

Mayor's Update

As Winter draws to a close we can look forward to the bright new shoots of Spring. However for me, it also marks the coming of the end of my year as Mayor of Faversham. Something to which I never aspired but nevertheless have been delighted to undertake, as it has given me a great opportunity to network with many organisations and thereby help each to meet with like minded folk to benefit their individual causes. I have stated on numerous occasions that we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those volunteers who selflessly give of their time to assist those less fortunate than them.

During the past months I have been invited to attend many events, from school fetes, shop openings, and charity fund raisers within Faversham, to attending Mayor making and Civic Services across the County as well as Blessing of the Sea services in several coastal towns, to pray for the safety of those who ply their trade on the waters that surround our beautiful island. There have been many fund raising concerts and activities organised by Cinque Port, Town and District Mayors, as well as many Carnivals attended by our own hardworking Courts who do so much to promote our town.

As 2018 marked the centenary of the end of World War 1, there have been numerous memorial and commemorative celebrations, each of which had its own special significance. Here in Faversham we saw the Dedication of the War Memorial Garden in Stone Street, something which upon completion I believe everyone can be gratified that there is now a tangible and lasting visible tribute to all those that fell in the two conflicts, bringing together all the names in one place, in order that future generations will never forget the ultimate sacrifice that each gave to ensure freedom in our land. The remembrance garden was also supplemented by the wonderful Bunting Exhibition in the Town Hall, for which much thanks must go to all those who contributed bunting and artefacts, as well as to the dedicated staff and volunteers, whose efforts go largely unseen but without whom it could never have taken place. There were so many positive comments from the over 5,000 people who came through the doors during the four weeks it was on display. This indicates that the acquisition of the building to be a focus for attracting exhibitions and the like was the right move, as it proves that it increases visitor numbers to the town with the associated benefit to local businesses. Long may its success continue.

During this year there have been several contentious planning issues brought before the Town Council which your councillors have addressed to the best of their ability. Not everyone can be satisfied by the outcome of some of them, as they they all interact which each other. However, under the Chairmanship of Cllr Geoff Wade, the members of Faversham Future Forum have come together to produce a guideline on future development in the Town which should go some way to ensuring that the Town has a greater say in any new development.

In this Local Council election year, in her article, past Mayor Cllr Shiel Campbell calls for more dedicated people to put themselves forward for election. I am aware that several of your long serving councillors are standing down at this time, so there is an opportunity to be grasped. It is a satisfying role, albeit sometimes arduous, to be able to act on behalf of all residents in an endeavour to improve life in this amazing town of Faversham.

Finally I extend my warm thanks to my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mike Cosgrove for his continuing support and positive advice during this year.

Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham



COUNCIL SURGERY

Meet with Members of your Ward

Saturday 9th March

10am - 12pm at The Guildhall

INFORMATION

The Council Surgery is open to all Registered Electors of Faversham

Abbey, Priory, St. Ann's and Watling Wards

All information will be treated in strictest confidence

No appointment necessary

For further details contact the Town Clerk 01795 503288

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

Saturday 9th March	10-noon	Council Surgery
Monday 11th March	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 11th March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th March	4pm	Policy & Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday 21st March	9.30am	Public Realm Group
Monday 8th April	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 8th April	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th April	5pm	Community Services Committee
Thursday 2nd May		Local Government Elections
Monday 13th May	7pm	Annual Meeting of the Town Council
Thursday 16th May	7pm	Faversham Future Forum
Monday 20th May	7pm	Mayor Making
Tuesday 28th May	6.30pm	Annual Meeting of the Town

**Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.
Those highlighted are specifically for public participation.**

What's On In Faversham 2019

January 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Events galore

Faversham hosts a packed calendar of events throughout the year, the main headline events and regular annual festivals are shown here.

For full details of the events taking place throughout the year visit our website at www.faversham.org



April 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Key

- Faversham Market
- Best of Faversham Market
- Faversham Antiques Market
- Festival/Event

A Great Year for YOUR Town Council



Many Faversham residents have told me how much they appreciate the work of The Town Council. Looking back over the last year there have been so many examples of positive action. We have given Faversham's views about The Cleve Hill Solar Farm, questioned both The Duchy and Gladman on their proposals for massive new developments. We have regularly worked with Swale's planners to improve both large and small applications and developed Faversham's own planning template to assess future applications.

