

## Faversham and District Engagement Forum

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019

In attendance:

Cllr A Reynolds	Mayor Faversham	L Bareham	Secretary
Cllr K Fraser	Doddington PC	A Jeffs	Doddington Resident
Cllr S Coates	Doddington P	F Macdonald	Resident
V Collman	Resident	M Newman	Resident
M Bradley	Resident	D Woollett	Selling Resident
Cllr A Saunders	Selling PC	Cllr C Williams	Faversham
C Oswald-Jones	Resident	Cllr H Perkin	Faversham
H Goodwin	Resident	Cllr B J Martin	Faversham
PC J Chittim	Kent Police	PCSO D Pashor	Kent Police
S Campbell	Resident	Cllr J Tutt	Dunkirk PC

1. Welcome from the Mayor of Faversham

The Mayor, Cllr Alison Reynolds, introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Attendees then introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Woods, Newnham Parish Council

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

A review of CCTV is being undertaken by Swale Borough Council. It was noted that the April meeting had been cancelled due to purdah.

4. Report from Kent Police

PC Jez Chittim and PCSO Dennis Paslov were in attendance. PC Chittim reported a decrease in reported ASB in the vicinity of Sainsbury and Morrisons and linked it to improved security in store, particularly at Morrisons whose new security appeared to be more proactive. Having spoken with the youth hanging around the shops, they hadn't realised they appeared intimidating to others. PCSO Henderson had identified a number of 14-15 year olds who were responsible for the spate of egg throwing and had spoken to them in front of their parents.

Reported ASB in Faversham as follows:

Jan	52
Feb	28
Mar	32
Apr	26
May	21

It had been noted that the town centre on a Friday evening between 6-8pm was the worst time for ASB and police presence had been increased during this period.

The use of motor vehicles in an anti-social manner had resulted in Section 59 warnings being issued on riders and vehicles could be seized. A reduction has now been seen.

A major issue in the town is shoplifting, which is associated with drug supply. Much of the drug problems are long established Faversham families, rather than county line networks. The police arrested 15-16 year olds involved with shoplifting and drugs but they were later released by the court. PC Chittim thought the drug issue was fairly contained and had not seen evidence of needles in open spaces. Arrests had been made in Whiting Crescent and St Nicholas, all via local knowledge, which was working well.

The recent spate of graffiti is likely to remain unsolved, but the tag has also been identified in Canterbury. The incident appears to have been a one-off. A number of burglaries in rural areas, resulted in arrests. A group from London had hit Medway and Sittingbourne targeting commercial premises, particularly cigarettes etc.

Assailants involved with the brick throwing incident on the A2 had been identified but not charged yet as the investigation was ongoing.

Harold Goodwin raised concerns of crime in Faversham associated with county lines and felt there was evidence people were travelling from Gravesend, into Faversham and Canterbury. He also noted the area around the snooker club which he believed showed evidence of being used as a transit point. He suggested a meeting with the Town Council, British Transport Police and Kent Police to look at the car park and agreed whose responsibility it was. Bins had previously been used to store stolen goods and drugs. PC Chittim felt Faversham had its own supply of drugs and believed that county lines were kept out.

#### 5. Homelessness

Representatives from Porchlight and Catching Lives were in attendance. They confirmed that Swale Borough Council had an obligation to hear an application and the homeless person did not have to be originally from the Swale area. Sonya is the outreach worker for Porchlight, she reported that SBC were providing more funding to enable an additional 1.5 staff for a year. There are six or so permanent homeless people in Faversham, but homelessness has generally increased across the country. They have every right to attend the A&E if they are injured, but the NHS is under pressure and cannot be used as

a source of accommodation. Sometimes homeless people get discharged early and receive second class treatment, in her opinion.

There is no cohesive government led system, each area does something different with individual organisations trying to work together. There is an online descriptor to report a homeless person, who would then go on a waiting list for an outreach worker. Porchlight is primarily in Canterbury, but also Tuesdays in Sittingbourne and Mondays in Sheerness. Terry of Catching Lives would be happy to help set up community drop in.

Cllr Ben J Martin confirmed that SBC were restructuring and increasing staff and the housing budget to provide additional temporary accommodation. A general discussion took place about lack of facilities in the town to provide a couple of days temporary accommodation. It was understood that the Umbrella Centre had future plans to provide a shower. The idea of paying forward was discussed, this involved paying for an additional meal when using a café so which could be used by someone in need.

It was suggested that a stall in the Market Place could raise awareness of homelessness in the town and the idea of the 'paying forward'.

It came as a surprise that temporary accommodation was only available during the winter for a limited period.

6. News from the Parishes

Cllr Jeff Tutt of Dunkirk confirmed their draft NHP had been submitted to SBC. Brotherhood Wood was subject to a planning appeal.

Cllr Amanda Saunders noted Selling were concerned about the Duchy development.

7. Any Other Business

A new youth hub in St Mary's Church in Sittingbourne was noted, which had a new youth worker. This could be a good model for Faversham.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of drones by estate agents and whether there were any guidelines for their use.