

## Mayor's Update

The move of our office staff into the first floor of the new Town Hall at No. 12 Market Place has taken place and the officers have a more productive work space in which to operate, without danger of falling over the accumulation of boxes and other piles of documents, which are now accommodated in a dedicated archive space. Should any resident have need to visit the Town Clerk or other staff, the access is via the door in Back Lane leading from the Market Place to the Central Car Park. There is a lift for those who are less able to use the stairs.

Our Town Caretaker, Adam Andrews has settled well into his role and is already making a difference to the appearance of our town. He now has the use of a van, with Faversham Town signage, to enable him to transport equipment to all parts of the town. Please look out for it as you are welcome to make Adam aware of any issues you may have in order that he can either deal with them himself or report them to the relevant authorities.

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have introduced quarterly Council Surgeries, held on Saturday mornings in the Guildhall. At these sessions there will be at least one councillor from each of the four wards in the town, to receive questions from you and investigate any issues raised; the next of these is to be held on Saturday 8th September 2018. However for any more urgent issues, please contact any of your Ward Councillors whose contact details are on this newsletter, the FTC website, or can be obtained from the Town Hall.

I have noticed recently that there has been an increasing number of postings on social media and from the content of some of them it is evident that a few of the electorate are not really aware of which authority is responsible for providing the various statutory services.

Not everything is down to the Town Council!

In fact it has very limited powers, most of which are consultative. This means that any issues that could affect the town are discussed either in the Council Chamber or by any of its Sub-Committees with findings and results forwarded to the body responsible for the various issues.

Instead of making erroneous remarks behind the cover of Facebook, Twitter etc. it would be beneficial to all concerned if people were to become engaged in the processes by attending any of the Committee Meetings to hear at first hand what does take place. Nothing is done behind closed doors, your Councillors are here to work for all the electorate.

In response to the one person who noticed that the cannons outside the Swimming Pool have been removed, they have not been fired! The Town Council has taken them to have the carriages repaired before they collapsed with the possibility of someone being hurt. They will be back in place soon.

*Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham*



An example of some functional and aesthetically pleasing cycle racks

## On-Yer-Bike! Cycling in Faversham

Clusters of bikes randomly chained to litter bins, lamp posts and benches as more and more people use their bikes into Faversham are becoming common. At the moment there is no other place to leave them, so it must be time to provide some bike racks in the town centre and replace the broken rack opposite the post office. New racks can be installed at the corner of Crescent Road and Court Street, and by the phone box at the corner of Stone Street and Preston Street without obstructing, traffic, pedestrians or the market.

It is important that the eventual chosen design looks good in the street-scape as well as being practical and comfortable to use. The available designs are legion, but non-novelty designs that support the bike frame, probably in stainless steel, are the preferred option.

If you have any comments, please contact Peter Flower at [pecard@btconnect.com](mailto:pecard@btconnect.com) or 07743695946. **Cllr Peter Flower**

### Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

Saturday 8th September	10-noon	<b>Council Surgery</b>
Monday 10th September	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 10th September	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 12th September	5pm	Policy & Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 20th September	9.30am	Public Realm Group
Monday 24th September	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 24th September	7pm	<b>Faversham Future Forum</b>
Wednesday 26th September	7pm	20's Plenty Working Group
Monday 8th October	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 8th October	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th October	5pm	Community Services Committee
Tuesday 16th October	7pm	<b>Faversham &amp; District Engagement Forum</b>
Monday 26th October	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday 24th October	7pm	20's Plenty Working Group
Monday 12th November	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 12th November	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th November	5pm	Policy & Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 15th November	10am	Public Realm Group Walkabout
Thursday 22nd November	9.30am	Public Realm Group
Monday 26th November	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday 28th November	7pm	20's Plenty Working Group
Saturday 8th December	10-noon	<b>Council Surgery</b>

**Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings. Those highlighted are specifically for public participation.**

# FAVERSHAM SPEEDWATCH NEEDS



Faversham Speedwatch is a scheme run by authorised, accredited volunteers under the auspices of Kent Police, to monitor from time to time at specified approved locations, the speed of vehicles (including carriages such as bicycles and skateboards), logging the number of vehicles passing, with details of miscreants for the Police to follow-up with appropriate action.

