

Coastal Explorers & The Coastal Defence

- £23 million secured through the Environment Agency to replace hard sea defences at Fairhaven, Church Scar and Granny's Bay
- Work began on site in January 2018
- Completion on site summer 2020
- A conversation began with the Arts Council England in 2016 and a research grant of £15,000 was secured in 2017 to explore opportunities for a public art intervention to complement the coastal defence scheme
- Arts Council England and Big Lottery encouraged the development of a second phase project



Fairhaven & Church Scar



Coastal Explorers to date...

- In 2017 Fylde Council commissioned Arts Council National Portfolio Holder, Art Gene to consider ways to better facilitate people's understanding and experience of the coastline
- A programme of 9 targeted events took place over a period between July and October 2017 engaging over 1,800 participants and live audience members and over 330,000 online and broadcast viewers and listeners
- This initial research & development project entitled 'Coastal Explorers' was successful in its aim to engage the community in contemporary art practice through dialogue and to push the boundaries of art & design and its role in place making

Through the 'Coastal Explorers' consultation, Art Gene built a picture of Lytham & St Annes



Piers - Airshows - Lytham Hall - Sand Dunes - Sea Planes - Paddle Steamers - Cookson's Exhibition Bakery - Shrimping - Sun Shelter - SSSI - Morecambe Bay Prawners - Pintails - White Church - Shingle Roads - Bandstand - Boating Lake - Levelled Beaches - Cycle Routes - Farming - the African Queen - Dune Helleborine - Fountains - Coastal Paths - Lighthouse & Lifeboats - Bats - Eating Lobster on Saturday - Fairhaven Lake - Common Oven - Swimming pool - Beach Huts - Tank Traps - Outdoor bathing drinking seawater - Lytham Hall - Bricks and Clay - Windmill - Marshes - the Setantii - Eels and ladders - and villages lost to the sea

GONDOLA CONCEPTS THE BUILT



3 MOBILE GONDOLAS - Viewing Spaces Wheeled multifunctional structures which animate the coastline - used separately or together for a range of events and activities catering to the needs of local people and visitors. The structures can be used to test a range of activities or functions on different sites, for example:

- Small retail** - promoting the development and use of a range of locally distinctive bespoke foods, drinks, ecological beach goods and interpretive materials
- Interpretation and Social History** - Feature future focussed engaging interpretive materials - the mobile structures could house historic photos and videos about the area, with a moving exhibition of local history, the natural environment, the Ribble Estuary, wildlife, birds the promenade and on the beach or within the Biological Heritage Site.
- Natural History** - Gondolas could be used as bird hides, or a mobile base for beach cleaners or study groups. The structures will be able to go down onto the beach as needed (towed by a tractor) for rock pooling or marine study events and will generate their own power with wind turbines and solar panels.

6 STATIONS Ramped platforms made from ecologically sourced hardwood with native planting and interpretation around - the stations will act as gathering, event or viewing area. Each station has its own power supply. They can be used for events with or without the mobile spaces being present. Friends groups could be established to take ownership of each of the 6 stations and be consulted on developing a focus, events, planting and interpretive schemes relevant to each site.

1 COMMUNITY GONDOLA Able to host small groups of up to 20 people - It has a charging point for electric bicycles and mobility scooters - an accessible composting toilet - serves good coffee and cake and has amazing views of the estuary. A regular programme of themed events could be organised - An activities base for groups - and a self-directed social activity gathering space. The space promotes health and well-being through a connection to landscape, culture and local heritage.

THE NATURAL

A ROCK POOLING AREA (fish nursery /artificial reef) Fully accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooter users - an immersive experiential space for all ages - intergenerational learning, health and well-being

LIVING WALL

We propose creating a pattern of sockets or ridges in the concrete of the new wall to accept native coastal wild flowers and grasses - softening the structure's steps and ramps and mediating the transition between land and sea. Suggested plants include Yellow horned poppy - Sea campion - and edibles such as Samphire, Sea kale and Sea purslane. Grasses would include Marum and Spartina - we may also label the plants by impressing words and highlight key historic sites along this stretch of coastline which would be further explored with the development of a mobile phone app. (See interpretation)

These works should add to a wider dune and coastal habitat improvement effort along the coastline and within the designated Biological Heritage Site and be linked to the proposed eel ladder biodiversity project linking Fairhaven lake to the sea.

PLANTING WITH EVERYTHING

Everything we build should consider habitat improvement as integral. Native wildflowers grasses and edibles. Anything from turf roofs and walls to bug hotel benches and grasscrete style pavements



Mobile Gondola from above.



