from backers, including KCC, and transfer them to project creators so they can begin their project.

The Spacehive fee is 5% and is only taken if a project successfully reaches its target; it is included in the crowdfunding target and is paid for via pledges received on the platform at no extra cost to the project creator.



17th March 2021
Online Launch for programme



30th March 2021
Round 1 Project Creator Workshops begin



28th April 2021
Deadline for round 1 pitches



1st June 2021
KCC Pledge awarded to round 1 projects



15th September
Deadline for round 2 pitches



5th November 2021
KCC Pledge awarded to round 2 projects



21st January 2022
Launch of second year of Crowdfund Kent and round 3



2nd September 2021
Round 2 Project Creator Workshops begin



21st January
Folkestone and Hythe District Council join the fund with £30,000

9th February 2022
Round 3 Project Creator Workshops begin



Crowdfund Kent Year One Evaluation
Timeline

7th June 2022
KCC and Folkestone and Hythe Pledges awarded to round 3 projects

28th September 2022
Deadline for round 4 pitches

20th April 2022
Deadline for round 3 pitches

1st June 2022
Review of joint pledges for Folkestone and Hythe Projects

6th July 2022
Launch of round 4 – project creator workshops begin

16th November 2022
KCC and Folkestone and Hythe pledges awarded to round 4 projects



Financial Impact

The table below shows a breakdown of project progression and pledges made for the first three rounds of the pilot:

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
Number of projects to reach assessment stage	31	17	12
Number of projects pledged to	29	17	10
Number of projects to successfully reach their crowdfunding target	24	15	10
Total KCC Pledge Amount	£87,873	£127,638	£86,100
Highest KCC Pledge	£10,000	£18,573	£18,449
Lowest KCC Pledge	£669	£879	£1,604

Round one saw a higher proportion of projects apply than in later rounds however this was likely due to the first round taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic where more groups were applying for funding due to uncertainty and levels of volunteering and community action were particularly high.

The success of the Crowdfund Kent programme is due to the collaboration between KCC, project creators and the community who support them and across the 49 successful projects across the first three rounds of the pilot, projects were supported by 3706 backers.

£301,611 From KCC + **£629,992** From the community
£931,603
 in total pledges to projects

For every £1 investment from KCC we saw £3 in total project value.

District Breakdown

Crowdfund Kent is a county-wide initiative with varying levels of engagement from organisations and communities across Kent.

By far the most successful district in Kent has been Folkestone and Hythe with eleven projects that have received a pledge from the fund and have successfully achieved their crowdfunding goal.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council engaged early with the Crowdfund Kent programme, holding funding events to encourage projects to apply and sharing information about the fund through their networks. Due to this activity, and as demonstrated in the map shown on page 8, Folkestone and Hythe saw the highest number of projects across round one and round two and Kent County Council pledged a total of £45,489 to successful projects in that area across these two rounds.

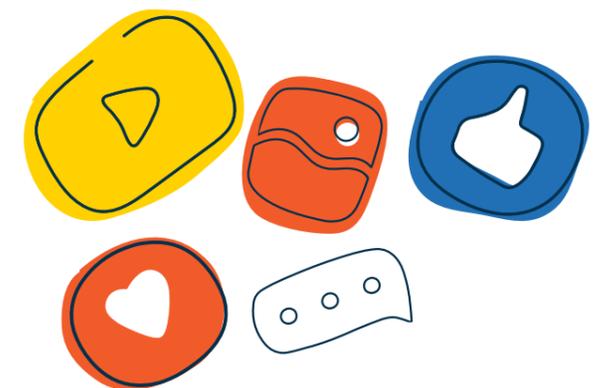
Folkestone and Hythe District Council formally joined Crowdfund Kent for round 3 in January 2022 with a fund of their own totalling £30,000. Three projects were successful in reaching their crowdfunding goal, receiving £6481 from Folkestone and Hythe and £29,284 from KCC, to a total pledge across both funds of £35,765. The total project value of these projects, alongside pledges from the public and community, was £183,727.

The success in the district highlights that when we work together with our multi-



agency partners, it can and will strengthen the reach in those communities. Folkestone and Hythe will continue to use their fund for round four of the programme, increasing the funding received by the local area.

Engagement from the North and West of the county has been considerably lower as demonstrated by the data shown on the map, with fewer projects progressing to crowdfunding on the programme.



Number of projects who have successfully completed their crowdfunding campaign as of the date of this report



Crowdfund Kent Video

In Spring 2022, Kent County Council commissioned, through Spacehive, the production of a video showcasing some of the communities and organisations that had engaged with the programme and were successfully delivering their project goals.

The video highlights five projects from across the county, and has been made available on the [KCC YouTube channel](#) and the [Crowdfund Kent website](#).

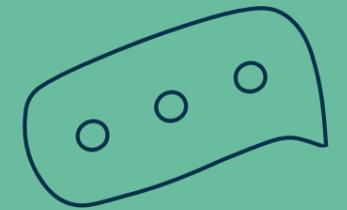
This video allows us to demonstrate the positive impact the projects have had in their local area.



Round Four – Emerging Data

As Crowdfund Kent enters its fourth round of crowdfunding, a strong pipeline of projects is emerging from across the county that demonstrates the appetite of the community to deliver locally led projects that address local challenges and opportunities.

So far, 20 projects have pitched to the fund for round 4 and have their project pages created and ready to start crowdfunding; with an average project total of £15,500.



