



NEW RECYCLING SCHEME A SUCCESS

The new recycling freighter at Dalby Square with: Cllr Doug Clark, Ward Councillor for Cliftonville West and an SSCF Board Member; Cllr Shirley Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Commercial and Environment Services; Jenny Cranstone, Dalby Square resident and Street Monitor; and Steve Swann, Refuse Supervisor

Since the launch of a new recycling scheme in Margate and Cliftonville West over 50 tonnes of recyclable material has been collected.

for household waste. Clear blue recycling bags and information packs were delivered a week before the start of the scheme and many residents had changes in collection days. The next delivery of recycling sacks will be the week beginning 5 May.

The Safer Stronger Community Fund is working in partnership with Thanet District Council to provide the new service, which includes the purchase of a new collection freighter and free recycling bags.

Fiona Jarrett, Education Officer for Waste and Recycling, said "We are delighted with this positive response from residents who are clearly very keen to do their bit for the environment. We collected over 50 tonnes of material for recycling in the first couple of days which is a real achievement. I would like to thank all residents who are making this scheme a success."

Residents now have two collections a week, one for paper, card, tins, cans and plastic bottles for recycling and another



If you would like a copy of this document in an alternative format (e.g. Braille or large print) and/or in another language please call 01843 577165

Margate Renewal Partnership

For more information on the Margate Renewal Partnership contact Derek Harding on 01843 609337 or email derek.harding@thanet.gov.uk

Safer Stronger Communities Fund

For more information about the SSCF Programme please contact the SSCF Team on 01843 577534. Alternatively you can email sscf@thanet.gov.uk or visit www.thanet.gov.uk/sscf

Renewal Area

If you live in the Renewal Area and are interested in applying for a grant please contact the Renewal Officer on 01843 577748 or email housingrenewalarea@thanet.gov.uk or visit www.thanet.gov.uk/renewalarea

Empty Properties & Home Improvement Team

For more information telephone Home Improvement on 01843 577406, Empty Properties on 01843 577408 or email housing.conditions@thanet.gov.uk

Margate



Newsletter

Published by Margate Renewal, Safer Stronger Communities Fund and Thanet District Council's Housing Renewal Programme



MARGATE RENEWAL page 3
Shell ladies adorn the town

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND page 5
More projects in your area

HOUSING RENEWAL page 9
Results from feedback on consultation

RECYCLING page 15
New scheme a success



Turner Plans Approved

PLANNING FOR THE TURNER CONTEMPORARY GALLERY HAS TAKEN A STEP FORWARD AS PLANNING PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Kent County Council will now look to appoint a contractor as work is expected to start on site in autumn 2008 ahead of the gallery opening in 2010.

The gallery, designed by 2007 RIBA Stirling Prize winner David Chipperfield Architects, will be one of the largest of its kind in the South East. The design, which was influenced by the unique site and quality of light that inspired artist JMW Turner, will include six interconnecting spaces including exhibition galleries as well as an education space, cafe and shop.

The ground floor gallery will have spectacular views out to sea, and adjacent there will be a multifunctional space in which talks, screenings and other events will take place. The two-storey building will be clad in white opaque glass and this will reflect the light and enable it to withstand harsh coastal conditions.

The successful operation of the gallery plays a key role in the regeneration of Margate's eastern seafront and in generating success in the increasingly vibrant Old Town. It is also central to the growth of the town's cultural quarter.

TURNER UNVEILS NEW PROJECT SPACE IN MARGATE HIGH STREET

The first exhibition in Turner Contemporary's new Project Space, 'Nature is a Workshop', is a selection of contemporary artworks selected from the prestigious Arts Council Collection. This is the first exhibition in the build up to the opening of the new gallery in 2010. The exhibition, also in Droit House on the Stone Pier, features works made over the past thirty years by some of the UK's leading artists in a range of media including sculpture, installation, photography and sound.