Generally, in discussion on many occasions concerning somebody's perception of speed; and from participation in the Community Speedwatch authorised by Kent Police using dedicated speed indicator devices, (SID) equipment, there is a remarkable disparity between the perceived speed, and actual registered speed of drivers. Despite claims of a vehicle doing 50 plus on some of Faversham's narrow roads, the actual speeds recorded are mainly within the speed limits, with a few, of course, who have received letters from the Police. Here in Faversham our aim is mainly educational in order to remind and increase attention, awareness, care and consideration.

The recording of information is quite labour intensive and accuracy is essential, otherwise we are wasting both our time and energy, and that of Police administration in false follow-up action.

Faversham Speedwatch does not, as yet, have a Police authorised site in West Street. Our nearest sites are: Tanners Street (1), Dark Hill (1), both heading towards Bysing Wood Road (3); South Road (2); Broomfield Road (1) and Whitstable Road (3). We are negotiating for more sites to be authorised. Because Faversham Speedwatch uses responsive, illuminated speed indicator devices (SID) with attendant operators, which could be a hazard at night, it is restricted to daylight hours with good visibility and weather conditions.

We are looking for more volunteers; anyone interested can learn more at <https://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk>.

Chris Oswald-Jones

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

- 9,000 circulation to local residents & businesses
- published quarterly

Contact Claire Windridge for details

T: 01795 503286 E: [claire.windridge@favershamtc.co.uk](mailto:claire.windridge@favershamtc.co.uk)

# VOLUNTEER FAVERSHAM!

## Saturday 20th October Volunteer Fair at The Alexander Centre

Would you like to give something back to Faversham and the people who live here? Then why don't you come along to the Alexander Centre on Saturday 20th October 2018 for the Volunteer Fair. It's on from 10am – 3pm and meet some fantastic organisations that need you. Any organisations that are looking for volunteers can book a free stand at the fair. Please contact the Town Clerk if you wish to do so.

Don't think for one minute that you have got to give up all your free time, we all know how precious it is just to have time to be. But giving up just a little bit of time back to your community can be such a rewarding experience not just for you but the organisation as well. You may well have a specific skill and that can be anything from being good at IT to making a cup of tea.

Please do pop in and have a chat, you may make some new friends and you will be surprised at how many organisations need people like you.

If any organisations wishing to take part would like to book a free table at the event, then contact Louise Bareham, the Town Clerk or Brooke Williams on 01795 503286.

The Town Council is exploring the idea of setting up a page on our website where you can register as an organisation and list your volunteering opportunities or as a volunteer. Please let us know your thoughts on this idea.

Cllr Claire Belsom



## JOIN IN THE TOWN LITTER PICK

Saturday 6th October - 10am - 12pm  
Meet at The Guildhall



## COUNCIL SURGERY

Meet with Members of your Ward

**Saturday 8th September**  
**10am - 12pm at The Guildhall**

### INFORMATION

The Council Surgery is open to all Registered Electors of Faversham Abbey, Priory, St. Ann's and Watling Wards  
All information will be treated in strictest confidence  
No appointment necessary

For further details contact the Town Clerk 01795 503288

Faversham



Festival

2018



real  
food

14th to 16th  
September 2018

# Developments in the Planning System - an update

In the previous Newsletter I set out detail of what was happening nationally as far as the Planning System and the effect on what is happening in the Swale Borough Council area that includes Faversham.

The Government adopted the new National Planning Policy Framework in the last week of July. It does now confirm that local councils will be expected to follow the standard methodology in arriving at housing targets for local plan reviews. These are based on ONS population statistics, which are updated every couple of years. Consequently, the best current estimate for Swale is that the housing target for Swale will increase to 1054 dwellings per annum from 2022, or when the Local Plan Review is adopted. It will be for the Local Plan Review process to determine where these additional housing sites will be located within the Borough. Swale Borough Council's recent consultation document 'Looking Ahead' set out the challenges we face and whether a new development strategy (plus of course, making sure the right supporting infrastructure needed to cope with them can be put in place).