Feedback from Project Creators

The below page highlights some of the key feedback on the programme received by project creators who have used the platform across the first three rounds:

“The crowdfund project has given us positive first experience of using this method to fund additional projects for our school. We will definitely look to use the same process again in the future” – *East Malling Lake Community Project*

“Thank you Crowdfunding for all your support. The extra funds raised will go a long way to helping us start our 3G project. A big thank you from everyone at Parkwood Rangers FC” – *Habitat Work: Parkwood Rangers 3G Pitch Project*

“Crowdfunding takes dedication and hard work, but the beauty is that it creates a feeling of personal investment in the community. ‘Crowdfund Kent’ enabled Margate Pride to deliver an exciting two-week arts festival, a programme of events, exhibitions and workshops. This vital support gave opportunities to local artists and talent to further their careers and hold important spaces for each other, which is a major part of building a healthy and happy community” – *Margate Pride Art Trail Project*

Crowdfund Kent is a great scheme and it gave us an opportunity to raise the necessary funds we needed to make our project a reality. Without this, I’m not sure how we would have managed. The team at Spacehive provides great support at the different stages with their webinars although I did find them a bit slow to react to emails with questions at times – *Folkestone Sea Sauna Project*

“Crowdfund Kent has been a great and instant way of broadening our stakeholder base, and of bringing statutory and community together in a genuinely co-creative way.” – *Angel Café Hildenborough project.*

“Excellent way to raise money for important projects, thank you all for help” – *Tables for Sellindge Sports and Social Club Project*

“We were delighted to be included in the Crowdfund Kent initiative. It gave us the ability and incentive to leverage funds from the local community, helping us to fund equipment for 5 new volunteer advisers. This now means we can support many more people in need with free advice for whatever problems they are facing.” – *Volunteer-Led Citizens Advice Project*

“Our project was to plant a small wood of just over a hundred trees in an attempt to increase biodiversity and to improve a local amenity. Crowdfund Kent was a practical way of helping us to achieve this and Kent County Council’s financial support proved invaluable. The wood has been a great success and proved very popular among local people. We are proud of having been able to achieve this.” – *Hythe Green Wood Project*

“Crowdfund Kent enabled us to crowdfund our biggest ever total over just a few days, aided by grant funding from KCC. Our project on infant sleep support tapped into a huge unmet need in our local community, and we are part-way through delivering extensive training to our practitioners to enable them to deliver ongoing responsive support with infant sleep.” – *Infant Sleep Support for New Parents Project*

“Thanks to Crowdfunding we are recreating the orchard at the historic garden. All our trees are being bespoke grown for us by Brogdale (the national fruit centre in Faversham) - so far, we have planted over 52 (mainly Apples, Pears and Cherries) of 27 varieties. We even had a community wassailing event to welcome the trees with some 200 local people attending. The final batch of 75 trees arrive in January - including soft fruit and nut, as well as more pears, apples & cherries. This just would have been possible without the generosity of our crowdfunders and KCC” – *Captains Garden Orchard Project*

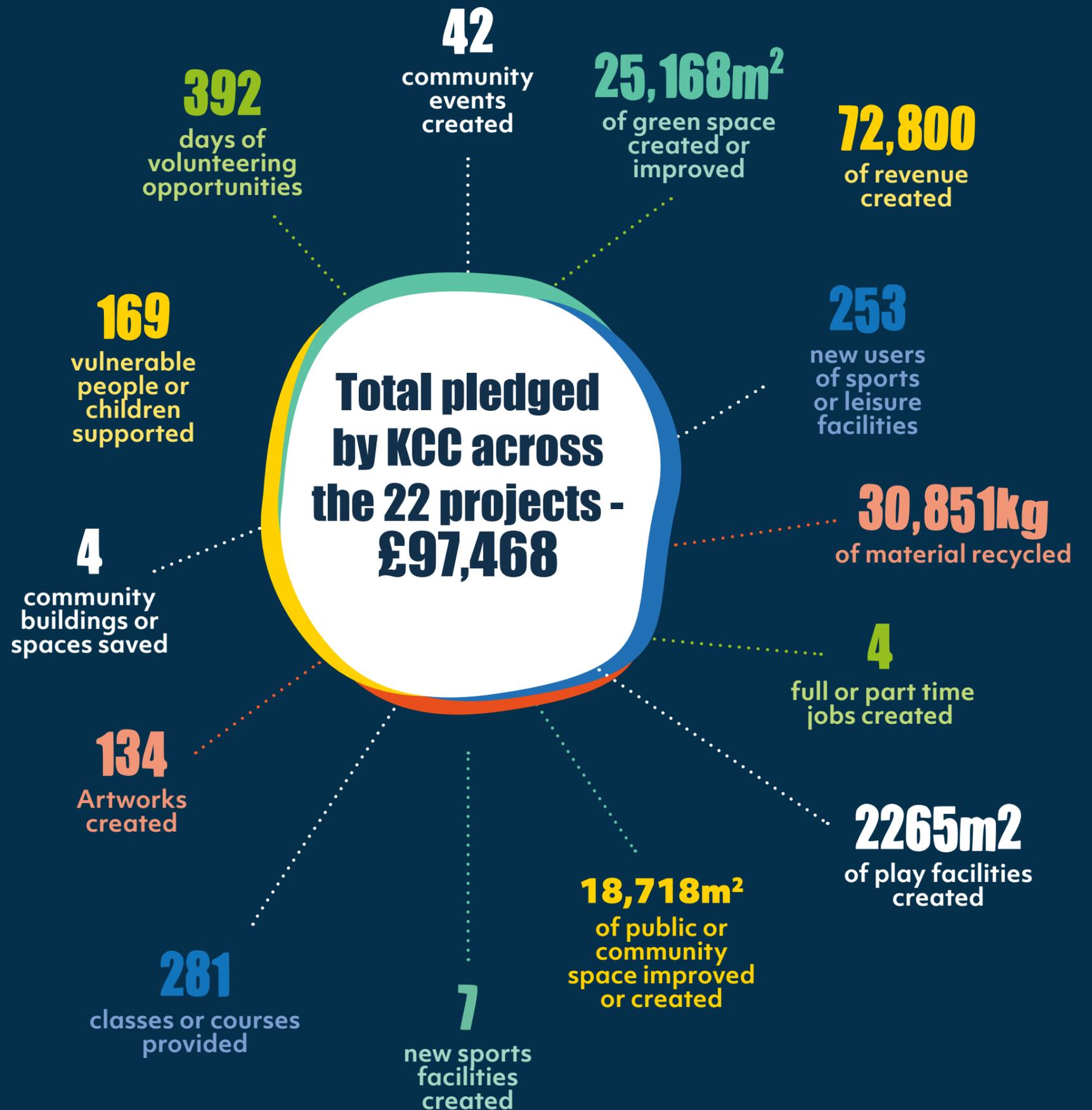
Evaluations From Delivered Projects

Of the forty-nine projects who have successfully completed their crowdfunding campaigns, twenty-two have completed their final evaluation for the programme. The data and insights in the following section is taken from those delivery reports.