Visit www.turnercontemporary.org or call 01843 294208 for information on all events and projects.

Thursday 28 February-Sunday 1 June

Turner Contemporary Project Space, 53-57 High Street Margate

Droit House, Stone Pier, Margate

Tuesday-Sunday 10.00-17.00, Admission free

FORT HILL WORK TO START IN APRIL

Work to transform Fort Hill back into a single carriageway will begin in April 2008 and is part of the plan to transform the 'eastern seafront' and to reconnect the road with the Old Town. The work due to be carried out by Kent Highway Services will improve pedestrian access to the gallery site, the stone pier and the rest of the Rendezvous site.

The area around the entrance to the Rendezvous site will be landscaped using high quality materials for the kerbing and footways.

Work underway on the on the Harbour Arm

Work is underway on a major new project to bring Margate's historic Harbour Arm back into use.

Thanet District Council has granted a lease to Pineapple Property (Kent) Ltd who will be refurbishing the existing stores for a variety of uses, with over half the space dedicated to Isle of Thanet Arts (IOTA) and the rest for retail and restaurants. Two will be retained for use by fishermen to enable Margate to continue to be a working harbour. Work due to be completed by the summer is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Pineapple, East Kent Partnership and Thanet District Council.



DREAMLAND PLANS a step forward

The redevelopment of one of Margate's key sites has moved forward with the approval of the Dreamland Planning Brief by Thanet District Council.

The brief sets out guidance to developers as to what the Council would expect in any further planning applications for the site. It suggests a mixed scheme, with the majority of the site including the listed Dreamland building and Scenic Railway, to be kept as part of an amusement based destination. Local people were asked for their views on the planning guidance in autumn 2007.

Negotiations have recently commenced with the landowners who aim to submit a planning application for the site by the end of the year.



Events

MAY

2-11 Margate Rocks
Margate Contemporary Arts festival
Visit www.margaterocks.com for information on future events

4-10 Thanet Walking Festival
The 6th year of the festival
Visit www.thanetwalkingfestival.co.uk
Contact: Colin Bridge for further information

26 Margate Meltdown
Ace Café London brings this new event to Margate. A celebration of the motorcycle culture of Margate with shows, music, stunt riding, exhibitions and stalls.
Contact: 01732 362845

JUNE

1 Great Bucket and Spade Run
Historic vehicle run in its 27th year.
Contact: 01843 298969 for further information

14-15 Margate's Big Event
A winning combination of land based festival and air display including live music, food and drink village, and much more.
Contact: 01843 577167 or 577638

22 Raft Race
3pm Margate main sands.
Margate Carnival Association: Tel. 01843 293733

JULY

25-5 Margate Open Bowls
Aug Tournament – Margate Indoor Bowls Centre
Contact: 01843 227083

25-27 Big Sky Jazz Festival
Margate Piazza provides the stage while the setting sun provides the backdrop.
Contact: Margate Town Partnership on 01843 297350

26 Thanet Pride Festival
Marine Drive & Marine Gardens

27-29 Beach Volleyball Competition
The return of this fun and exciting event. Not just a chance to be a spectator but also to take part.
Contact: Martyn Cassell 01843 577367

She sculpts sea shells ON THE SEA SHORE



International artist Ann Carrington was chosen to 'brand' the Old Town and create a cultural trail through the area, aimed at drawing visitors and local people to Margate's attractions.

Ann's project of Shell Ladies was selected by a panel of judges along with overwhelming support from the general public which was presented by the feedback sheets at the exhibition stand.

The competition was advertised nationally and the shortlisted artists presented their concepts with a week-long exhibition in Margate's library and a further two weeks in Margate's Media Centre.

The project has made excellent progress since the commission was announced in November 2007, and developments to the original plans include a change of material, from beaten copper to cast bronze that will be used to sculpt the 10ft Shell Lady. The model will be positioned on the Harbour Arm for a 12 month trial to gain maximum exposure for visitors to the town.

