

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Margate Creative Land Trust achieves planning permission for Harold Road creative workspace.



9th June 2026

Margate Creative Land Trust is delighted to announce that planning permission for its Harold Road site has been unanimously approved by Thanet District Council. This allows the Trust to deliver flexible mixed-use space, including light industrial workshops, creative studios, as well as offices and exhibition space. Upgrades will be made to the building to make it more flexible and welcoming.

At the heart of this renovation is a commitment to being a good local neighbour, with space for community activity, education & training, and the potential for a café. The Trust also works in partnership across Thanet to support people who face barriers to creative careers.

The scheme has been designed by architects IF_DO, who have delivered similarly complex and ambitious projects in Hastings, Manchester, and London, with consideration given to the building's heritage.



The site is already home to People Dem Collective's community space which will offer open days, residencies and workshops as part of a summer programme to welcome neighbours. The Trust is continuing to take Expressions of Interest from potential anchor partners for larger spaces, whilst it develops the future offer for sole traders and micro-businesses.

Dan Chilcott, Executive Director said *"Margate and Thanet is one of the most exciting creative clusters in the UK with a reputation for international quality and a DIY attitude. Increasing the amount of space for creative production will help the sector flourish and grow sustainably. I'm delighted we've achieved this milestone."*

Paula Hirst, Co-Chair said "This is a key moment in the Trust's journey. This decision by the Council takes us a step closer to securing creative workspace in this neighbourhood in perpetuity. I'm delighted that we can move to the next stage of the project at Harold Road and I want to thank everyone who has worked with us so far, for their dedication, talent and ongoing belief in the work."

Harold Road



Cllr Ruth Duckworth, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Property who spoke in favour of the application, said: "I was really pleased to see this application approved which means the Land Trust can now begin work to transform a disused car repair workshop into studios for working artists and makers.

Since securing investment from central government as part of the Local Regeneration Fund (formerly the Margate Town Deal), the aim of the Margate Creative Land Trust has always been to provide security for the sector and help it to grow.

By investing in buildings such as this, the Margate Creative Land Trust will be able to secure long term, affordable space for creatives and ensure a future for this critical industry and deliver opportunities for local people to benefit."

For more information about the project or to register your interest please contact:

info@margatecreativelandtrust.org

About Margate Creative Land Trust:

Margate Creative Land Trust was co-created by the community and creative organisations, established as an independent charity on behalf of the Local Regeneration Fund board. The mission of the Trust is to acquire space for creative businesses and practitioners; and deliver community programmes to support inclusive and sustainable practice in the creative industries.