Community Impact of Funding

Crowdfund Kent is about supporting projects that are important to and led by the local community. KCC is just one backer and therefore it is important that projects have a positive impact on the local area and are embedded in the community, driven by its needs.

The programme has proven that when residents and communities come together as a "crowd" and can see the tangible benefits a project will provide, this can galvanise support, activity and change in local areas if the infrastructure to do so is provided.



Project Evaluations

The following pages provide more in-depth data from the projects creators who have completed their final evaluations for the programme after delivering their project:

Restoration of Louisa Bay Flower Beds

Volunteer gardeners who maintain six sites across Broadstairs had identified a disused space with high footfall in the local area that could benefit from restoration. Their project sought to reclaim the area and replant it to improve the local area and provide a haven for wildlife.

As well as creating a new habitat, the project aimed to amplify the sense of well-being and achievement gained from working together outdoors on community projects. It would also provide an opportunity to learn more about plants and wildlife through signs detailing the plants and habitat for wildlife on site.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

Since hitting our target an extraordinary transformation has taken place on the approach to Louisa Bay in Broadstairs.

Not only do we now have a regular, dedicated volunteer 'crew' of 12+, but we have managed to not just deliver what we set out to do but exceed any of our original expectations.

We now have more than 50 maturing shrubs, a multitude of perennials, including specific wildlife-friendly ones, and countless native wild and cultivated species that can cope with the 'wind tunnel' and salty environment they find themselves in.

We have as originally planned not just recreated a lovely attraction for everyone to enjoy, but provided a new, focal point for locals to admire, engage with and donate to. Whether their time or donations of plants, this area now has been fully 'adopted' by locals and admired and complimented by visitors as an area of great beauty and benefit to our town.

Since taking on the original 2 beds, 2 more adjacent beds have also been 'adopted', tamed and transformed too.

We have a 'The Journey' of the Louisa Bay Beds display board for everyone to see just what the power of community working together can do. Local businesses have given their support in both donations and hundreds of cups of tea too.

We have already been given a 'Community Action Civic Award' by the Broadstairs Society in this, our first full year, on site.

The beds formed part of our entry in 2021 into the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entry for Broadstairs and even in that first year, we were awarded a Level 4 'Thriving' certification by the judge.

100 Volunteers involved over 100 days	200 M2 of Green Space Improved
20 M2 of Habitat Conserved	350 Plants Planted
1 Community Group Created	20 M2 of Community Space Created
50kg of material recycled	1500 hours of volunteering



Angel Cafe Hildenborough

Angel Lane CIC wanted to create a new community hub and playspace for Hildenborough so the community had a place to meet and where parents and carers will be welcome, and their young children will have safe spaces to play and build healthy relationships.

Angel Café is a 'trauma-informed café' with professional support on hand, such as play therapists, early years, and parenting specialists, to provide a supportive, nurturing environment. Angel Lane CIC want to expand in the future and see more Angel Cafés so hope that Hildenborough will become a meeting place and a hub for innovators, change makers and future community leaders.

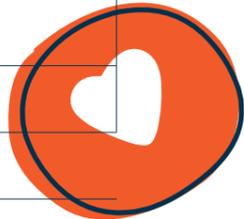
[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

We have provided a new community hub and playspace which is open every Thursday and Friday during term time. We run a variety of activities and support including Story Time, games, a chatty table, plus a great place for customers of the foodbank to come and have a spot of lunch.

We have created two part-time jobs to run each café session. Angel Bakes, a parallel project to provide our cakes and other items has blossomed into a thriving local enterprise.

40 M2 of Play Facilities Created	120 M2 of Community Space Improved
50 KG of Material Recycled	20 Volunteers involved over 40 days
£20,000 Revenue Generated	2 Part Time Jobs created
10 Classes provided	2 Community Events created



Swale Autism Advisory Service

The team at The Autism Apprentice CIC identified a significant increase in demand for their services since the pandemic and the impact this has had on their families.

Their project aims to offer free virtual advice clinic appointments, so they could help families with strategies around challenging behaviour, anxiety, school refusal, sensory and sleep difficulties etc.

In addition, families who are in financial hardship are often unable to purchase the items their child would benefit from, such as seamless socks, compression sheets, white noise machines, weighted blankets, etc. They wanted to be able to offer the relevant and appropriate items to those families identified, increasing the young person's welfare, and decreasing the impact upon mental health.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

We have been busy delivering support to families who need it the most in the Swale area. Most appointments have been carried out virtually via zoom or telephone with some taking place face to face. Some families have required a one-off appointment, and, in some cases, they have required intensive levels of support to help them to recover from the impact of Covid 19 and their mental health.

All of the clients we saw required support around their child's education and securing the correct level of support for them to access their learning. Two volunteers helped organise this project, without this support we would not have been able to have raised the amount we did.

We have supported families by providing them with strategies to help in their everyday lives. Sensory equipment has helped to access the community and participate in local activities. One family in particular were isolated and could not leave the house due to their child's sensory difficulties. The funding allowed us to purchase a mobility pushchair and their child can now go out of the house, with the parent knowing they are safe and without the pain and distress of walking.

Feedback from one carer: Thank you so much for helping us. We would never be able to have paid for the special bedding. He has slept for the first time in years!

15 days of volunteering opportunities	86 Children Supported
63 Purchases of sensory equipment	2 Plants Planted
76 Classes Provided	2 Courses provided

Thanet Flag Football – Grow Mustangs!

Thanet Flag Football wanted to bring support to a wider pool of young people in their community, to deliver free sessions with a particular focus on those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign aimed to raise enough funds to subsidise kits, purchase new equipment, run 3 free sessions a week and share the benefits of the sport.

Thanet Mustangs wanted to introduce flag football to those children and young people that aren't traditionally included, are not deemed "sporty", suffer with their mental health and/ or have trauma or disability to contend with.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

We have been able to provide everything that we needed to provide 3 free training sessions per week, including equipment, kit and memberships to BAFA (British American Football Association).

