

Research into crime and crime prevention in Faversham

Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are a concern for Faversham residents as they are for people elsewhere.

Faversham is a small market town with a diverse population. We have residents across all ages and demographic measures and a wide range of economic positions from poverty (the Priory ward is one of the most deprived in SE England) to affluence. The town generally has a strong community spirit.

The town is aware that simply asking for more police and the police force to do more in Faversham is not a complete answer to crime and ASB, especially as financial circumstances for public services remain challenging.

The town wishes to commission independent research from a researcher with appropriate academic and professional background to consider and advise the town:

- What crime and ASB is being committed in Faversham (looking at all evidence beyond anecdotes that reach us)
- What can be done to prevent crime and ASB by the Town Council, small businesses in the town, residents themselves and other local stakeholders.

A researcher has yet to be appointed but early conversations have indicated that there are many academics or professionals interested in this area who would be suitable. Once the grant is secured we will have an open application and interview process. KCC is welcome to participate in that and in the project generally as findings of the research may be useful beyond our town.

We anticipate that investment in technology, changes to public spaces, education and information (e.g. about steps householders can take to prevent common crimes against their property or where residents can report information confidentially) will be part of the steps the research recommends, but we keep an open mind until the evidence is gathered and analysed.

Crime and ASB is very costly. As well as direct losses to victims there are further costs to residents generally and public bodies in terms of insurance premiums, police investigations and damage of visitor or business confidence in the locality.

Preventing even some offences will more than recover the costs of this research.

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