The new offices give our staff much better working conditions and improved technology. The town's Caretaker has been very active in getting the new St. Nicholas allotment ready, funding the plants at the bottom of West Street in partnership with the The Faversham Society. There has been a programme to repaint the town pump and town centre fencing. The two cannons by the swimming pool have been repaired, and we now have some new bike racks.

So many residents came to enjoy the summer Proms in The Market Place. The Town Council regularly organises litter picks and is a great supporter of Plastic Free Faversham and the 20's Plenty Campaign. We continue to actively support a new Creek Bridge and remain willing to help fund it.

12 Market Place has become an active centre of exhibitions and talks. We have held exhibitions of local craftspeople, the great 365 Faversham Photographic display and many others. In all over 8000 people have visited and enjoyed them. Everyone was very moved by the WW1 Bunting display which showed how much residents care. So thank you to all those Faversham residents who made them and thanks to everyone who has helped make Faversham such a community minded place.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Deputy Mayor of Faversham



Taking Care of YOUR Town

Adam Andrews joined the team as Town Caretaker in May 2018 and has become a stalwart of the public realm.

Adam has undertaken a number of improvements including repainting railings, installation of bike racks and signs. He has overseen the replacement of the cannon carriages, installation of a gate at East Street and work to the Town Pump.

He continues to work with the community on planting projects including West Street and Front Brents and can assist areas where anti-social behaviour has been reported by working with the residents to make improvements.

While a lot of Adam's work includes reporting issues direct to Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council, he has built up a good relationship with their officers and can follow up outstanding issues.

Adam can be reached on:

01795 503288

07392 798419

adam.andrews@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



Why would anyone join the Town Council?

- *Have you ever felt that the world was moving on without any participation from you at all?*
- *Should you be doing your bit perhaps?*
- *It's all part of life's rich balance – giving and receiving.*



So what is involved?

Well first of all, you have to get elected. You need to follow a set procedure to get yourself onto the list of prospective candidates, you need to develop a Manifesto (or a USP) and then get your leaflets printed and delivered, then you need to get out canvassing, knocking door to door and getting to meet the electorate in the ward you are standing for. Doing it by yourself is not for the fainthearted, but doing it with a group or political party you are supported along the way.

If you get elected then you need to attend Council meetings monthly and various committee meetings, alongside many other local engagements and meetings – it is a busy life! It's good if we can have a mix of people elected to the Council in order to represent different sectors of the town. It is difficult for people who are working, self-employed or have young families but it is important to have their voice on the Council.

So as you find your feet on the Council so you realise the vast breadth and depth of issues for which you need to have a working knowledge and, sadly, the very limited scope of influence the Town Council actually has on the issues that most people get angry about. But the Council is there to represent the views of the town and to provide a voice for the town in discussions with the other local authorities. It may not be much, but it is way better than nothing.

How does it feel being a Councillor?

I was surprised by how vitriolic some people could be about Councillors – on digging deeper I invariably found they knew almost nothing of the system or the realities involved.

I was shocked by how condemning some people could be about political parties – I have always respected people's political views, it is a dangerous game we play in a democracy if we judge and devalue anyone for holding an opinion that differs from ours.

I was impressed by those (albeit very few indeed) people who attend Town Council and other community groups' meetings month in and month out, forming an important backdrop to the Council business.

I was blown away by how many people are beavering away year after year volunteering in the community for the benefit of those around them.

I was saddened by the cycle of different people that would attend when Planning Applications for new developments came in, rarely (if ever) did I see the same people in support of one another's objections, or considering the issues from a town-wide perspective.

I was dismayed at how many people thought it was a paid position, and overpaid at that!

And I was honoured to play my small part.

I shall not be standing at the next election, I have done eight years and given time out of my family life, my personal life and my business life. I am looking forward to returning to those in full and opening up the opportunity to someone else who may bring a fresh (and possibly very different) perspective. Could it be you?

Copies of The Good Councillors Guide are available from the Town Clerk, and here are some useful links with further information:

- <https://beacouncillor.co.uk/>
- <http://askyourcouncil.uk/the-good-councillors-guide/>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/highlighting-political-leadership/councillors-guide>
- <https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/>

Thank you to everyone in Watling Ward who supported me at election time and a massive thank you to all the many people in the town who have supported me in my time on the Council.

