

An architectural rendering of a modern urban park. The scene features multi-story residential buildings with balconies and green roofs, interspersed with large, stylized green trees. In the foreground, a person is riding a bicycle on a path, and a group of people is sitting on the grass. The sky is blue with a few birds. The overall style is a colorful, hand-drawn illustration.

Otterpool Park

Ideas on designing a New Town from students of East Kent College.

Key Findings

Following meetings and discussions with 30 East Kent College students in Folkestone, the following areas were felt to be the most important in regard to the Otterpool Park plans.

Aim One

Otterpool Park should have public spaces for people of all ages to meet, develop new relationships, and be physically and mentally healthy.

Aim Two

Commercial businesses and residential spaces should exist in and around the town centre and public spaces too encourage well-serviced events which are easy for all to attend and take part in.

Aim Three

People should travel to visit Otterpool Park as a desirable destination all year round, providing sustainable and economic cultural growth.

Public Spaces for Everyone

Our first aim is for Otterpool Park to provide a range of open public spaces for people of all ages to meet and socialise.

Core or this is the adequate provision of open, accessible pathways and cycle paths connecting residential areas of the town to each other and the town centre. This will help avoid small, dark alleyways becoming the primary way to move through the town, giving a feeling of safety and giving people the opportunity for serendipitous encounters.

By mixing residential housing - both town houses and apartments - with commercial businesses in the town centre, we help central areas have a community feel, rather than feeling like a shopping centre.





An English Town Square

By focussing Otterpool Park around a town square, instead of the traditional high street, we create a democratic space in which people of all ages and interests can meet, socialise, play and feel part of the town.

The Square, to be the largest in England, would have enough space to include:

- Cafes and restaurants
- Play areas for children
- Activity areas for older children
- An outdoor workout area for all
- Hosting space for outdoor events

This successful model, used in other European towns and cities - like Bruges, Lille, Amsterdam, Barcelona and Krakow - will provide Otterpool Park with a unique selling point within the local area of Shepway and East Kent.

Square. But not boring.

The Town Square offers a 'natural' venue at the heart of town for events, rather than pushing them to parks and spaces on the edge of the town.

The Square will provide an environment - served by local amenities and businesses - attractive to event organisers.

A regular market, held in the Square, encourages local traders and the community to be entrepreneurial, with the town offering startup stalls and pop-up opportunities to budding local businesses.





Local and national. Together.

To provide a vibrant retail centre for Otterpool Park, local and national businesses will be encouraged to co-exist in and around the Square.

National and international businesses, such as Nando's and Debenhams, will stand toe-to-toe with more local and artisanal businesses to provide a democratic and inclusive shopping area.

The open square of the town centre will be served by a network of roads, pathways and cycle paths. This encourages exploration, whilst keeping everything connected.