Workshops were held during the half-term break in February involving local children who helped Ann make the 12 shell 'ladies-in-waiting', using shells purchased from a renewable source.

The 12 'ladies-in-waiting' made their debut appearance on the Easter weekend, as part of an Easter Egg Hunt cultural trail through the Old Town. Over 160 families participated in finding the ladies and claiming their chocolate prizes.

Ann Carrington is thrilled at making this art work for Margate: 'Construction has begun on the bronze Shell Lady sculpture and will be cast by Meltdown Foundry in due course. I am very excited by the prospect of the bronze lady being situated at the end of the Harbour Arm looking out to sea.'

The shell ladies are already generating considerable press and media attention and a video diary is currently being filmed by Kent TV which will show the everyday workings of the studio throughout this project.

Visit www.theshelllady.co.uk for more information on the project and details of workshops for children and older residents.



SITE AND BUILDINGS OPPORTUNITIES FUND PROJECT UNDERWAY

Five key buildings in Margate's Old Town have received European funding to help develop the area and make it a focal point for arts-based businesses.



1. The Old Pie Factory on Broad Street will be an example of converting a formerly industrial building into contemporary space for use by the creative industries. It will accommodate a mix of workshops and a gallery/performance area.

2. 16 Marine Drive and 42 High Street will be transformed into 10 studios with adjoining galleries, drawing trade from the lower end of the High Street, as well as taking advantage of the spectacular views of the seafront from Marine Drive.

3. The ground floor of the Community Pharmacy Gallery at 16 Market Place will be completed to a high standard to enable its use all year round as a gallery, arts workspace and film screening venue.

4. The former Old Cabin Antiques shop at 15 Market Place is soon to become a high level photographic studio, with top quality facilities including a gallery to showcase examples of work, with a studio to the rear, as well as a presentation area in the basement.

5. Finally, the Isle of Thanet Arts Organisation (IOTA) will be opening galleries and studios on the newly-refurbished sheds on the Harbour Arm, which are scheduled for completion at the end of May.

Artists who are interested in renting space in the Old Town area of Margate should contact Claire Tarelli at the Margate Renewal Partnership office on 01843 609339.

OLD TOWN CCTV AND LIGHTING SCHEME

The streets are now lighter and brighter in Margate's Old Town, thanks to new lights being installed. Several new restaurants and bars have opened in the last few months and the new lights offer a friendlier and safer

atmosphere for visitors to enjoy. The scheme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Safer Stronger Communities Fund, has refurbished existing lights as well as installing new ones.

CCTV cameras will also be installed in and around the Old Town to ensure the safety of people visiting the amenities in the area.

Safer Stronger Communities Fund

What is the SSCF funding?

Since its launch in April 2006, the Safer Stronger Communities Fund has already funded 72 different projects run by clubs, groups and individual residents from Margate Central and Cliftonville West. Projects by public sector organisations have also been funded.

The overall aim of the fund is to improve the quality of life for residents who live in these two wards, making it safer, cleaner and greener whilst building a greater sense of community pride.

Future funding has been approved

Great news! Government has advised that the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) will receive the next two years' funding and £700,000 has been allocated to the wards of Cliftonville West and Margate Central areas.

The SSCF Programme will not be funding any further project applications at this stage. Instead, the funding for the next two years will be allocated using a different approach as the SSCF Programme Board will be commissioning organisations to deliver various services to meet the needs of our community. These services are expected to be operational in Spring 2008 to ensure that the community get maximum benefit for the two-year period and we will bring you a further update in our next newsletter.

Community projects update

Gordon Road Blooms

The SSCF fund paid £1000 towards the cost of new shrubs, trees and flowering plants, which have transformed a public garden area in Gordon Road, Cliftonville.

The Gordon Road Area Street Scheme and volunteers spent a weekend in November 2007 planting the shrubs to create a community garden that all residents can enjoy.

