

Restoration of King's Gardens

Definition:

Restoration: the action of retuning something to its former condition

History of the foreshore

Development of the foreshore began in the late 18th early 19th century. The fashion for sea air and the common belief in its health properties attracted visitors to Southport.

Development of the gardens began in 1911—Southport town Council instructed Borough Surveyor to carry out pilling work and the construction of foundations .

King's Gardens was created 1912-13.

The Venetian Bridge was built in 1931 to form part of a liner path connecting the Gardens to the Sea Bathing Lake.



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Early Years



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Why the need for restoration?

Lack of care, maintenance and investment caused the gardens to become rundown.

Landscape became over grown causing restricted views and making the area look untidy.

Buildings became rundown and derelict causing increased vandalism and making the area look substandard.

The lighting around the gardens was poor with many lighting columns not in use. This made the gardens an unsafe place in the evening.

Paths and steps became cracked and uneven which can cause trip hazards.



Before the restoration



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The restoration 2014-2015

Funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and other external funding to the amount of £5.5 million to restore the Gardens to their former glory.

Restoration of buildings to their original state ensuring any old materials that could be restored where and new materials used-where possible came from a sustainable source.

Landscaping of the gardens to open up views and a new planting scheme.

Restoration of the lighting columns around the gardens helping the gardens to feel safer in the evenings.

Restoration of the Venetian Bridge making it safe for all to use.

Improved accessibility around the Gardens to enable all those visiting have an enjoyable time.



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