

FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT FORUM held in The Guildhall, Faversham on Tuesday 10 January 2017

1. WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies are noted at the end of these minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING from LEF 12 October 2016

An update on St Catherine's Bridge was noted, with the work anticipated to commence January 2018. It was agreed that disabled access was vital and a letter written to Network Rail with these concerns.

4. 20's PLENTY PRESENTATION

Amanda Russell and Ellie Jupp gave a presentation on 20's Plenty. A working group had been set up at the request of the Swale JTB and at the December meeting it was agreed to accept all 6 recommendations presented.

Some concern was raised over the A2, traffic calming measures, such as speed humps and how 20mph would be enforced. However, there was strong support for the campaign; examples of light touch engineering were discussed together with the need to balance air quality and the feeling of safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

5. UPDATE FROM KENT POLICE

Chief Inspector Paul Anderson
PC Emma Willson

CI Anderson gave a brief update of items from the previous meeting. The Bulgarian buskers have promised to return in March and they will be dealt with if they do. St Mary's Church has also suffered problems and the offenders have been dealt with. He also noted that all crime statistics were available on their website. An uplift in officer numbers has left a deficit with PCSOs.

Concerns raised at the FTC meeting regarding Lower Road were discussed, although it was noted that no calls had been received from that area since October, the police are aware of the problem with anti-social behaviour. Cllr Wade, Ward Councillor, will pursue a solution with multi-agencies.

Narcotic issues in Faversham are low compared to other areas of Swale. General burglary is falling but theft from motor vehicles has increased. People are asked to ensure their vehicles are locked and not to leave the locking wheel nut key in glove compartments where they are easily accessible. A 999 issue in Bysingwood was noted where the police took 50 minutes to arrive. CI Anderson will look into this.

It was noted that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour generally. The police do not wish to criminalise young people and use restorative justice.

An update on fly-parking was provided, bays are being made harder to park in and ticketing is still in force.

6. FAVERSHAM FUTURE FORUM

An update was provided on the Faversham Future Forum. The group formed to start a process of building relationships with developers. The meetings are open and everyone is welcome.

7. UPDATE ON CREEK SWING BRIDGE

KCC Cabinet Members and then KCC's Strategic Commissioning Board approved officer's reports recommending the swing bridge project proceeds to get market prices for an opening bridge. Tender documentation should be going out this month.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Wilcox reported that Swale had spent £20,000 undertaking a trial with litter wardens with a fine of £80 for anyone caught dropping litter. Those who had not paid the fine were taken to court with fines and fees in excess of £400, then had their names published. This had been a successful trial and SBC may extend it.

It was agreed, in order to attract more parishes and members of the community to change the name of the forum to Faversham and District Engagement Forum. Furthermore, it was agreed to request that parish councils send a named representative to the meeting.

Apologies

Cllr David Simmons

Griselda Mussett

In Attendance

Cllr Ben Martin

Don Cockrill

Chris Oswald Jones

Paul Anderson

PC Emma Willson

Richard Palmer

Ernie Warner

Simon MacLachlan

Findlay McDonald

Derrick Swain

Ellie Jupp

Amanda Russell

Cllr Peter Flower

Cllr Anita Walker

Cllr Nigel Kay

Ima Rix

Cllr Geoff Wade

Peter Andrews

Andrew Culham

Cllr Trevor Abram

Cllr Ted Wilcox

Cllr Colin Woods (Newnham PC)

Cllr Jeff Tutt (Dunkirk PC)

Cllr John Peto (Dunkirk PC)

Susan White