Art Project a Permanent Feature

Last Summer's Sea Art 2007 Programme gave local people the opportunity to get involved in creating some fantastic pieces of art, inspired by our beautiful coastline.

Over 20 art workshops were provided free of charge to the community with support from the SSCF fund. The workshops formed part of the most successful art project undertaken by the Thanet Coast Project and involved local artists and community members.

One of the pieces of work created at the Sea Art workshops is now on permanent display at the entrance to Margate Train Station for everyone to admire. For more information on the Thanet Coast Project's upcoming events see www.thanetcoast.org.uk or ring 01843 577672.



Art Project



Gordon Road Gardens

DANE PARK & GREEN FAYRE

Great improvements have recently been made to Dane Park and new street lights have been installed making the park much safer and better lit for everyone who wants to use it.

Additional seating has been installed for park users who want to sit down and enjoy the park. The play area is being revamped and a Multi-use Games Area, toilet facilities and kiosk are being installed.

Thanet District Council and Margate Civic Society are also hard at work trying to gain Green Flag status for the park.

An official launch of the new facilities will be taking place in May at the Green Fayre, Dane Park. Come along and see the UK's first national touring solar-powered circus and make use of the new facilities.

Admission is free and schools have booked to come along on Friday 16 May from 9.30am-3.00pm and the public are invited on Saturday 17 May from 10.00am-4.00pm.

St Paul's Community Centre

St. Paul's Community Centre, Cliftonville, has been transformed. Completed in February 2008, the Community Centre has seen major improvements which include a new heating system and the redecoration of the hall and reception foyer storage facilities expanded.

Access to the Centre has been greatly improved as a ramp and handrail have been fitted and a disabled toilet with washing facilities is now available. Hall users can also make use of the kitchenette which has a hatch through to the hall and is ideal for functions and events. The Centre hosts group meetings, functions, workshops and advice sessions and is available for holding events. To find out more about the Centre or to book call 01843 221290.

St John's Community Centre

St John's Community Centre has been modernised and offers an improved meeting place and function venue in Margate Central, a few minutes walk from Margate's town centre. The toilets have been completely refurbished and now include separate male, female and disabled access toilets. The heating system has been upgraded and the area to the rear of the Centre has been paved and cleared of rubbish and debris. CCTV has also been installed in the churchyard to provide added security for those who wish to use the facilities or use it as a walkthrough.

The Centre hosts many activities and has space for more. For more information call 01843 224957.



St Paul's Community Centre



St John's Community Centre

More projects approved since last newsletter

Since October 2007 an additional 25 projects have received funding from SSCF fund bringing the total number of funded projects to 72. These most recent projects are:



Cliftonville Resident's Association has received funding for additional seating and gazebos to use with the Cliftonville Farmer's Market and summer concerts.

First Margate Scout's have used funding to erect a metal fence around the scout hut in Durban Road, Margate. This will improve security and enable more outside activities to take place safely.

Over the Christmas period funding was used to "Hail a Hackney", which provided evening transport home from Margate town centre and seafront. Kent Police ran this pilot scheme which successfully decreased anti-social behaviour over this period.

The Grotto Hill Area Street Scheme has used SSCF funding to clear and tarmac their alleyway, making it cleaner and safer for all residents.

Full Throttle UK has received funding to run 'The Motorcycle Youth Project' to promote safe, legal and responsible motorcycling and to encourage interest in further education through achieving NVQ qualifications linked to the project.

Pie Factory Music has received funding for a mobile van with music making/recording facilities to increase the opportunities of local young people to learn music making skills. For more information visit www.piefactorymusic.com

Margate Town Partnership is brightening up shop fronts in Margate with their 'Window on the Future' project. The funding has been used to produce artwork to transform empty and boarded-up shops to create a more attractive shopping area.