The new target for Swale may present particular challenges for Faversham. In the current Bearing Fruits Plan (adopted July 2017), the allocation of housing numbers in Faversham were not as bad as people think, as only 17% of Swale's overall number of housing sites was in Faversham, with the majority of the identified

sites being in Sittingbourne and on the Isle of Sheppey. Originally, in the first draft of the local Plan only 13% of the sites were going to be in Faversham but when the annual target was increased by the Government Planning Inspector from 540 dwellings per annum to 776 dwellings per annum, it was only possible to find sites across Swale that fitted the Inspectors new target by increasing the allocation in Faversham to 17%.

In drafting the Local Plan Review that will need to apply from 2022, the difficulty for Swale's Planners is that all of the sites already allocated in Bearing Fruits will need to be carried forward and more identified to meet the new target. All of the suitable brownfield sites in Sittingbourne and Sheppey have already been included. As new sites must be found, they may have no alternative to increase the allocation to Faversham. However, this will be a matter to be determined as the Local Plan Review process progresses.

This is something that the Faversham Town Councillors will be watching very carefully.

One query that has come up a number of times since my previous article is the question of affordable housing on the Graveney Road (Nova) site. The number of affordable sites in a development may have to be reduced in some cases to make sites viable. In the case of this site asbestos was found and the number of affordable homes had to be reduced to finance the high costs of its removal.

*Cllr Nigel Kay*

## School's out for Summer!

Suddenly there is a hush in the town as the schools break up. But the work of The Town Council never stops, but this summer with the temperature rising into the 30s, there are times when it is almost too hot. Coming out of the Swimming Pool after my early outdoor swim I watched the queue of families with children snake down to the car park and round the corner. It's great to see the excitement on the kids' faces as they wait to get in and have fun on the rapids. When my twins were four we took them swimming regularly, and it is a real confidence when they swam on their own. Of course even when swimming I get "buttonholed" about issues but it is good to share information and help residents.

Another part of summer is fetes and flower shows. At The Alexander Centre fair cakes were on sale to support The Faversham Branch of The Royal British Legion, and The Umbrella Centre had a special "hidden map" to guess its raffle. Popping in to The Fleur I chatted to two ladies who were exhibiting the Oare Painting Group's pictures. Some very professional artwork was on display.

Popping up to Painters Forstal the flower show was stunning. Well done Frances, Pam and Maz and Paul and to everyone who was involved. I have never seen a twin coloured Gladioli, it looked like an Orchid.

Back to Town Council business with a meeting of the council, the planning committee, the heritage committee and the WW1 committee. Lots of preparation, reading the reports and progressing those things that are useful to Faversham. Talking of planning I got three calls from my St Ann's ward residents about planning applications, a bit like London Buses all coming at once! So arranging a time to visit and have a chat about their application and problems is helped because I am also a Swale Councillor and can go into the planning department and talk directly with the officers involved.

Finally for some reason the thought of the town's October carnival came to me. Since coming to Faversham in 1973 the Carnival has always been a great event for parents and children. But now as we have more Voluntary Organisations and residents can we encourage everyone to take a part, get a float together or simply dress up and march along? That is after we have all recovered from the Hop Festival! So really for a Town Councillor school doesn't stop for summer!

*Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Deputy Mayor of Faversham*



# Keeping it clean ... the air that we breathe

Faversham Town Council gives a very high priority to the issue of Air Quality and is committed to working with Swale Borough Council and local residents. Swale has by far the most extensive Air Quality testing arrangements of any Council in Kent. There are five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) along the route of the A2; Ospringe, Teynham, Newington, St Paul's and East Street.

There are 72 NOx tubes in operation across Swale. Work is being carried out towards a consolidated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), which has to be approved by DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) with the intention of making a major impact on air quality in Faversham and particularly Ospringe. The AQAP has to be based on robust data and earlier this year an independent consultant was commissioned to undertake traffic data surveys in each AQMA.

The report concluded that older cars are the major source of vehicular pollution, and that measures need to be put in place to reduce the numbers of the worst polluting vehicles, Euro IV and below (registered before 2011). They can legally emit at least three to five times the pollution of current Euro VI vehicles and their removal from the AQMA's would have a significant impact on improvements to air quality along the A2. Cars formed the largest group of vehicles from the traffic surveys, ranging from 57.1% in Newington to 71.0% in Ospringe. The full report to the 11<sup>th</sup> July meeting of Swale Cabinet can be seen on the Swale Council Website.

