

Minutes of the Faversham & District Engagement Forum

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Present:

Mayor Cllr T Abram	Mayoress Mrs M Abram	PC Kirsten Jones
PC Adrian Goodsall	Chris Oswald Jones	Griselda Mussett
David Taylor	Robert Morrison	Amanda Saunders
David Woollett	Jeff Tutt	Hannah Perkin
Peter Flower	Mick Jackson – KFRS	Joe Kerr – KFRS
Maria Newman	Kevin Fraser	Colin Woods

In Attendance: Louise Bareham

1. Welcome

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Findlay MacDonald	Adam Abrose	Shiel Campbell
Carole Jackson		

3. Minutes from meeting held 10 July 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Report from Kent Police

PC Kirsten Jones gave an update as follows. Reports in the social media and press that there was no police presence in Faversham were not the case. The police station still functions and the front counter is open from 12pm to 2pm Monday to Friday. Two PCSOs, four Rural Liaison PCs, one Sergeant and civilian staff work there.

Further reports that there is a gang issue in Faversham are not the case. There had been a group of four young males, three of whom live in Sittingbourne; two of whom were arrested for violent crime. The one Faversham resident was not arrested.

The incident following the Hop Festival, in the Rec, lead to an arrest and the suspect has been recalled to prison.

'Faversham is no longer safe to live' is not true, social media reports are unfounded. These reports have been challenged by Insp West and the police have gone straight to the source. Further information was not available due to data protection, but it was noted that scaremongering was damaging and did not give a true reflection. However, no offence was committed.

Concerns were raised about unoccupied young people hanging around estates. The police are working with Optivo on possession orders, but mostly it is anti-social behaviour rather than criminal.

A delivery driver was robbed in Selling, which had led to arrests.

Two burglaries took place in Faversham, taking copper piping from an empty house. There were good forensics and CCTV.

Reports of a firearm in Abbots Road lead to an arrest within an hour by armed officers from Canterbury. It was an imitation weapon and offender was bailed.

Anti-social behaviour around Gange Mews including drug dealing has been reported. A visible increase in police has pushed them out of town and back into the estates. Two arrests made in Whitstable Road area.

Six uninsured drivers were stopped. Specials will be carrying out drink drive spot checks.

5. Report from Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Joe Kerr, Watch Manager, KFRS gave a report as follows:

Joe had been in post since January. There is more community engagement and support which is helping the prevention of fires. The Safer Living Campaign helps people in their homes; fitting smoke alarms for the over 70s, how to keep warm, trip hazards, unkempt property. Responded to 1200+ calls in Swale, 532 in Faversham this year, 232 fires and 400+ medical emergencies, 66 RTAs. KFRS are involved with signing off new buildings, including commercial. They can make a real difference in the early stages.

6. News & Updates from other Parishes

It was agreed that parishes needed to be working together discussing new development in the area, as it affected everyone. Concerns were raised about the separation of settlements and lack of green spaces. Cllr Jeff Tutt reported that SBC were not engaging with them in their NHP.

Future development will be on the agenda of the next meeting in January 2019.

7. AOB

Areas of concern raised within Faversham were the capacity of sewers with increased housing planned, particularly with regard to the flooding in Whitstable Road and lorry movement to the sewage works in Abbeyfields. Both were being investigated by Cllr Peter Flower and the Town Council.