

Place:

Nomad, Old Halifax building,
21 Wellington Place, Hastings

Type of Meanwhile project:

Cultural Engagement

Meanwhile funding:

£3,500

Stakeholders:

Nomad members: Ali Graham,
Lorna Crabbe, Sarah Yates,
Stuart Walton, Patrick Burton,
Christine Gist

Penny Precious: Arts
+ Creative Industries
Development Officer, Hasting
Borough Council
Jempsons: landlord

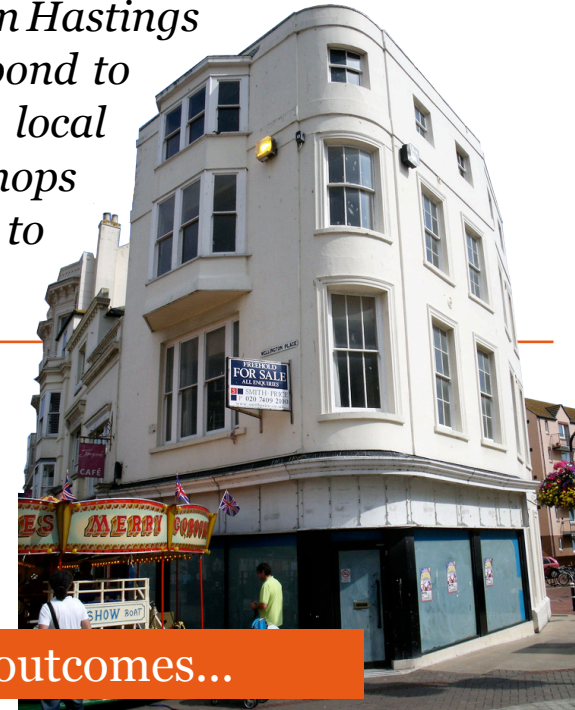
Nomad Creative Space is the
result of a joint partnership
between HBC, Meanwhile
Space, Jempsons, The
Meanwhile Project and the
Nomad collective of artists.
This has been funded by
Hastings Borough Council's
Retail Vitality project and the
Meanwhile Project.

Hastings

The latest figures show that almost one in every ten shops in Hastings and neighbouring St Leonards are now vacant. To respond to the situation Hastings Borough Council are harnessing local resources to create innovative solutions to the empty shops problem. The Nomad collective was created in response to this call for the local community to get involved.


Project aims...

The Nomad group has several members of all ages and trades including artists, social entrepreneurs and local activists. Working collaboratively the group decided to set up a place that engages creatively with the community whilst also providing space for their various projects to thrive. A former Halifax estate agents in the town centre provided the setting and very quickly the Nomad Creative Space was set up with the aim of providing accessible opportunities for artists to exhibit, perform and work in an exciting project space.



Project outcomes...

Nomad Creative Space is a community space, an accessible art gallery and event space where people are encouraged to interact and share their projects with the community. Activities have included art workshops, a book fair and various exhibitions. They also hire out the space to other community groups to generate some income and interact with other local activities. The group try to use the space to involve people in creative activities who would normally find them inaccessible and also to encourage the pockets of artistic groups to interact with each other.



‘Nomad is creating & inviting new relationships through an informal setting.’

Stuart Walton

The Big Draw...

The Big Draw was a free drawing workshop for children and families, held on a Saturday in October. Prior to the event it had been difficult to get people into the space, but the Big Draw drew a lot of people inside. People of all ages got involved and were drawing together on the outside of the unit as well as the inside.

One weekend alone saw 400 people come through the doors to participate in the Big Draw project, offering great visibility for the members of Nomad Creative Space, and creating another reason to visit Hastings town centre.

Is it a success..?

A lot can be learnt from this project. It has provided a space for the community on the high street and it has been a test bed for using empty spaces in the town which has triggered an interest to take on new projects within the local community.

For the landlord this project has been beneficial because it has put the building into use during the intermission before development which has kept the building safe, improved the perceptions of the property and provided a saving from the empty shops tax. Most importantly the Nomad group were formerly strangers and although this was challenging at times, now they are keen to continue working together on further projects which will benefit Hastings in the future.