Currently the data is being updated to take account of the projected increases in traffic as a result of housing developments agreed within the Swale Local Plan. The aim is that the AQAP will go out to full public consultation at the end of this summer.

A number of initiatives have been suggested by the Ospringe Air Quality Group, which could make some improvements. There are two major potential actions which could make a significant effect on improving air quality:

- Introducing a 20 mph speed reduction area
- Developing a Clean Air Zone along the A2 including Ospringe

Both of these are very large pieces of work which will require the support of KCC as the highways authority.

Air Quality is a very emotive issue and one where there is often a considerable amount of bad science. Ultimately, improvements to Air Quality will come primarily from Government action to take highly polluting vehicles off our roads, both older cars and HGVs. While that happens, increasing vehicle numbers on our roads and subsequent congestion will offset some of the improvement and introduce other concerns. Both Faversham Town and Swale Borough Councils want to have communication lines open with local residents, and the forthcoming public consultation will be a key part of that communication.

*Cllr David Simmons*

## How Faversham Remembers . . .

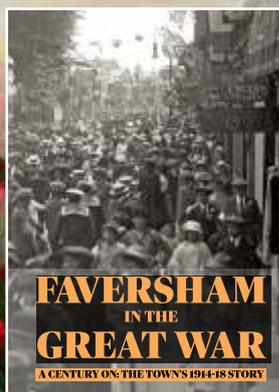
**This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of The First World War. Across The UK many communities will remember their involvement, and the sacrifice of their servicemen and women, and in Faversham a number of events have already taken place.**

Throughout November the wonderful WW1 Bunting that residents have produced will be displayed, Faversham's own commemorative First World War magazine will be launched for sale, and the Memorial Garden containing the names of those killed in both world wars will be dedicated.

You will be able to see the wonderful bunting displayed at the Town Council's new offices at 12 Market Place from Friday 2nd November.

If you are a relative of someone who was killed in WW1 or WW2, or have made a bunting and would like to apply for a ticket for the dedication ceremony in early November, please contact The Deputy Town Clerk on 01795 503286.

*Cllr Mike Cosgrove*  
*Deputy Mayor of Faversham*



# Visioning Outcomes In Community Engagement



Faversham Town Council offers various methods of engagement for residents which include the Faversham Future Forum and the Faversham, District Engagement Forum and Council Surgeries. Faversham VOICE is an innovative online based community engagement tool to easily and quickly seek the opinion of the electorate on varying subject matters. If you would like to be part of Faversham VOICE sign up online using this link [www.eepurl.com/dts1z9](http://www.eepurl.com/dts1z9) or complete the form below and post/deliver it to us at our office, 12 Market Place.

## Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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\* Swale Borough Councillor

\*\* Kent County Councillor



Please complete this form if you would like to become part of Faversham VOICE and receive occasional questionnaires relevant to Faversham.

### House Address

### First Name

### Last Name

### Marketing Permissions

Faversham Town Council will use the information you provide on this form to send occasional surveys and questionnaires. Please let us know if you are happy for us to continue to contact you at your address:

I am happy for Faversham Town Council to contact me at my address above

Please send this form to us at Faversham Town Council, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent CT13 7AE.

You can change your mind at any time by contacting us in writing or by email to [louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk](mailto:louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk). We will treat your information with respect. For more information about our privacy practices, please visit our website.



### Davington Church Meeting Room for Hire



## Need to hire a meeting room?

A new meeting room and modern facilities have been installed at Davington Church, Priory Road, and are now available for community use. The Grade I listed building has also had new heating and lighting fitted.

The new meeting room, kitchen, a mezzanine floor and lavatory have been sensitively fitted into the west end of the church. Removal of old heating pipes formerly fixed to the floor also means the main body of the church can be used flexibly by groups alongside the space available in the meeting room. There is free on-street parking in Priory Road and adjacent roads. Please contact **01795 538232** for hiring details.