Thanet Mustangs has encouraged children and young people who are not usually 'included' in traditional schools sports to get outside and train in something new. The sport itself is highly team focussed and allows opportunities for CYP of all shapes and sizes and abilities to participate.

24 new items of equipment purchases	30 New users of sports facilities
150 Classes provided	50 hours of volunteering opportunities
1 New Sports Facility Created	2 Courses provided



Dartford Rugby Community Space Project

Dartford Community Rugby Club wanted to create the 'Valley Community Space' to provide a much-needed external space at their club for community & club events and general use.

The new space itself was designed to merge into the existing site layout seamlessly and include seating, play, grill and eating areas.

The club also wished to incorporate a small 'Valley Remembrance Garden' for the club members they lost during the Covid pandemic - including olive trees and benches dedicated to the people but also for use in the future for remembrance Sunday and other commemorative dates.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

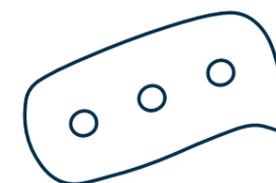
Overview of Impact

The new community space was launched on Jubilee Day with a 1000-person community party.

Local tradesmen were used for the project therefore helping the local economy, club volunteers delivered approximately 50% of the project and the funds raised through Crowdfund Kent paid for the remaining costs.

Following the Jubilee Day launch there has been an uptake in new players from those who attended the event.

80 M2 of Play Facilities Created	50 New Users of Sports Facilities
500 M2 of Public or Community Space Improved	£28,000 Revenue Generated



Dance for Young People in Hythe

InStep Dance Company wanted to help young people recover following the pandemic by running two projects to encourage them to get together, dance and have fun. The funds raised also allowed for bursaries to be awarded to children and young people who would not have been able to afford to attend.

The young people had the opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, get fit and healthy and celebrated the end of their successful project by holding a performance for friends and family.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

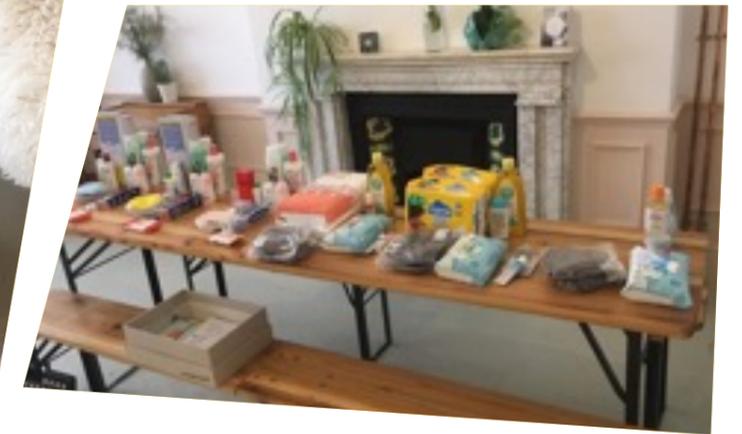
Overview of Impact

Our project delivered dance workshops for children and young people, providing bursary opportunities for anyone who could not afford to attend and a new paid dance commission for local artists helping to regenerate the arts and culture scene in Hythe.

We finished with a fabulous show on 27th February 2022 at Peter Catmull Theatre, Brockhill Performing Arts College - it was the first time in over 2 years that we were able to perform! 125 audience members turned up to watch the dancers perform. 23 dancers cast members of the companies represented students from 10 schools, (primary and secondary) and post 18 settings.

We are so proud of the community we develop at Instep and the working processes which encourage bridge building between ages and students from different educational settings. It feels particularly important at this time to keep that going as young people find their way back into mixing and finding their pathway through education and beyond.

2 Exhibitions Created	15 Days of Volunteering Opportunities
15 Classes Provided	2 Artworks Created
29 People involved in project delivery	23 New Users of Sports facilities
22 Backers	£3,291 raised



Mama to Mama – Thanet's 1st Baby Bank

Mama to Mama was set up by two Margate Mums in response to a clear need in the community which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many women are living in poverty, fleeing domestic abuse, or leaving the care system, and are struggling to afford the essentials they need for themselves and their new babies.

Mama to Mama takes preloved baby clothes and essentials and edit them into beautiful collections for gifting to vulnerable expectant mamas in Thanet. Spreading hope while reducing landfill waste.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

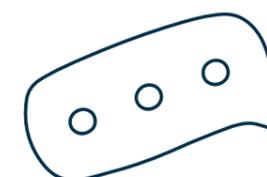
Overview of Impact

When asked what kind of impact receiving this box has on the mum, our social care and maternity services contacts respond:

- relieving financial strains - 74%
- boosting mum's mental wellbeing - 78%
- boosting mum's self-worth - 65%
- boosting mum's confidence about how and what to provide for their new baby - 78%



16 Volunteers involved over 25 days	2000 items of clothing reused
2 part time jobs created	60 Vulnerable mums supported
20 M2 of community space improved	10 wellbeing classes provided
500kg of material recycled	100 new users of the facility



Creative Dementia Journeys in Kent

Living with dementia can be an extremely challenging experience, and during the pandemic, the impact of the disease has increased.

