

Faversham and District Engagement Forum

Minutes

Tuesday 14th January 2020

1. Welcome from the Mayor of Faversham

The Mayor, Cllr Alison Reynolds, introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Attendees then introduced themselves.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

None

3. Report from Kent Police

Noted credit card fraud in petrol stations, boy racers and lack of security in shops such as Co-op and Morrisons. ASB issues had been low through summer but had returned. People were coming from Sittingbourne to cause problems in Faversham. Call for improved lighting at the Rec before a camera is sited. No suspects for current ASB around the Creek. Two Sittingbourne youths banned from the town and the youth engagement officer is working with schools to identify others and force sanctions. Suspects arrested who travelled from Birchington and damaged in excess of 50 cars, phones have been sieved which provided new evidence.

Countylines is operating in Sittingbourne but not Faversham, no intel or tags, travelling by train from Gillingham, Sheerness and Canterbury – reports go to BTP no KP. BTP 0800 405050 or text 61016

Romanian beggars are being driven into the town and earning £200 a day, not genuine beggars but could be victims themselves.

Four work vans broken into, suspicious sighting of a black transit reported.

4. Food Poverty

Juliet Cowgill from the Faversham Foodbank gave a report, the food bank was set up in May 2015 by Churches Together. 9702 meals provided. Very little fresh food, use private cars and not vans. Most referrals come from Citizens Advice, Age UK and WFCC. Juliet also noted that the foodbank was extremely well supported by the town.

Buy it forward campaign - community fridge, hanging coffee and Billy Chip were noted.

The Bear pub were taking in sleeping bags and tents.

5. Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Update

A brief update was provided.

6. News from the Parishes

Graveney Solar Park were awaiting info, CPRE had good vibes and will appeal on a technicality if necessary.

Crime updates had doubled, since the lorry park had been abandoned lorries were not parking in Homestall Lane; two accidents had occurred from parking on the pavement. Cllr Valentine had been asked to take u with Swale but a countywide solution was called for. Lorries using Newnham as a rat run had increased and were undertaking traffic surveys. Also outlying parishes were seeing an increase in traffic when there were issues or roadworks on the A251.

The application for a horticulture facility for army veterans in Faversham Road, Norton was noted.

7. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the format of the meeting did not work well for the parish councils and a different format would be considered.