Funding has been used to produce a 'Margate Community Activities', leaflet which will inform residents about activities such as parent and toddler groups taking place in Church Halls in Margate. Copies will be available in the Thanet's Gateway Plus or can be requested by calling 01843 577534.



SSCF has funded the 'Generate' project with Turner Contemporary to provide a series of workshops for parents and children in the area to make artwork together.

The Cliftonville Partnership received funding for a dedicated Community Development Support

Worker. The new worker is the first point of contact for businesses in Northdown Road, as well as supporting the community to make improvements to the area such as the Northdown Road lighting project.

Dane Hill Area Action Group cleared and gated the alleyway between Booth Place and Dane Hill Row to deter the dumping of rubbish and to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area.



SSCF funding has contributed to the refurbishment of the Community Pharmacy Gallery in Margate's Old Town to create a community place where events, workshops and training can take place.

East Kent Mencap has installed a training kitchen in their day centre in Northdown Road. The centre is available for adults with learning disabilities and will be used to learn living skills such as cooking, hygiene and healthy eating.

Cliftonville Bowling Club received funding to run their 'Community and Family in2 Bowling' project enabling residents to learn to bowl for free on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Indoor Bowls Centre in Cliftonville. Call 01843 227083 for more details.

Margate Cricket Club used funding to run winter indoor cricket sessions for primary and secondary school children at Hartsdown Technology College.



The Windmill Community Allotment Project has installed an Education and Activity Centre so they can run courses and workshops to promote healthy eating and living for the community. For more information contact Jules on 07919 491791 or email jules@surestartmargate.plus.com.

Thanet District Council's Environmental Action Programme will be delivering 'Safer Streets for Cliftonville West' by improving the levels of lighting in sixteen of the darkest streets by upgrading the existing lighting and adding additional columns.

Sport 4NRG are running a ten pin-bowling league in Cliftonville West for young people aged between 12-17. The project will run for a 3-month period and aims to create a stronger community base with youngsters. For more information on Sport 4 NRG activities call James Gregory on 01843 577728.

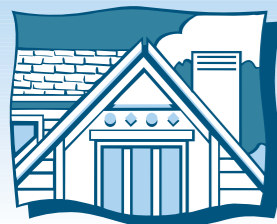


Margate's Theatre Royal has installed new lighting and staging for community outreach work. The Theatre was purchased in 2007 with funding from the SSCF Programme and the Margate Theatre Royal Trust has re-leased the building. For more information call Will Wollen on 01843 293397 or to book tickets call 01227 787787.

The Quarterdeck Youth Centre in Cliftonville has received SSCF funding for an outdoor Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), extra seating and improvements to the front of the building and indoor meeting area.

The Dalby Square Project has received funding to start a Gardening Club for the benefit of residents in the area. There will be regular gardening days in the square to increase community spirit and integration.

Friends in Pain are running a publicity campaign on local radio to raise awareness of the group and the activities on offer. This project will be a vital link to help many chronic pain sufferers in the SSCF area. To find out more call Richard on 01843 229262 or Bob on 01843 584593 or email friendsinpain@btinternet.com



Housing Renewal Programme

Renewal Area Declaration



Further phases of the Council's Renewal Programme were formally declared this year on January 21 and now cover Margate Central which includes Margate Town Centre and the Old Town, Grotto Hill, Poets Corner and an additional area of Cliftonville West, which is to the east of Wilderness Hill, up to and including Madeira Road.