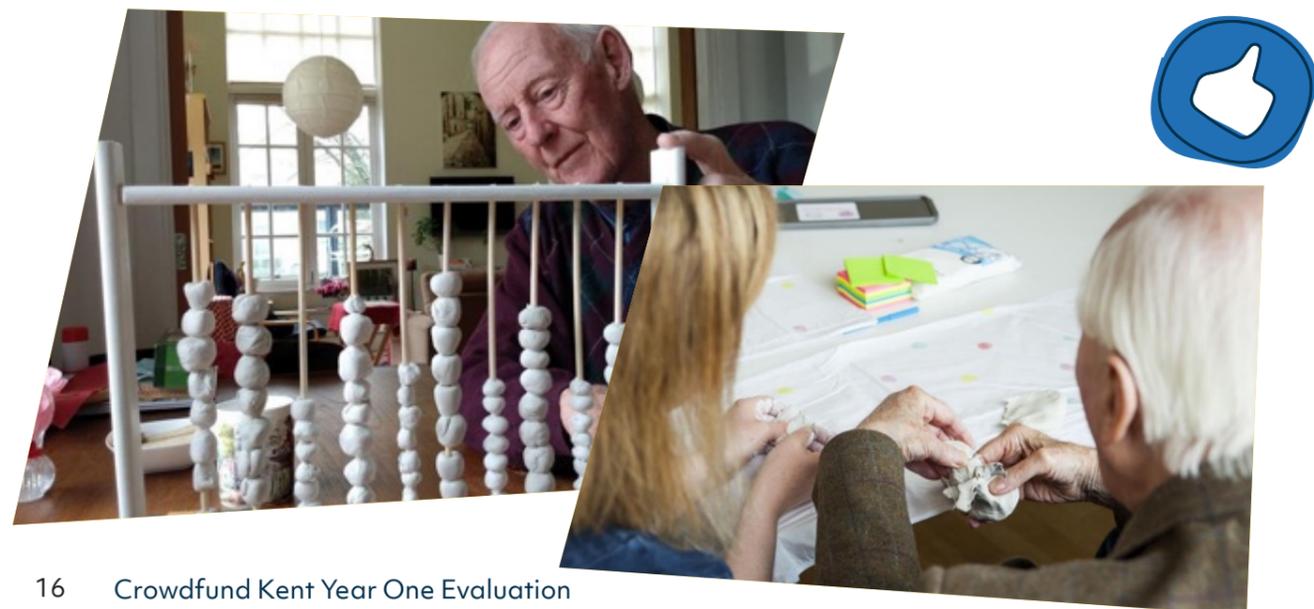
Bright Shadow recognised a need for specialist 1-1 sessions to support people living with dementia to recover from the isolation of the last year and to regain skills and confidence to enable them to live well and to thrive. Their project aimed to deliver 6 creative 1-1 sessions for 16 members of the community in a Covid-safe way at the participant's home or Care Home. They adapted the sessions for participants according to their needs, giving them the opportunity to write poetry, sing songs together, or make puppets for a puppetry performance.

Overview of Impact

After hitting our crowdfunding target in November, we immediately began mobilising our project, which launched in January 2022. We aimed to provide 96, 1-1 creative sessions for people who are living with dementia in Kent; we particularly wanted to reach those badly affected by the pandemic and its aftermath of social isolation, reduced cognition and lack of confidence.

We paired artists from the Bright Shadow cohort of experienced professionals with participants to match each other's particular interests. Artists including poets, drummers, visual artists, musicians, vocalists, photographers, actors and writers provided a total of 135 hours of sessions to 23 people living with or affected by dementia.

We recruited potential participants through the existing pool of beneficiaries known to Bright Shadow, as well as via referrals from other community organisations including the Alzheimer's Society, MACA and Sahara. The original plan was to provide 6 sessions to 16 beneficiaries, however when we began to approach participants, they were initially unsure if they were able to commit to 6 sessions. The families were happier to commit to a series of 4 sessions at first, with an option to extend. In the end all families extended their blocks to at least 6 weeks and, in some circumstances, where it was felt appropriate, blocks were extended to 8-12 weeks. The extra time enabled artists and participants to create a strong rapport, extend the participant's skills and confidence and build on the content of the sessions.



The project was initially meant to only be for 1-1 set up - one artist with one participant plus a supporter if needed. When approached about the sessions, some beneficiaries and organisations felt that the sessions would be more effective if delivered in small groups or pairs, due to participants' confidence being very low or because organisations wanted us to reach more people. This led to 3 blocks of sessions being provided for groups ranging from two people to seven people. Although this was not the original plan, it was what the beneficiaries requested, and we wanted to be adaptable to suit their needs. These smaller group sessions led to some strong friendships and interesting creative collaborations between beneficiaries which would have not been possible with a 1-1 session and in some cases represented the removal of a barrier to attendance.



Some of our participants have explored mono printing, embroidery, photographic printing, drawing, photography, watercolour painting, collage, book making, marbling, origami, drumming, singing, poetry, knotting, storytelling, writing and much more.

This led to some participants creating complete artworks including tapestries, a compilation of poems, an abacus, sea themed collage, photograph collection and instrumental music.

"Thank you, Bright Shadow, for making our lives so much richer by experiences like this."

1-1 Participant Couple 2022 - These participants spent four weeks exploring music and drumming with a professional musician.

"Thank you for setting up these sessions. I did so enjoy last week, and I am really looking forward to my upcoming sessions with Nova."

1-1 Participant - This participant spent eight weeks trying out new visual art approaches, including book making, water colour painting, marbling, collage and much more.

"Thank you so much for organising K's 1-2-1 session with Lucy yesterday! It was such a treat to have my little respite."

1-1 Supporter - This participant spent eight weeks working on mini-projects based on his past career working in a Devonshire fudge factory. These sessions gave his wife weekly respite.

135 Hours of Creative Stimulation provided	47 Hours of respite care generated
1 Part Time job created	23 Families supported
90 Creative Sessions provided	10 Artists Supported
20 Artworks Created	20 Courses Provided



Hythe Green Wood

The Hythe Green Preservation Society wanted to create a new public space by planting trees to be used by the community and local wildlife.

Once grown the wood will serve to both screen a factory and reduce the noise it makes, bringing into use a neglected part of the Green, will offer an enhanced environment for wildlife, attracting a wider range of birds, owls and bats and offer the community a space to meet and exercise.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)



Overview of Impact

We set out to plant at least 35 semi-mature native trees. At the close of the project, we have planted 100 trees. In addition to our purchased trees, we were supported by people keen to help in ways other than financial. The project took hold of public imagination, and we received a great deal of enthusiastic help and contributions. It also brought a variety of people together and started conversations about future uses of the Wood, the Green and also the linked Woodland Walk which has been further opened and seeded with 80,000 bluebell seeds and snowdrops.

We have worked with local groups, such as Dementia Aware, and have developed partnerships to make the space available and convenient for them to hold open-air weekly meetings, also creating a Memory Walk to aid their social interaction.