- **Sightlines & Shorelines - Phase 2 'Test'** will identify concept user audiences and engage them in the use of a test 'space'. Through the development and delivery of themed activity programmes and partnership working, audiences will connect with the natural environment through participation in social activity across a range of arts, culture, environment and commercially focussed events, leisure and learning
- The customised test space will be appropriately located on the coastal path providing estuary views and a direct link to nature, it is proposed that the location for this will be St Paul's Avenue, Fairhaven promenade. Screened from Fairhaven Lake & Gardens to the rear by trees, this location provides the optimum location for access and connectivity
- Use of the space and the needs of its users will be robustly evaluated throughout the programme and opportunities to explore commercial viability will form a key aspect of the trial in order to both inform the physical requirements and support the business plan ahead of the next phase of the project



‘The Point’ — a temporary, customised space created from two 40ft shipping containers will host a programme activity from spring 2021 until Spring 2022. Timber clad to the front facade and wrapped with a decked and planted area, the building will settle into the grassed interface between the promenade and Fairhaven Lake’s perimeter tree line.



Green Loop

- Green Loop is a 6-month participative workshop programme led by artist and producer, Nerissa Cargill-Thompson, and co-created and delivered by NEETS and young people age 16 – 40
- Focused on developing skills and knowledge connected to repurposing and retailing recycled plastic waste, participants of the programme will research, design and create a limited-edition, sustainable ethically produced range of wearable or home accessories made from recycled plastic and waste found in the Ribble Estuary
- Outputs retailed online & local craft markets, the wearable or home accessories range will be used to bring greater awareness of the human impact on our planet and local environment and show that beautiful items can come from sustainably sourced and recycled materials
- Green Loop will be enhanced by the delivery of a Sustainable Makers Market programme hosted at Fairhaven Lake and produced in collaboration with Hopeful & Glorious; and a separate artist commission created by Nerissa Cargill-Thompson, utilising plastic waste from the River Ribble and exhibited as a sustainable art trail through businesses in Fylde

Accessible River

- Accessible River includes an action research programme led by participative architects, North West Design Collective, in collaboration with a group of 20 Fylde residents who have a range of access needs due to physical or mental disabilities
- The purpose of the action research will be to understand and determine the scope of need for access along the new coastline defence scheme and to design a set of recommendations for a future approach to making the space more accessible.
- Activities will be focused on research and the testing of ideas through a suite of participative engagement workshops with outputs connected to target group opinions and creative cues for potential development at a later stage