## Faversham Town Council - Staff List

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	<a href="mailto:louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk">louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk</a>
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Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	<a href="mailto:adam.andrews@favershamtc.co.uk">adam.andrews@favershamtc.co.uk</a>
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Nigel Field	Town Sergeant	
Barry Brockman	Deputy Town Sergeant	
Louise Muddiman	Guidhall Caretaker	



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[www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Heavy lorries in Faversham - the Town Council takes action!

The Town council deplores the increasing frequency of HGVs throughout The Town's road network. People are being disturbed by heavy lorries at all times of the day and night and Faversham's Medieval Streets were not designed for 40 tonne lorries. The Town Council has written to the Swale Joint Transport Board requesting restrictions by lorries over 7.5 tons along the town roads except for access. It also calls on the JTB and other agencies to set up a weighbridge and inspection operation at the junction of the Oare Road and Western link to ensure that any heavy, overloaded or unsafe HGVs can be monitored before they travel through the town or along The A2 through Ospringe.

Cllr Nigel Kay

## Plastic FREE Faversham - the Town Council takes action!

The Town Council has decided to support Plastic Free Faversham and has congratulated them on their successful litter pick on the 14th July. The Council passes a resolution to support Plastic Free Coastlines, committing to plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within the town.

Cllr Nigel Kay

## “Ding dong the bells are gonna chime . . .”

Faversham Town Council are delighted to announce that from 1st January 2019 our beloved Guildhall will be approved by Kent County Council as a venue for the solemnization of civil marriages and the formation of civil partnerships.



Anyone interested in booking this charming medieval venue for their ceremony, please contact Adrienne who will be pleased to discuss your requirements fully:

Adrienne Begent  
01795 503286  
adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk

## Out with the old - in with the new www.faversham.org is re-launched

With a brand new look and feel, the Faversham.Org website was relaunched last month. Businesses can add their details for free as a standard listing, with a premium listing option coming soon for a nominal fee.

Event organisers can still add their event details, and subject to verification by our volunteer, they will then appear live on our new Events pages, giving your event extra publicity.



Please contact Claire Windridge for any advertising or business listing enquiries on 01795 503286 or by email:  
claire.windridge@favershamtc.co.uk



## Town Hall Talks . . .

### An Examination of the Hidden, Gothic Wall-Paintings in St Mary's Church, Faversham

A talk by Angela Websdale  
PhD Candidate - University of Kent

Thursday 4th October, 7.30pm

The Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE

Currently obscured by the church organ, this talk will examine the meaning of these monumental, medieval wall-paintings and will explore the influence of Westminster Palace and the Plantagenet cult of Saint Edward the Confessor upon the devotions of early 14th century Faversham.



### Newnham Castle in the Time of Stephen and Matilda

A talk by Paula Jardine Rose  
Thursday 15th November,  
7.30pm at 12 Market Place

Newnham Castle was built by the Normans, probably by Fulk de Newenham in the mid-12th century during the civil war known as the Anarchy.

The castle was located on a scarp to the north of the village and comprised a motte and bailey design. It had a stone keep approximately 6.2 metres (20 ft) by 6.1 metres (20 ft), with 1.8 metres (5 ft 11 in) thick walls, with unusual curved corners.

Once built, a mound was piled up around the tower to produce the motte, in a similar fashion to that seen at Farnham in Surrey.



### UMBRELLA CENTRE UPDATE

Faversham Umbrella charity held an AGM in June and a whole new board of trustees has been appointed. Work has continued in the quest to get the Court Street building reopened with a soft launch from October 1st when we hope to have some services up and running, please look out for notices on the board outside. There will be a full launch in the following January.

Volunteers are a much needed resource for this important community asset, servicing the needs of vulnerable people in our community. If you feel you have any time or skills to offer please get in touch via email at: [umbrellafaversham@gmail.com](mailto:umbrellafaversham@gmail.com).

#### Forthcoming activities:

**Saturday 8th September:** Market Stall for Consultation, Communication and Fundraising.

**Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September:** Building clean up, from top to bottom prior to reopening the following week.

**Monday 1st October - Saturday December 22nd:** Soft launch, some activities, drop-in for information and consultation. Actual opening hours to be confirmed.

**Thursday 3rd January:** 'Project Doors Open' official Umbrella relaunch.