We have worked with the local school to plant whips among the trees as underplanting. The children will continue to visit the wood as part both of lessons and as leisure activities with family members.

The project has further stimulated interest in a nearby multi-use sports area which is being repainted and improved.

Hythe Green Preservation Society has leveraged the project's success to a partnership with the local council and created an action group of councillors to take forward future enhancements.

16 Volunteers involved over 25 days	2000 items of clothing reused
2 part time jobs created	60 Vulnerable mums supported
20 M2 of community space improved	10 wellbeing classes provided
500kg of material recycled	100 new users of the facility



Plastic on our Beaches and in our Seas

The Folkestone Performing Arts Centre wanted to create a site-specific play researched, devised, rehearsed, and performed co-created by 10 local secondary school students promoting wellbeing and a sense of community togetherness.

Their aim was to create a piece of theatre that raises awareness of & action change towards the environmental impact that plastic has on the beaches & seas of Folkestone whilst creating a community event for all ages.

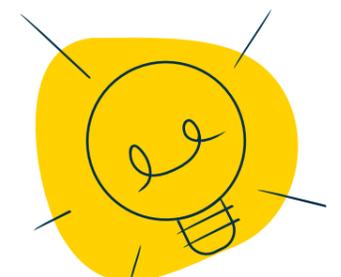
[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

This project had an impact on the arts, culture, and heritage in Folkestone by utilizing its community of artists and beautiful [and under-used] natural spaces.

The project also sought out the naturally beautiful beachfront of Folkestone which suffers from users not properly throwing away or bringing home their rubbish after a day out on the beach. The message of the play was 'Take your rubbish home from the beach so it doesn't get into the water & onto the beach.' The aims of the project were to create work in Folkestone by the locals with a strong environmental message. It is my belief that this was achieved.

14 volunteers involved	2000 kwh of energy saved
1 heritage site improved	3 new part time jobs created
30 hours of volunteering opportunities	26 artworks created
50kg of material recycled	200M2 of green space improved
2 festivals created	12 community events created





Lympne Accessible All Weather 400m Track

Lympne Playing Field and Village Hall wanted to create a public space for the village, to socialise and exercise.

The track provides a safe place for children to ride bikes and play, enables wheelchair users to use the park, and people of all ages to walk and run. 4 laps of the track will mean people have completed their daily mile, and the track will also link the play areas and areas of planting. Benches spaced along the path will provide opportunities for people to meet and talk, and for people with reduced mobility to rest.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)



Overview of Impact

Various volunteering groups have been formed to plant trees, carry out a tree watering program, maintain and repair existing play equipment, install benches, setting out of track, turf cutting and labour-intensive task of shifting over 800m of turfs! Further plans are underway to form community wildlife conservation and gardening groups, plus get a group of youths to lead on designing and laying out our new bike pump track.

100% of backers thought the project brought people together and made the area more attractive.

1000 m2 of habitat conserved	15000m2 of new green space created
4 exhibitions created	2 new sports facilities created
50 days of volunteering opportunities	3 new community groups started
2000 plants planted	945m2 of play facilities created
250,000 KG of material recycled	11 new items of equipment



Tenterden Folk Festival 2021

Tenterden Folk Festival wanted funding to run an inclusive four-day festival of folk song, music, dance, and crafts to bring the community together again

As part of the festival, they offered free community events to ensure that everyone gets a chance to start mixing with the community again, no matter their financial situation.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

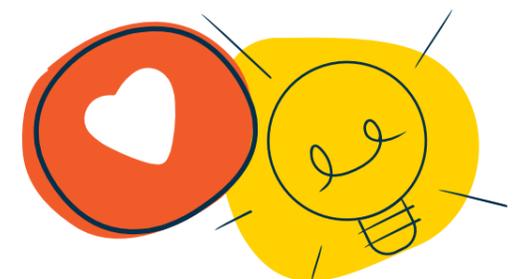
Overview of Impact

The event benefited the local community as every hotel and B&B in Tenterden was fully booked. The campsite was very busy. Cafes, public houses, bars and food outlets did tremendous trade. We had around 40 volunteers over the weekend. Of those and increased number were local and for some were newcomers to Tenterden and it was their first experience of Tenterden Folk Festival.

Singing and dancing are known to be good for both physical and mental health and after all the lockdowns people were excited to be back out singing and dancing.

100% of backers felt the project added more character to the area, helped the local economy and brought people together.

1 festival created	250 hours of volunteering opportunities
£6000 revenue generated	10 classes provided
50 volunteers involved	2 exhibitions created





Gateway to Our Past

Cybosaur Arts wanted to develop 4 virtual spaces that will transport the viewer into a world of unseen Folkestone history; working with schools and local artists to transform the area.

The project wanted to encourage people to leave their homes and participate with arts and culture in their community following the isolation caused by the pandemic.

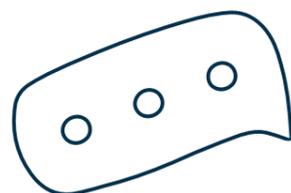
[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

Gateway to Our Past (GTOP) was delivered by four artists in four primary schools to 180 pupils. Artists used a variety of different art forms including dance, visual art, digital art, animation and music. Where applicable sustainable or recyclable materials were used, e.g., in sculpture making. Also, the plaques are made using sustainable materials.

Children explored a range of arts techniques and the work they created in workshops was used to produce a 360° video which is accessed by a QR code in the four sites that inspired the project. Schools valued the opportunity for students to engage with local culture and heritage.

20 Classes provided	24 Artworks created
4 Heritage Sites Improved	4 Community Events created
£10,000 Revenue generated	4 Exhibitions created



Sustainable Public Art for Sunken Garden

Margate NOW & the Sunken Garden Society joined forces to commission innovative, functional, and sustainable public artworks for the Sunken Garden, a unique biodiverse outdoor space in Westbrook.

The project was dedicated to nurturing creativity and nature, providing a unique opportunity for the garden to be better equipped, to integrate art into its ecosystem and create new forms of interaction with visitors and users of the Garden.

