

FAVERSHAM LOCAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM held in The Guildhall, Faversham on Wednesday 12 October 2016

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 9 February 2016

The previous SBC minutes were noted.

4. UPDATE ON KILN COURT AND OSBORNE COURT

Representatives from KCC provided an update on the closures of Kiln Court and Osborne Court:

Christy Holden – Head of Commissioning

Sue McGibbon – Change Implementation

Their full power point presentation is available to view on the town council's website.

Q. No one likes change, how can you reassure us that the changes meet the need of Faversham?

A. A whole range of commissioning is available and we will ensure that it is used in the correct way. Requirements will increase in time. Workforce retention is important and an investment in training will be made.

Projections have been made to 2021 and the new housing developments in Faversham have been taken into consideration. The other centres are in Staplehurst, Ashford, Walmer and Canterbury.

Q. You hear horror stories about services not being viable, such as Mill House. How can you solve this?

A. Good services are out there. 30% of those in care homes do not need to be there, if there was appropriate housing. CQC recognise care homes with 58+ beds are registering and those with less than 26 are de-registering. Smaller homes are less viable. Appropriate consideration needs to be given at the time of granting planning permission to homes. There will be more investment in keeping people in their own homes for longer. There are services under threat, but we are working hard with them.

Q. How does cost and number of carers equate to keeping some in their own home?

A. Extra care housing does provide efficiencies. Needs are adjusted as required. It does require more family commitment. There are better

outcomes for people living at home. There is no timetable for extra care housing, although it is being looked into for Faversham.

Q. When people move into their homes they are young, what is being done to help people stay there?

A. New developments are required to provide 1% of housing that is wheelchair adaptable and there are new standards. This does not cover those physically disabled, only the elderly.

5. UPDATE FROM KENT POLICE

Inspector Gavin Wade

PC Emma Willson

Inspector Wade has recently returned to Faversham, following a year in Dartford.

- All statistics are available to view on their website, which has recently been updated.
- Live chat, email facility and FAQs are all available to help reduce telephone calls.
- Theft from motor vehicles and dwellings are decreasing. Vehicle crime is usually from those vehicles left unlocked.
- The Hop Festival saw a reduced number of incidences and no arrests.
- Hidden crime is increasing, which includes child sex exploitation, domestic abuse and slavery.
- Firearm capacity has increased. Recruitment is also increasing with 480 new officers being recruited, but this will see a negative effect on PCSO numbers.
- Rural crime with cross border working will start again with a more targeted approach around Faversham.
- Clowns are national problem and there were 59 incidences in Kent from the previous Friday to Monday.
- Faversham police station will now house the Kent Police Museum and a patrol base will remain. Work starts next week. The museum will be free to the public.

Q. Graffiti in the subway: any plans for a hawk eye or mobile CCTV?

A. This service is usually prioritised but will look into it.

Q. Used to have a rural PCSO, will we be getting a replacement?

A. Two officers work out of Faversham on the rural team. The force has restructured, but more savings are still required. Some of the current PCSOs will move on to become police officers.

Q. Lower Road antisocial behaviour from people living in the area.

A. This area has now been included in the patrol route.

Q. Broken windows at BM Weston.

A. The original CCTV was funded by Westons and this would be looked into.

6. LORRY PARKING

Helen Whately MP was unable to attend the meeting, but a statement was read out in her absence, which is available to read in full on the town council's website.

Concerns were raised by fly parking at Gates Services, together with cars and other vehicles around Brenley Corner.

Some Kent Police Officers are trained to give out graduated fixed penalty fines (100 additional recently trained). Police deal with the enforcement, litter and waste is dealt with by others. If the lorry driver refuses to pay, the lorry is immobilised and eventually taken away. This leads to larger fines, in addition to fines made for late or damaged deliveries. Between December 2015 and September 2016 2603 HGVs were dealt with, 460 given fixed penalty notices and 2121 moved on. 9 vehicles refused payment and were towed away. Priority is given to those parked dangerously.

Car sharing is another issue, could specific parking be provided, similar to that at Gillingham? A proposal needs to be put to KCC via Kent Police, Traffic Management Department and Helen Whately.

7. THE WAY FORWARD

The LEF was previously run by SBC with KCC, Faversham Town Council wanted to connect with parishes surrounding the town. Previously LEFs moved around, but it was agreed to keep the venue at the Guildhall, as it was a central location. Being located in villages had not previously increased attendance.

It was agreed that each village had a different way of looking at Faversham. This would be an opportunity for parishes to link in, particularly with regard to planning issues.

It was decided that the forum should meet quarterly. Dates were agreed as follows: Tuesday 10 January, Tuesday 11 April and the second Tuesday of the month quarterly thereon.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

St Catherine's Bridge: Concerns were raised over the regular closure during events. Network Rail's comment was *"The live load capacity of the footbridge has been assessed and while it is capable of carrying normal loading it is not capable of carrying crowd loading with the normal safety factors as specified by the assessment code – hence the need to close it on days when crowd loading is likely."*

Network Rail will present to the Town Council in a couple of months' time. It was noted that the new bridge must have ramps. A question was raised as it was not a PROW, could be designated as such. Faversham Footpaths Group would be contacted.

Air Quality: Cllr Geoff Wade is looking into handheld devices for the town council to purchase. Volunteers would then run spot checks.

Job Creation: Had any surveys been undertaken to find out how many people commuted in and out of Faversham?

Apologies

Helen Whately MP
Warden PC
Alistair Gould
Cllr Nigel Kay
Anne Salmon
Trevor Payne
Chris Bichard
Cindy Davies
Eldon Hinchliffe
Tunstall PC

Andrew and Griselda Mussett
Sheldwich, Badlesmere and
Leaveland Parish Council
Cllr Mike Cosgrove
Brenda Chester
Cllr Andrew Bowles
Doddington PC
Margaret Abram
Finlay McDonald
Cllr David Simmons

In Attendance

Cllr Ted Wilcox
Chris Oswald-Jones
Cllr Geoff Wade
Cllr Trevor Abram
Cllr Anita Walker
Heather Planner
Cllr Colin Woods (Newnham PC)
Cllr Jett Tutt (Dunkirk PC)
Cllr John Peto (Dunkirk PC)
Pauline Gerosa
Peter Andrews
Allan Hogben

Juliet Besly
Cllr Peter Flower
Cllr Amanda Saunders (Selling PC)
David Woollett
Gulliver Immink
Harold Goodwin
Ima Rix
Cllr David Cozens (Newnham PC)
Janet Turner
Paul Cumberland
Susan White
Luddenham Parish Meeting Rep