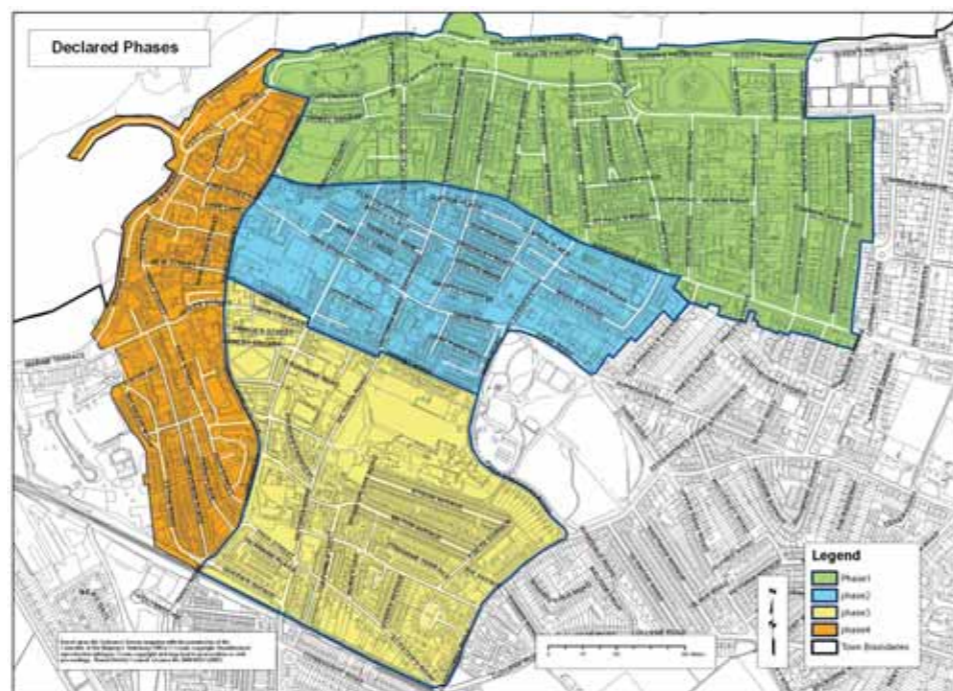
This decision was made after Renewal Officers consulted with local residents at three Open Days in October last year at the Margate Media Centre, Holy Trinity and St. John's CE Primary School and St. Paul's Community Centre, where around 250 people attended to give their views.

The table below provides feedback on the ideas suggested at these consultation events.

LOCAL PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES

Feedback of local people's ideas from the Cliftonville West & Margate Central public consultation days held in October 2007

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More CCTV • More Community Police and Community Wardens • More Police patrols (including at night) • Wider publicity to name and shame offenders • Remove graffiti • Tackle vandalism and other anti-social behaviour • Signs/publicity to deter offenders <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubbish – action to be taken against property owners for dumping rubbish • Improve street cleanliness • Fit railings around war memorial • Improve/increase street lighting • More street cleaners • More dog bins & waste bins • More information on recycling • Plant more trees and make areas greener • More public toilets • Paint street furniture on sea-front <p>Physical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alley-gating • New development to be more in keeping with rest of area • More restriction on developers (i.e. types of buildings) • Less emergency and temporary housing • No more HMOs • No more flat conversions • Reduce number of boarded up properties • Rename roads which include 'Grotto' • Removal of gas depot at Grotto Hill | <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More activities and facilities for the disabled • Encourage fund-raising ideas to support the local community • Make absentee landlords more responsible for bad tenants • Increase funding/grants for deprived areas • Reduce number of public houses/encourage tea rooms <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce cars/traffic • Traffic calming measures • Improve residents' parking facilities • Create more car parks • Free parking/allocated spaces for residents to park • Reduce speed limits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage cycling and provide bicycle parking • Repairs to roads and pavements (too many potholes) • Improve public transport (night-time) <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe play areas for children on green spaces • Create indoor and outdoor activities for children <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Business Rates for the Town Centre and Northdown Road, and grants for commercial properties to encourage new business to the area • Stop motor mechanics working in road/outside houses • Supply a list of approved builders |
|--|---|---|



RENEWAL AREA GRANTS



Since the launch of the Renewal Area in 2005, over 220 Renewal Grants have been given out to property owners in the Cliftonville west area. This has made a positive visual impact on the area. Grants of up to £2000 are being offered to enable property owners to

improve the exterior of their properties, and for environmental projects relating to housing and street scene, with a focus on the ideas raised by local residents during consultation.

