

FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM held in The Guildhall, Faversham on Tuesday 10 April 2018

1. WELCOME

The Mayor, Cllr Campbell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING from 9 January 2018

The Minutes were agreed.

4. UPDATE FROM KENT POLICE

Inspector Craig West and PC Emma Willson were in attendance. The police are currently targeting individual crime and antisocial behaviour. Untaxed and uninsured vehicles have also been targeted with some people summoned to court and vehicles crushed. Two of these vehicles had been involved in rural crime. Insp West reported on several arrests involving theft and a drink driving motoring offence and discussed the recent thefts to shops. Operation Milan had been focusing on antisocial behaviour and a decrease in offences had been noted, with information being fed into housing associations.

Concerns were raised that the lighter evenings would seek an increase in vandalism, particularly at West Faversham Community Centre, where fence panels and plants had been stolen. Insp West suggested that people mark their possessions with their postcodes using ultra violet pens.

It was appreciated that the police was under pressure, but it was felt that there was no visible presence in the town. The new Faversham Traders Association would be happy to help. Insp West did point out that once an arrest was made; it was likely that officer would be dealing with that for the rest of their shift.

PC Willson assured attendees that officers were often in the town and that there was a team of three covering the area and in fact they had been here more than usual in the last three months. Insp West confirmed that he would share information when he could and noted that PC Willson did get help from a trader recently.

5. DISABLED FACILITIES IN FAVERSHAM AND SURROUNDING PARISHES

It was noted that the West Faversham Community Centre had a changing places facility, but there was nothing at the other end of town. It was asked whether this facility could be provided at Faversham Recreation Ground. Although there is a radar key system, disabled toilets were not always appropriate.

6. NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE PARISHES

It was noted that the gypsy site at Dunkirk was not approved by Swale BC.

Comments were made regarding the roadworks at Brenley Corner and the confusion that Highways England owned the bridge but KCC owned the tarmac.

Regarding the proposal for an additional 5,000 to 10,000 dwellings, it was asked whether a housing needs survey had been undertaken. Concerns were raised for Selling and the lack of infrastructure.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Concerns were raised over fly tipping on the A2 and motorway verges. Highways England has refused to allow KCC to litter pick the verges whilst the road was shut.

Air quality at Ospringe was raised and also up to the Mount on the A2.