Cllr Shiel Campbell

FAVERSHAM CREEK BRIDGE

UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019

Paul Carter, CBE

Leader of Kent County Council

I have held encouraging discussions during the past few weeks with a variety of individuals, organisations and businesses that are instrumental in the delivery of regeneration of the basin and construction of the bridge. KCC have provided £15,000 to instigate ground conditions surveys and soil inspections at the bridge. When this work is complete, it will enable us to work up much more accurate costings for the bridge project.

I will also be meeting with Andrew Bowles, the Leader of Swale Borough Council to report back on the various conversations I have had with various parties who have property interests around the basin. Obviously, the support of Swale Borough Council as the planning authority for developments in the basin, is highly important.

Our work continues with Peel Ports. Unfortunately, a meeting scheduled for 7th February has been delayed a few weeks as they seek a better understanding of their legal position. However, I am optimistic and quote from Peel's email: "This delay does not mean we are any less committed to the path we are on and which we agreed to follow when we met at the KCC offices last year, but without this advice we will not be any further forward on our actions." A meeting is being arranged for late February/early March.

There is still a lot of work to be done before our vision is realised. As I am certain everyone can appreciate, some of this work and particularly commercially confidential discussions need to be carried out away from the public gaze and obviously certain information will not be able to be disclosed.

My personal excitement and involvement in this project remain at a very high level and I can confirm that the County Council is committed to achieving the construction of a replacement bridge to enable the regeneration of the Creek area as also envisaged by those who so brilliantly contributed to the £125,000 raised by the Faversham Creek Trust.

Finally, for this update it is pleasing to note that representatives from the Faversham Historic Society and the 'Where is our Bridge' campaign will be invited to sit on future meetings of the Faversham Creek Bridge Steering Group. I have asked these meetings are reconvened as a matter of urgency and requested I be kept informed.

Budget 2019-20

Faversham Town Council

PRECEPT

The Precept is the portion of Council Tax received by the Town Council

£368,684

Residents will see a 0% increase on their bills

BAND D

The average Band D household pays £3.11 per week to the Town Council

£57.99

per year

LOANS

The Town Council can borrow money at a preferential fixed rate currently around 3.1%

£63,000

has been budgeted for projects including a contribution to the new swing bridge and town jetty

GRANTS

Every year the Town Council makes grants to community groups

£26,000

These include Faversham Christmas Lights and Faversham Carnival

PROJECTS

The Town Council is involved in many projects including the Heritage Hub, Allotments, Youth, 20's Plenty, Transport Weekend

33%

of the budget goes to making these all possible

CIVIC

Faversham can trace its Mayoral history back to the 1200's and a Cinque Port Limb

2%

of the budget is spent on Civic commitments

At Faversham Town Council's Annual Finance Meeting on Monday 21st January Members approved the budget for 2019/20, maintaining the current spending levels with no increase to residents

Further information available at
<http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Regenerating the Creek - the Port of Kings

In recent years great passion and commitment has been devoted by individuals and community groups in the town to regenerate the creek. The result has been a Neighbourhood Plan that will guide development. This coming year Town Council projects to replace the ageing town jetty will get underway and ongoing action to work with other partners to secure the provision of an opening bridge, will continue and allow development of the Faversham Basin at the head of the creek.

In the coming months as part of this initiative the Town Council aims to bring local groups together to assess the merits of designating the creek a 'Heritage Harbour'. In France and Holland such areas are keeping and displaying traditional boats and nautical artefacts to the public. They have been found to generate significant economic benefits; employment and at festival times bringing in thousands of visitors.

Locally part of the River Medway at Rochester and Chatham with its historic dockyard and castles has been already been designated a Heritage Harbour to raise public interest to that experienced in mainland Europe. It is expected the Medway area will eventually be extended to Swale. There is scope for Faversham to be part of this Heritage Coastline.

As the northern gateway to the Cinque Ports, Faversham with its rich maritime and industrial heritage is a great historic resource; its buildings, gunpowder history, and barge building plus the Cambria barge museum. Boat building and repair continues in two active boat yards. The work of individual champions and the Creek Trust has already made giant strides restoring the Purifier Building for maritime uses. With wider community groups the annual Nautical Festival has begun to bring the creek back to life each summer. When the opening bridge is restored, the Basin will make excellent winter quarters for traditional craft and the berthing of traditional vessels.

Cllr Geoff Wade



PLASTIC FREE WEEK

17th - 23rd March

Call into The Town Hall, 12 Market Place for information, news and events about Plastic Free Faversham.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Town Council is looking for volunteers to oversee the exhibition space at 12 Market Place when we host various displays and exhibitions throughout the coming year. Anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk on 01795 503288 or email direct to: louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.