Northdown Road Lights Brighten the High Street

A new lighting scheme installed in Northdown Road has successfully enhanced the shopping area and improved security.

This was a joint scheme between the Renewal Team, SSCF and Cliftonville Partnership. A survey of all businesses in Northdown Road was carried out and the results of the survey showed that the highest priority for local businesses was for decorative lighting in Northdown Road.

Work has now been completed and the lights can be enjoyed by the local community, shoppers and visitors to the area.





RENEWAL AREA GRANTS

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get a Renewal Grant application pack from?

Application packs are available from the Renewal Team, either by phoning Dave Farmer, Renewal Area Officer on 01843 577407 or Lesley Dalton, Project Support Officer on 01843 577748, by emailing your details to housingrenewalarea@thanet.gov.uk or downloading a copy online from www.thanet.gov.uk/renewalarea

I do not own my property, can I still apply?

The Renewal Grants are available to any freeholder and are not means tested. Any tenant or leaseholder living in a property that is in need of repair should contact their freeholder, management company, or landlord and advise them about the availability of the grant. Where a property includes a freeholder and leaseholders all parties must consent to the works being requested.

What works are included?

The Renewal Grants are being offered to improve housing and environmental issues within the declared Renewal Area in Margate Central and Cliftonville West. With this in mind the Renewal Team will focus on works that will improve the overall appearance of your property and the local street



Gordon Road, before and after



scene. This includes external decorations, window and door repairs, minor roof repairs and guttering works, repairs to paths and driveways and renovating front boundary walls, fences and gardens. The Renewal Grants are discretionary and other improvements that might be considered are crime prevention and security measures. Repairs to the rear of the property will only be considered if the front exterior of the property is of a decent standard.

What documents do I need to provide 'proof of ownership'?

The most common form of identification is a photocopy of the first page of your title deeds that includes the title number, all owners' names and the address of the property. If your deeds are still with your Building Society they may provide you with a copy free of charge, alternatively proof of ownership can be supplied by Land Registry online www.landregisteronline.gov.uk. There is currently a charge of £3.00 to access these documents online.

Can I have double glazed windows?

Properties will be inspected if an applicant is applying for double glazing for windows and/or doors, as these will only be considered if the existing windows/doors are beyond economical repair. Any replacement of UPVC windows and doors will not be granted if the building is Listed or in a Conservation Area.



Before and after

Do I need Building Regulation approval?

If Listed Building Consent or Planning Consent are required, the owner is responsible for applying for this consent and gaining approval before any grant application can be approved. For example if you are considering double glazing the contractor or persons fitting the windows/doors must be FENSA registered otherwise a Building Regulation Application needs to be approved. For more information about building regulations, please contact Building Services on 01843 577502.

Can you recommend anyone to carry out my works?

Thanet Council is not permitted for legal reasons to recommend any contractor. If you are having difficulties finding a contractor to provide an estimate, the Council now has a list of contractors that have previously completed two or more grant funded works in the Renewal Area. This list is not a recommendation list and we advise that you treat these contractors the same as any contractor and request samples of work previously carried out. The contract of works is between yourself and the contractor you choose. Thanet Council is not liable if you choose a contractor from the list provided.



Before and after

CLEAN GARDENS

Any property with overgrown gardens or visible bulky rubbish will be asked to remove this before a grant is approved and paid out.

For more information on bulk rubbish collections contact Thanet District Council on 01843 577115.

STAFF PROCEDURES

Any Renewal Grant applicant who is either an employee or Member or relative (defined as parent, children, siblings, spouse and partners) of an employee or Member must follow the code of practice for staff. For more information contact Financial Services on 01843 577790.

What colour can I paint my property?