BEAUTIFUL SPACES
BETTER PLACES

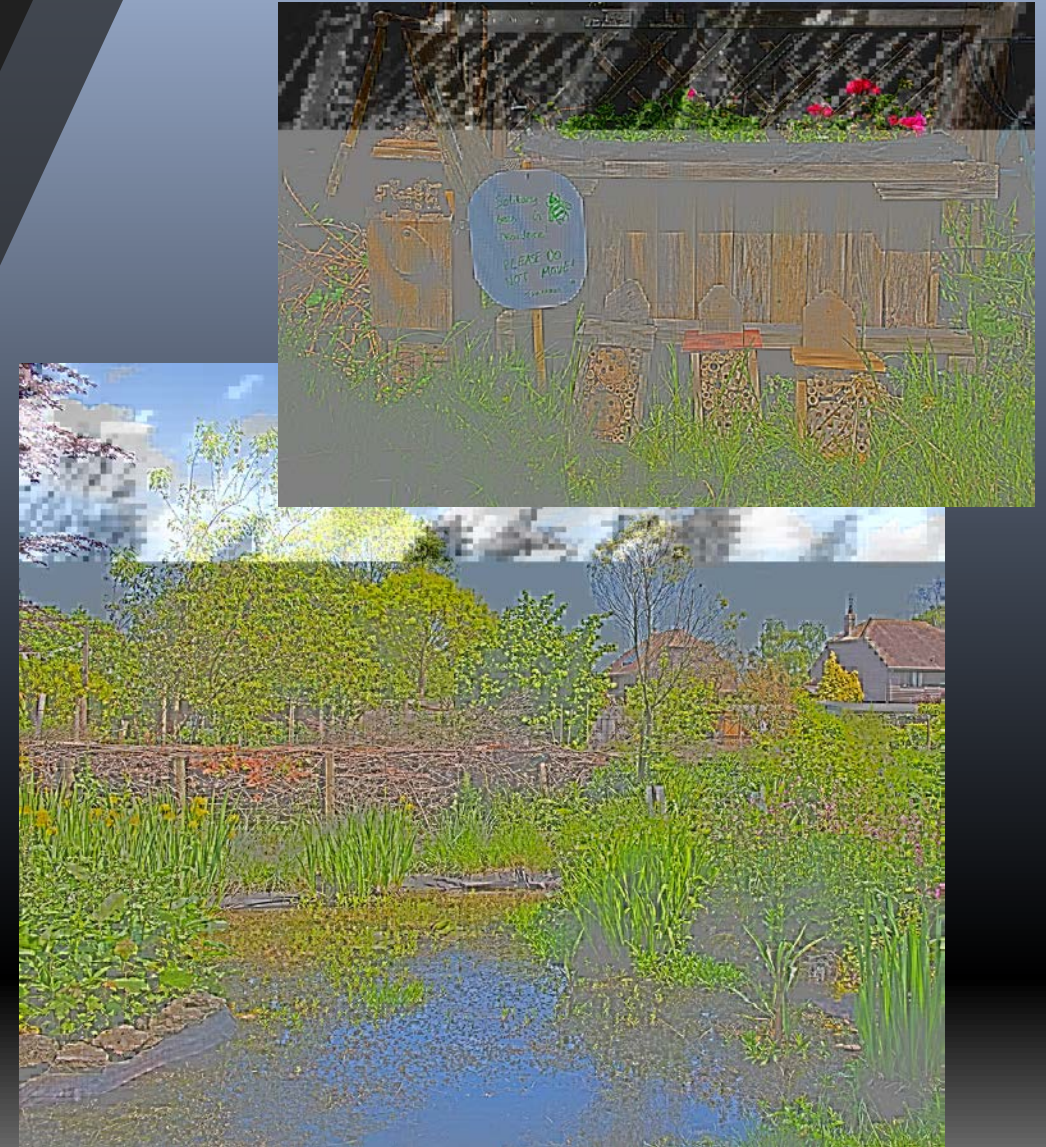
Accessible River

- An artist commission with an interwoven, short participatory programme created by kinetic sculptor, Jim Bond will be inspired by the ecology and natural environment of the Fylde coast. The final artwork will create a pause moment along the coastline and will offer the public the opportunity to engage with the coast on a sensory or interactive level to encourage reflection and connection to the environment.
- The kinetic sculpture project will engage a group of children and young people and the wider public in its development and unveiling through additional visual work, performance or workshop activity
- A talk about the project and the artist's portfolio will be given as part of the wider arts event programme that will be delivered on site



Healing Garden

- Healing Garden is a 12 month participatory workshop programme led by environmental artist, Frances Disley and is co-created and delivered with older people around the development of a community garden as an immersive installation of sensory and herbal healing and includes: -
- an associate artist programme, offering opportunities for participants to engage in holistic learning and experiences across a range of complimentary activity
- the design and development of a community garden with an emphasis on the sensory, apothecary (herbal healing plants), plants for dyes and inks, tea making/edibles and plants for structure and colour, forming the basis for a programme centred on wellbeing and the potential psychological benefits of growing, interacting, being with and working with plants
- The creation of a resource which will be web and print based to represent ways to interact with and activate the garden and shape a practical toolkit responsive to the seasons
- The research and development of a co-operative group/community linked to the garden uniting different local communities with the idea that they take ownership of the space, help maintain and also gain from it as a resource
- The development of an experience/series of guided encounters for suggested ways to experience the garden and surrounding area in the form of audio and printed guides



Down by the Lake

- Down By The Lake - a programme of cultural entertainment and environmental learning will be co-curated by the community and delivered by arts producers, Culturapedia, outdoor cinema producers, Eden Arts with Cine North and Picnic Cinema and environmental organisations and societies to include:-
- Culturapedia - a micro-theatre programme – small scale, intimate artistic performance
- Cine North - pop-up cinema programme - NOT LIKE A CINEMA...sociable, themed food, dressing up, décor, quiz, supper, interval ice cream, post film entertainment...
- Walk and talk programmes with specialists in environmental and wildlife conservation
- Family focused live and self-directed events on site and online



Timescales & Grant Summary...

An application for £180,000 grant funding support to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund – December 2020 to cover:-

- Shipping Containers and internal/external fit out
- Thematic participatory programme
- Staffing
- Volunteer Costs & Training
- Marketing
- Documentation
- Insurance
- Evaluation
- Infrastructure

An application for £50,000 to Arts Council England subject to the successful securing of the Big Lottery application to be made in April 2021 to cover: -

- Down by the Lake Pop Up Event Programme
- Artist Residencies
- Environmental Residency
- Staffing
- Documentation
- Evaluation

Summary

- The overall project will adopt a 3 phased approach
 - Following a successful expression of interest we have been invited to make a full application for grant support from the Big Lottery. This forms phase 2 of the project which is designed to 'test' the use of a physical space in order to connect people with the natural environment
 - Phase 2 is designed as a stand alone project with specific engagement and commercial values in it's own right in order to attract funders regardless of the overall project outcomes
 - Phase 2 will be live from April 2021
 - A supporting application will be made to Arts Council England in Spring/Summer 2021 subject to a successful Big Lottery outcome
 - A 20k contribution from Fylde Council has been committed to provide match funding to this stage of the project
 - The results of the phase 2 will identify need and shape the scale and nature of a third phase proposal
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