**Faversham
Transport Weekend**

2019

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th May 2019

The 25th Faversham Transport Weekend will take place this year on the 18th and 19th May 2019, and as soon as we have all the details of this exciting weekend of automotive entertainment for all the family, we will publish full details on www.favershamtransportweekend.org as soon as they are available.

Make a note in your diary and bring the whole family along to see this spectacular display of vehicles throughout the ages, from vintage buses to classic motorcycles.

There is something for everyone, with a free park and ride from Macknades on the Sunday, and free bus rides around the town and surrounding areas throughout the Saturday.



The Annual Easter Hat Parade

**Easter Saturday
20th April
11am - 3pm**

Led by the Easter Bunny and the Mayor and Mayoress of Faversham the Parade will end at the Town Hall for Prizes in best of class.

With craft workshops for all ages taking place on

**Good Friday
19th April**

at

House of The Crafty Fox

www.faversham.org for details



Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

Mayor of Faversham

Cllr Trevor Abram

(St. Ann's Ward)

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M: 07712 594872

E: trevor_abram@yahoo.co.uk

Deputy Mayor of Faversham

Cllr Mike Cosgrove*

(St. Ann's Ward)

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Cllr Nick Green

(St. Ann's Ward)

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Cllr Nigel Kay*

(St. Ann's Ward)

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Cllr Shiel Campbell

(Watling Ward)

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Cllr David Simmons*

(Watling Ward)

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Cllr Geoff Wade

(Watling Ward)

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Cllr Ted Wilcox*

(Watling Ward)

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Cllr Peter Flower

(Abbey Ward)

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E: pecard@btconnect.com

Cllr Antony Hook**

(Abbey Ward)

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Cllr Bryan Mulhern*

(Abbey Ward)

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Cllr Anita Walker*

(Abbey Ward)

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Cllr Claire Belsom

(Priory Ward)

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E: clairebelsom@mail.com

Cllr Ben Martin

(Priory Ward)

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* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor

Join the Faversham Youth Council and make a difference to your town!

By joining the Faversham Youth Council you can help create a town where young people are respected and able to influence and inform decisions that affect their lives. We want to give the young people of Faversham the chance to have a say on the issues that matter to them, and a chance to have their voice heard.

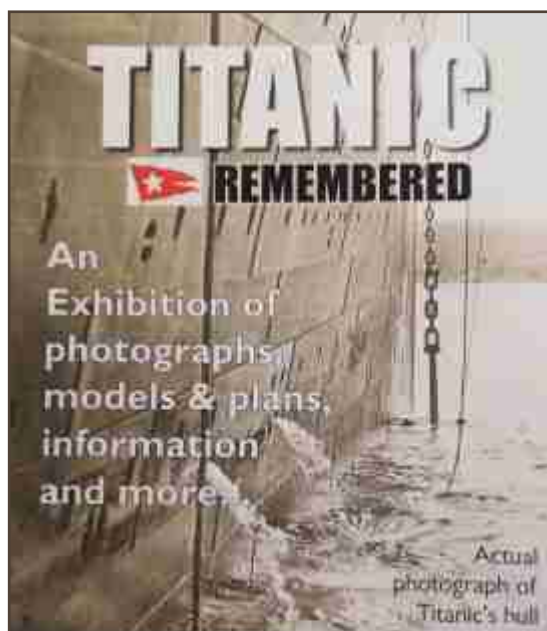
As a member of the Youth Council you will get involved in a number of our campaigns and you do not have to be elected to be a member, just come along.

**Join Brooke and the
others here**



**FAVERSHAM
YOUTH COUNCIL**

www.favershamyouthcouncil.org



6-13th April 2019

Monday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-4, Sunday 10-1

Faversham Town Council Building

12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE

Faversham Town Council - Staff List

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@faershamtc.co.uk
Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@faershamtc.co.uk
Claire Windridge	Economic Development Officer	claire.windridge@faershamtc.co.uk
Emma Powell	Finance Assistant	emma.powell@faershamtc.co.uk
Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	adam.andrews@faershamtc.co.uk
Brooke Williams	Apprentice	brooke.williams@faershamtc.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE

The entrance to Faversham Town Council offices is in Back Lane, please ring the call button to be admitted. Town Council opening hours are Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

**FAVERSHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**

Faversham Town Council Offices

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