If you live in a listed building and would like to change from the existing colours, you will need to apply for Listed Building Consent and receive approval before your grant can be approved; likewise, if you live in the Margate Conservation Area you will need to follow the guidelines set down by the Conservation Department. For more information contact 01843 577141.

For all other properties, your chosen colour scheme should blend in with your neighbouring properties, i.e. natural colours like beige or cream and contrasting colours for the woodwork. For more prominent colours especially where there is a change of colour, you will be required to attach a sample of the paint colour(s) to your estimates and/or notify the Renewal Area Team who can advise you accordingly.

How long will approval take?

Once an application is received the Renewal Team are required to carry out a property inspection and financial check of all applicants and contractors. This can take up to 28 days. Thanet Council will not provide funding to any persons or organisations owing money to the Council. No works should be started on the grant works until written approval is received.

EYESORE FINALLY TO BE TRANSFORMED

Work is finally underway to transform a beautiful group of empty buildings in Cliftonville, after intervention from Thanet District Council.

The property at 12-15 Cliff Terrace had fallen into disrepair and was deemed an eyesore for over a decade, but renovation and conversion work is due to be completed in June 2008.

It was agreed by Cabinet Members in July 2006 that the property would be compulsory purchased using funding from the "No Use Empty" campaign, a joint initiative between Thanet District Council and Kent County Council aimed at bringing empty properties back into use.

The owner was informed of the decision but was also offered an alternative course of action. This would be for the



Council to assist in a voluntary sale to transfer the ownership to a developer who would undertake the necessary refurbishment and conversion works.

This offer was accepted and the sale to a local developer culminated in planning consent being granted in 2007 to convert the buildings into residential accommodation.

Cllr. Zita Wiltshire, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "It's wonderful to see work finally underway on this landmark property. We're delighted that the complex issues surrounding the transfer and development of the site have now finally been resolved and work has begun to bring this fine group of buildings back into use. We look forward to seeing them being transformed from an eyesore into a real asset for the whole area."



Working to Make Margate a Beautiful Place to Live, Work & Visit

Interest-free loan for empty properties

If you have a property that has been empty for more than six months you may be entitled to apply for an interest-free loan.

The scheme has been developed after Thanet District Council entered an agreement in 2005 with Kent County Council to develop an empty property initiative, and the 'No use Empty' campaign was launched after the East Kent coastal districts of Swale, Shepway and Dover completed the partnership.

The initiative complemented Thanet District Council's own strategy and enabled the opportunity to develop expertise in dealing with empty property issues. This expertise now extends to the use of legislation under the Planning Act, Building Act and Housing Act giving officers a wide range of powers that are available if negotiations have failed.

Thanet District Council is now offering empty property owners the chance to apply for an interest-free loan to assist with refurbishment. The property will be required to be let out or sold once refurbishment has been completed.

If you want to find out more about the scheme and whether you qualify to apply call Mike Thompson, Empty Property Officer 01843 577408 or e-mail housing.conditions@thanet.gov.uk

East Kent District Council is awarded £16m over next 3 years!

Thanet's Housing Improvement Team led a successful bid on behalf of the East Kent District Councils which include Thanet, Dover, Canterbury, Swale and Shepway, in attracting £16m from the Regional Housing Board for private sector home improvements over the next 3 years.

This equates to approximately £3m being given to Thanet to tackle fuel poverty and non-decent homes in the private sector.

The details of the schemes being drawn up to deliver these measures are being finalised. It is believed that schemes will focus on interest-free loans for both home owners and landlords, and will be targeted to those areas in greater need. Conditions relating to the repayment of loans will vary depending on the ownership of the properties. Grants may be available in certain circumstances to owner occupiers to tackle fuel poverty.

Look out for the next issue of this newsletter which will have further details on these schemes.

For more information on Home Improvement grants and loans telephone 01843 577406 or email housing.conditions@thanet.gov.uk