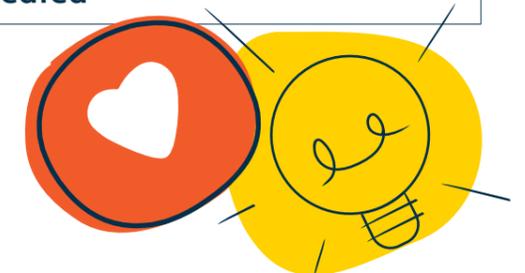
[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

The project has left a legacy of four projects in the Sunken Garden at Westbrook with many of the digital works still accessible online. Many events were held at a local dilapidated hotel of historical importance, helping to revitalise the space and utilise its main areas.

Members of the community, with different abilities and backgrounds were involved in the project and the work of the Sunken Garden helped to promote volunteers to join on task days to benefit the local community.

1 Festival Created	100 Plants Planted
30 Days of Volunteering Opportunities	7000M2 of new green space created
1 Community space saved	20 Volunteers involved
2 Heritage sites improved	15 artworks created
100KG of material recycled	2 Jobs Created



Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival

The Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival (15th-17th Oct 2021) presented a programme of free high-quality puppetry for everyone who lives in Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas.

The event ran throughout the town centre with free events taking place over three main sites, creating a "town trail" for the community to follow and enjoy.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

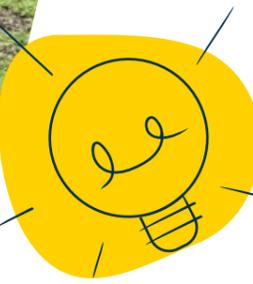
Overview of Impact

The project delivered everything it set out to do, providing 42 performances across 10 venues in Tunbridge Wells, free for the community to attend.

The project promoted the use of outside spaces, ran workshops with charity mental health resources and has created network with local schools for future engagement.

100% of backers think the project helped the local economy, brought people together and made the local area more fun and attractive.

50 Volunteers Involved	6 Classes Provided
1 Festival Created	£8000 revenue generated
1 Exhibition created	10m2 of green space improved
42 Artworks created	3 new part time jobs created



Easy Access for All Donkey Stables

Aspens Charities aimed to fund the relocation of their donkeys to a new all-purpose stable and enclosure, ensuring that the people they support have easy access to them and the opportunity to help care for them.

The Cornford Lane site provides care and support to a number of adults with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs, who in caring for the donkeys, can build trust, confidence and resilience and allows for the development of a better understanding of non-verbal communication.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

The donkeys have now been moved to their new stable and paddocks and are enjoying getting to know their new surroundings. Everyone onsite is now able to visit them and for those who we support who were unable to get to them before can now enjoy visiting to say hello.

The donkeys have a new area to graze, contributing positively to the biodiversity of the area as they eat the coarser more dominant species' that outcompete with the herbs and fine grasses.

All contractors used were local which helped to contribute to the local economy and ensuring easier access to the donkeys means those previously unable to due to mobility issues can now benefit from caring for the animals.

80 hours of volunteering opportunities	2 new items of equipment provided
10 days of volunteering opportunities	100 people involved in project delivery.



Support Your Gap Community Cafe



The Gap Project campaigned in round 1 of Crowdfund Kent and their goal was to raise funds for a café to serve their local community in Thanet.

The dedicated team of volunteers include many with special educational needs and those recovering from addiction and long-term mental health conditions as well as those who have spent long periods out of work and education. The café serves low-cost healthy meals for people of all ages and their community payback scheme as well as other gifts and donations enable them to give free meals and food parcels to people dealing with crisis.

People who are homeless and insecurely housed come in for a meal after the Café is closed two afternoons a week. There is a youth café one evening a week supporting those with mental health issues and those excluded from school. Other groups meeting in the Café include the elderly, many dealing with loneliness and isolation and a well-being group.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

There is a dedicated team of volunteers, including many people with additional needs or long-term conditions.

The cafe has continued to provide many work-experience places for students at school, college, and young people with special needs; to date we have had a total of 12 students attend for work experience and have made ongoing connections with local colleges to continue this work.

Most importantly, the cafe is a hub for people to come and enjoy an affordable meal while meeting and chatting to new people; during the school holidays the project provided free meals to local families. A family café has been set up once a month to offer a free meal and the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts activities.

The café serves its community in a number of ways, from helping the homeless to youth and other specialist groups being able to use the space.

The Café is also used by the volunteers to eat lunch or have refreshments during the course of their work, a place to interact and boost self-esteem and wellbeing. There are many elderly people who use the cafe, and it is an important service to address loneliness and isolation. People often comment on the warmth they feel when they enter the cafe area. It is a very important space and sets the tone for the ethos of the project being warm, inclusive, and open to all.



Volunteer Led Citizens Advice Project

Citizen's Advice in North and West Kent joined the programme with their project to create a volunteer-led service to offer advice to their community in Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Swanley, Dartford and Gravesham to support people in the local area to face the financial impact of COVID-19.

The project would fund their work to provide necessary equipment and recruit and fully train volunteer advisers (ensuring that the volunteers are equipped to work flexibly, which will maximise this valuable resource and ensure volunteer retention.) This would allow them to work in new and innovative ways, providing their clients with a range of channels through which they can seek advice.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

Since hitting our target we are delighted to have recruited, trained, and fully equipped 6 new volunteer Adviceline advisers with portable IT packages. This means we are able to help even more people with whatever problems they face. Since our project was completed, thanks to our generous backers we have been supporting an additional 170 clients per month.

The top issues these clients presented with included benefit claims and debt. The income gained by supporting these additional clients to increase their income and relieve them of debt will potentially be re-invested back into the local economy.

Each portable IT package is set up so that client information is stored safely and securely and allows trained advisers to work flexibly in these uncertain times either from home or from one of our six offices.

Edible All Souls Church and Cheriton



Incredible Edible Cheriton and Broadmead wanted to create beautiful community spaces managed by volunteers that would eventually expand into Folkestone and beyond.

The project aimed to “green up” areas of unused land and add planters to the local streets filled with free food for all local people, and to work with volunteers to add colourful, beautiful edible plants to the gardens at All Souls Church.

