

## **Minutes of the Faversham & District Engagement Forum – Tuesday 10 July 2018**

Present: Mayor Trevor Abram  
Mayoress Margaret Abram  
Cllr David Simmons  
Craig West – Kent Police  
Kirsten Jones – Kent Police  
Martin Cassell – SBC  
Graham Tuff – SBC  
Jeff Tutt – Chair Dunkirk Parish Council  
Amanda Saunders – Selling Parish Council  
Carol Jackson – Labour Party Cllr Antony Hook

### **Members of Public**

Chris Oswald Jones  
Hannah Perkins  
Helen Quinton  
Marjorie Barretoneto  
Adam Ambrose  
Shiel Campbell  
Aria Jobbins – Young Person – Brogdale CIC

In Attendance: Allison Andrews taking minutes

### **1. Welcome**

The Mayor, Trevor Abram, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

David Woollett  
Finley McDonald  
Colin Woods

### **3. Minutes from meeting held 10 April 2018**

Item 6 needs amendment. The gypsy site was approved by SBC, which was increased from 29 to 87.

**Minutes from 10 April 2018 approved after this amendment**

A question was raised about the housing survey and whether it included the need for affordable housing. The Mayor informed the group that SBC directive is for 35% of the development should be affordable housing. This includes Part Buy/Part let, Housing Association and Key Workers.

The group felt that not enough was being done to help the local community to stay within Faversham. New developments and housing in general is getting increasingly more expensive which only attracts people with high incomes to move into the area forcing the local community further out.

#### **4. Soft Landscaping/Open Spaces**

Cllr David Simmons spoke with reference to the last forum and the condition of the open spaces in Faversham & District. Most or all of the areas had now been cut, so an improvement.

In previous years SBC cut all verges and charged KCC. KCC decided they could get a better deal by using their own contractors, however there was confusion between both contractors about what should be done and found that there was an overlap. This has since been tightly monitored and a schedule put in place for clarity.

There was a question raised on why Town Council spends so much money on floral displays. Hanging baskets are provided by Amethyst free of charge under the premise that volunteers water them.

Certain areas have been cut using a cylinder cutter meaning that the grass is cut very short, so needing fewer cuts per year, but this is causing the grass to die off. It was felt that this should be changed.

Other areas are being left too long and grass is not being cleared away, which means that healthy grass underneath has died off.

Beech Close was cut in April, but has not been done since. A volunteer group got together to clear the area, which resulted in 50 bags of hay (cut grass) being cleared and taken to the dump.

***Action Item: It was suggested that an email needs to be sent to KCC, Head of Highways asking why this happened and ask for a resolution.***

Area by Tassells Solicitors and Faversham Vets was seeded with wildflowers, however gas contractors have ruined the area. Chris Oswald Jones is going to monitor this.

Aria Jobbins of Brogdale CIC said that the group would be happy to help with looking after the flowers in town and if this was required to connect with Rebecca O'Neill.

Jeff Tutt of Dunkirk parish Council said that kerbs had not been sprayed for weeds. He called KCC, and was told that this was down to the Parish Council.

Anthony Hook informed him that this was not the case and he would take it back to KCC. All weed treatment has to stay with KCC or SBC due to the use of chemicals. There is a delay in getting this done, as it was the Councils priority to fix potholes caused by the bad weather in winter.

Land owners on the A2/A251 need to be spoken to about keeping their land clear from public areas as it is causing problems for passing traffic. Optivo has tried to speak to them, but it was suggested that KCC & SBC approach them.

Amanda Saunders reported that Ragwort is present in the Selling area, which is a dangerous and poisonous plant. This needs to be reported to the council ASAP.

Lady Mayor suggested that any areas causing problems should be reported to Antony Hook on Facebook so that he can take them to KCC. It was important to give as much detail as possible along with photographs.

Hannah Perkins asked what is being done about the environmental impact of all open space cutting and planting and how we can improve the bee population in the area. Graham Tuff of SBC spoke about opportunities to work together with Town & Parish Councils on this. Funding has been given by Heritage Lottery Fund to create community projects that will work on this. Sittingbourne has a 5-year project and other sites are being looked at. There is however, conflict between these groups and the general public as leaving areas long causes litter and dog fouling to go unnoticed.

## **5. Report from Kent Police**

Inspector Craig West introduced our new Beat Officer, Kirsten Jones and the group welcomed her.

They have had a busy few months. Work has been done in combating dangerous driving in the area. One driver was arrested and his license ceased.

A male was arrested for GBH & Burglary. This person was known to the victim, so was identified quickly. He has been remanded in prison and has a court appearance at the end of July.

Shop Lifting – Two shoplifters have been caught, one being a male taking a TV from Sainsbury's and making off on foot! He was caught, arrested and is waiting for a court date.

Domestic Abuse – A male was caught in the area. The female victim resides in Faversham and has an injunction. Work is being done to safeguard the victim

Criminality/Vehicles – Eight vehicles have been ceased with no insurance. Drivers have been reported to the relevant authorities. They continue to patrol the area.

Fly tipping/Waste – Two males caught fly tipping, arrested, charged and fined. Two vehicles have been ceased meaning that they are unable to work which is a greater impact. It was requested that any information should be reported to 101 or to a local patrolling officer.

Drug Dealing – It was noted that the alleyway has been cleaned up, painted and a light put in place. This will hopefully deter the drug dealing that has been going on here. Faversham continues to have a problem with drug dealers and it was noted that one person in particular seems to be able to evade the police all the time. Inspector West asked that any information that can be given to them to build a case would be helpful, however people are afraid of comeback from this person and others that work with him. It was reiterated that the more information they can gather would help them and that they have specialist officers in place to deal with this that can safeguard the information and person.

Inspector West has authorised drug wipe kits for officers to use when stop and searching vehicles.

PC Jones has been more visible in town over the last couple of weeks along with the two PCSO's, Mark Harriett & Sam Rose.

Inspector West spoke about a new community project where Kent Police are working alongside other organisations to protect vulnerable people in the area. If they or one of the other services are called to an address where they believe that the person is vulnerable due to illness or disability, they engage with other services to monitor and help them.

It was suggested that the Youth Engagement Officer connect with Brogdale CIC.

## **6. News & Updates from other Parishes**

None

## **7. AOB**

None