

# DOVER FASTRACK SOCIAL VALUE INITIATIVES



WE OPEN THE WAY



## WHAT IS SOCIAL VALUE?

Social value, also known as Corporate Social Responsibility, is the additional value that a business can bring to the area in which they are working. This is often the positive impact on a local community via community projects, school engagement or helping the long-term unemployed.

On Dover Fastrack, Colas have fulfilled our Social Value commitment for the project, delivering

sixteen school visits and six community projects. We have also dedicated over 200 hours towards local volunteering. Social Value can also be recorded via our spend through our supply chain. We have used over ten local small-medium enterprises on the project.

Below are just a few examples of the positive impact we have made in the Dover area.

## SCHOOLS

### BE SAFE, BE SEEN - SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT



Over the winter period, we delivered Be Safe, Be Seen assemblies to several local schools in the area.

These included, Green Park and Whitfield Primary School. In total, we attended six primary schools and encouraged conversations around road safety and how children can be better prepared for travelling to school in the winter months.

We also provided workshops relating to under-ground services, aimed at encouraging the children to think about the variety of work within the construction industry and give them an insight into some of the work that our engineers do on the project.

As part of our Be Safe, Be Seen assemblies at local primary schools, we also distributed bike lights and spoke reflectors to young people with the Dover District Council's Community Team.

## EARLY CAREERS



Throughout 2023, we delivered early careers workshops to secondary schools in Dover.

At the Duke of York secondary school, 100 Year 10 students participated in our careers workshop, where we provided early careers advice and encouraged them to work on their soft skills through interview practice. We also delivered similar sessions at Dover Christchurch Academy, St Edmund's and Dover Grammar School for Girls.





ST RADIGUND'S COMMUNITY CENTRE



St Radigund's Community Centre in Dover wanted to improve their outside space, so that local children would have somewhere to play outside. Before we started work, the area was overgrown and inaccessible.

First we cleared the large and overgrown plants that were blocking access and damaging the fence. With help from Flannery Plant, St Radigund's Community Centre was made accessible and safe. The area is now flat and can be used for outdoor events or sports.

DOVER FASTRACK TEAM



DOVER FASTRACK TEAM WITH THEIR EASTER EGG DONATIONS

Over Christmas 2022, the Dover Fastrack team and our supply chain donated food and presents to local charities to make Christmas that little bit easier for families in the Dover area.

This year, we also collected donations of Easter eggs for young people in Dover. Chocolate eggs were donated to St Radigund's Community Centre and Buckland and Whitfield Children's Centre.



DOVER FASTRACK TEAM CHRISTMAS DONATIONS





CARING



SHARING



DARING

COMMUNITY



ACT OF KINDNESS

## GUSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL RESURFACING



During summer 2022, we undertook a resurfacing project at Guston Primary School. In collaboration with Kent County Council, Colas improved the pedestrian and vehicle access by resurfacing the footpath and road leading up to the entrance gates of the school. This significantly improved the safety of this route for children, staff and visitors.

## WORK EXPERIENCE - T-LEVELS

In June, two T-level students from Folkestone College joined us for a 45 day work placement. The students, Harry and Kodi, have been working with the engineering and project management team on the Fastrack project. They have been assisting with various tasks such as surveying and ground monitoring and learning about the industry. This placement will help them when looking for a career within the sector.



Over the few weeks me and my work experience partner have had a very warm welcome from the Colas team, and have been made to feel at home. Our induction from Andy and Barney was very in depth and really brought us to grips with being on site and how to be safe. Overall everything and everyone has been positive.

HARRY HARBER



T-LEVEL STUDENTS CARRYING OUT A COVER METER SURVEY ON THE DOVER FASTRACK BRIDGE





## HELPING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK

For National Volunteering Week, volunteers from the Dover Fastrack team headed to Dover Beach to litter pick along the foreshore. We collected over 20 bags. Attendees included Dover District Council, Kent County Council and colleagues from the Colas head office.



DOVER LITTER PICKING

In March, we volunteered with Dover District Council for their Big Spring Clean in Dover Town Centre, where we helped to collect 20 bags of rubbish. We also held our own site litter pick, removing 6 bags of rubbish from our compound. Through the volunteering of the local people of Dover, over 650 bags of litter were collected in total.

## UNEMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

## EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP

In July, the Dover Fastrack Project held an employability workshop at the Dover Job Centre, providing the long-term unemployed with an opportunity to learn about construction and the kind of skills that employers look for.

We provided a group of nine local long-term unemployed adults with an employability workshop that would boost their chances of returning to work. We worked on their soft skills via a workplace skills exercise that involved them working together in teams to create a bridge.

They were also given information about working within the construction industry and how to build on their CVs to ensure that they are considered by employers.