The project creators believed that working together in the fresh air would help the community to develop positive mental attitudes, create essential support networks and new friendship groups.

Volunteering opportunities and free healthy food will be offered to all sections of the community, not just those on low incomes; therefore, there is no need to queue for food and therefore no stigma.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

Sensory edible (mostly perennial and self-seeded) beds have been added at the front of All Souls Church, along with a hops bed near the hall, a rhubarb bed at rear of the church, an edible shrub layer under the trees and 3 planters (one chamomile seat, one flower planter and one herb and vegetable planter).

There are 18 planters on the High Street managed by Incredible Edible and another 7 new planters run independently by shops

People stop to thank us when we are planting and weeding for the beautiful gardens and planters. Some people travel from out of area to see our work. Two new coffee shops and a nail bar have opened in the past 3 months, and we have requests for more planters. The butcher said he loves his planter; many people ask him what is growing, and he is now watering the 3 planters closest to his shop. The local church community love the gardens and kindly donate lots of plants and seeds.



We have lots of volunteering opportunities to suit different lifestyles and people. we have a regular group once a week. but other people are able to get involved with just watering & some guerrilla garden the site (adding some stunning plants).

We were asked to participate in the Jubilee Flower Festival at All Souls Church and helped the All-Souls brownie unit plant a rose bush in All Souls Church gardens to mark 100 years of the brownies.

The All-Souls Church gardens in particular are really well used now. We have created a beautiful safe place for people to chill out. The gardens are very well used now, compared to 3 years ago when the area was full of litter and looked unloved.



44 items of new equipment provided	1500 plants planted
5051 kg of material recycled	1655 m2 of green space improved
1654 of community space improved	198 m2 of habitat improved
£800 of revenue generated	10 days of volunteering opportunities

Margate Mushrooms



Mi Foodbank wanted to empower house-bound clients to establish home-based micro-businesses through sustainably produced gourmet mushroom products in the safety of their own home kitchens. This will enable people to earn money, develop new skills and have pride and satisfaction in their own home-grown products being sold in their local area.

Mushrooms are a high-value, nutritious, sought-after crop, which can be eaten fresh or preserved. Their funding would enable them to establish a mushroom farm in shipping containers, which can produce crops in 5 weeks, all year round. Harvests would then be given to home-based micro-businesses for processing, for sale in farm & vegetable shops in Kent - which in turn improves local food security and reduces carbon footprint.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

Phase One created three part time jobs, employed local tradespeople, and brought in a volunteer to help design parts of the farm.

Our product designer, who is house-bound due to ill health, says it changed her life to be able to work from home! Phase Two will create more home working opportunities for more people who are house bound for whatever reason.

We are now producing fresh mushrooms sell within a 4-6-mile radius of the farm and are also producing spent substrate that is going into compost for the wheat farm on which we are based. We will soon be producing 40kg a week in s 16 x 20ft space!

30 m2 of food growing space created	120 hours of training provided
3 jobs created	1 business started



Fire Safety at Supported Accommodation

Rising Sun Domestic Violence and Abuse Service participated in Crowdfund Kent to raise funds for fire door retainers to ensure the safety of residents of their supported accommodation.

The young women who stay at the centre are pregnant, with no family support, and a history of domestic abuse. Their chaotic family situations result in homelessness and increased vulnerability to abuse. Once homeless, young women also face risk of school/societal disengagement, mental health issues, and drug/alcohol misuse. Early intervention is key to breaking this cycle.

Installing door retainers will improve the safety of the women during their stay, holding doors in the open position and releasing the door in the case of a fire. This would stop the spread of a fire and reassure the women that they are in a safe environment, secure from abuse whilst Rising Sun help them develop the skills, they need to lead independent lives and find long term homes for themselves and their children.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

As well as a place of residence, the supported accommodation is used for educational workshops and individual support sessions for young women from Canterbury and the surrounding areas.

A key part of their work is helping domestic abuse survivors to understand the tactics and effects of domestic abuse, leaving abusive relationships, and identifying early warning signs. Staff help the young women living in the house with CV writing, job applications and university applications; breaking the cycle of homelessness and abuse and helping women to live independently.

On successfully completing their crowdfunding campaign, the fire door retainers have been installed and safety of the house and its residents have been improved in the event of a fire.

Charings Community Alderbed Wood Crisis

The Charing Alderbed Committee were raising funds after an area of ancient woodland in the community was sadly threatened by extensive ash die back disease.

The woodland is home to many rare species of birds, animals and plants and is normally accessible to the local community who enjoy the wildlife, nature, and peace of this special place.

By participating in Crowdfund Kent, the Alderbed Committee could raise funds to replant 105 native English trees, protect them from damage by small mammals, maintain the wood floor and reinstall fencing and boardwalks so the woodland could be reopened to the public.

[Full Delivery Report Here](#)

Overview of Impact

105 Oak, Alder and Maple trees were planted by hand in during this last winter. Boundary fencing was reinstated, and the walkways checked and repaired for serviceability. The woodland is now re-opened for the public to enjoy. The Alderbed team are continuing to monitor the health of the new trees and manage the re-establishment of the delicate ecology.

The existing team and professional contractors were ably assisted by many local volunteers in the re-planting and wider fundraising activities. As a result, the Alderbed friends have acquired several new members.

A fundraising concert of choral and instrumental music was held in the local church given by a group of local musicians, run by a professional musician from the village, which was a well-supported cultural event as well as raising funds for the project.

The Alderbed wood is a popular destination for walkers so a great local asset to promote physical fitness but also a quiet peaceful place with space and benches for reflection promoting mental wellbeing, birdwatching and appreciation of nature. Its restoration and re-opening to the public was therefore important for health and leisure.

105 trees planted

10,117 m2 of habitat conserved



CROWDFUND KENT

Future of Crowdfund Kent

As the two-year pilot comes to an end, Kent County Council are now considering future investment against the Civil Society Strategy and in line with our commitments laid out in the Councils 3 Year strategy "Framing Kent's Future".

We are currently investigating additional funding streams and continuing conversations with both statutory and other sector partners as we hope to continue the success of the programme.