

Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Spring 2020 Edition

Faversham Town Council Offices
12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE
Tel: 01795 503286
www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor's Update

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

A very busy end to 2019 saw me attending several Carol Concerts, all well supported. Firstly our traditional Carols in the Market Place, where it rained cats and dogs, but that didn't stop the town turning out in force, cheerful and in good voice. Led by Father Brendan and supported by Churches Together with music provided by our own Faversham Mission Brass.

Then something new - Singalong Christmas rehearsed and produced by Rev. Dan Cocoran, with a very modern twist, in a packed St Mary of Charity Parish Church, with all ages taking part. I look forward to their production of Singalong Easter, rehearsals have started!

My visit with the Carnival Courts to the Cottage Hospital and Cooksditch Nursing Home on Christmas Eve brightened up the wards, with their tiaras and beautiful dresses they brought smiles to the faces of patients and residents as we walked around. A highlight was meeting former Mayor, Kate Lee.

To read the rest of my article online and to sign up for the Mayor's regular Blog, visit the Mayor's Page at: www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Faversham Festival of Transport

Faversham Festival of Transport will take place next year on the weekend of 16th-17th May.

2020 will be the 26th year of this exciting and hugely successful event within the town centre of Faversham - so make a date in your diary to attend this FREE event to avoid disappointment. Keep an eye on the event website for full details nearer the time.

www.favershamfestivaloftransport.org

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

Monday 9th March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 9th March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 23rd March	6pm	Planning Committee
Tuesday 14th April	6pm	Planning Committee
Tuesday 14th April	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 27th April	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 11th May	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 11th May	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 26th May	6pm	Planning Committee

Please check on the Council website for details of all other meetings:
www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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

Faversham Cycle Fest

Taking place at The Town Hall, 12 Market Place Monday 23rd March to Saturday 4th April with ReCycle. ReCycle is an award winning Bicycle Recycling Programme run by Cycle Community CIC a Community Interest Company based in Ashford, who are supported by Kent County Council.

Donate your unwanted or outgrown bicycles during office hours from Monday 23rd March until Friday 27th March.

You will receive a 20% discount voucher towards the purchase of another bike from the Bike Sale on Saturday 4th April, 10am - 4pm.

Doctor Bike Classes - learn the basic skills to look after your bicycle. Places are free but strictly limited, Telephone Brooke on 01795 503286 to book or see Eventbrite.

Monday 30th March & Wednesday 1st April – 12pm to 2pm; 3pm to 6pm; 7pm to 9pm. After school check-up for children's bikes.

Think you're too old to ride a bike?

Think again and come along to a talk and demonstration of electric bikes on Tuesday 31st March at 11am until 12pm at 12 Market Place hosted by The Bike Warehouse – who will be offering a 10% discount on new electric bikes purchased on Bike Sale Day, Saturday 4th April 2020.

Town Council Surgery

Meet with Members of your Ward on Saturday 7th March, 10am - 12pm at The Guildhall. 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.

Giving Wildlife a Helping Hand this Spring

Cllr Chris Williams

Hedgehogs are becoming increasingly rare, but there are things we can do to help in our gardens this Spring. Hedgehogs can cover at least a mile to search for food, or to find a mate and are constantly hampered by fences and other barriers. One little thing that we can all do is to leave a 13cm by 3cm gap/hole in fences to provide hedgehog highways to allow them to move freely.

Don't forget hedgehogs are important pest removers in our gardens, eating up slugs and bugs. Please avoid using slug pellets in your garden as these can really cause serious damage to wildlife! Please be mindful of nesting birds from late February to the end of July, and avoid cutting hedges during this time. It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

Coat Amnesty

Cllr Chris Williams & Cllr Hannah Perkin

Councillors Perkin and Williams with support from Faversham Sharing Community members ran a coat amnesty the weekend before Christmas to collect coats for donation to homeless charity, Catching Lives and the Faversham Refugee Support Group. People were able to donate a coat or come and get one if they needed one with no questions or judgement. Homelessness is on the rise and community kindness is very much needed as a result. The people of Faversham donated nearly 200 women's, men's and children's coats which went to keep people warm this winter.

Faversham Town Council Budget 2020-2021 Summary

Income	£
Precept	496,710
Income	13,150
Earmarked Reserves	52,900
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	562,760
Expenditure	£
Civic	6,775
Staffing and Professional	171,500
Office and Administration	39,940
12 Market Place	72,260
Guildhall	16,550
Moorings	3,750
Facilities Management	4,760
Economic Development	7,200
Community Grants	34,825
Community Events	12,000
Special Projects	193,200
	<hr/>
	562,760

Please see our website www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
for full budget details

Shaping Faversham's Future

Cllr John Irwin on behalf of the NHP Steering Group

On 11th November 2019 Faversham Town Council resolved to create a Neighbourhood Plan, one of the most important initiatives to be agreed by the council since the election.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

- A neighbourhood plan is a way in which we, as a community, can influence the future development of the town in which we live and work.
- A plan will enable us to develop a shared vision for future development by choosing where new homes, shops, offices, industrial sites and other developments should be built. It allows us to identify and protect important local green spaces and even influence what new buildings should look like.

- Importantly our neighbourhood plan won't just be about housing. It will enable us to understand and better communicate our critical need for improved health services, schools, transport and sport and leisure facilities.
- Once approved the Neighbourhood Plan becomes a statutory (Legal) document and must be considered when Swale Borough Council decide whether or not to approve planning applications.

Why do we need one?

- We already have one. In 2017 Faversham adopted a neighbourhood plan for Faversham Creek following a referendum.
- We feel that we need to extend the area we can influence to the whole of Faversham Port and Town. Our first step is to gain Swale Borough Council approval for the plan area.
- Currently our town is vulnerable to speculative planning applications for future development. Swale Borough Council has to consider each new application on its individual merit.
- This increases the risk that development is piecemeal, with little consideration given to the cumulative impact of individual housing developments on the town's infrastructure and services.

Can a plan be used to block development in Faversham?

- No. Housing allocations are made by Swale Borough Council in line with house building targets issued by Central Government.
- In addition, many sites in Faversham have already been either (a) approved for housing development or (b) identified in the Swale Local Plan as potential development sites by the previous council administrations.
- Although the plan cannot stop development, it can empower us as a community to shape future development.

How do I get involved?

- The neighbourhood plan will belong to the people of Faversham and it can only come into force following a positive referendum. We hope to be in a position to hold the referendum on the plan in May 2021.
- The Faversham Future Forum (FFF) are preparing an infrastructure needs assessment to support the process. The FFF is a non-political group of local people passionate about influencing and shaping the future of our town. They hold regular meetings which are open to all members of the public.
- We are in the process of planning a series of engagement and consultation activities that will be open to all residents and businesses. These will be promoted through print and social media and we will also post frequent updates on the Town Council website.
- Everyone can get involved and make their voice heard.

Loneliness Unconference

- Organised by the Abbey Physic Community Garden. Wednesday 20th May 2020, 10am - 3pm at The Alexander Centre.

- Provide an opportunity to network and develop a better understanding of each other's work and contributions to tackle loneliness.
- Improve how all sections of Faversham can work together more effectively to tackle loneliness wherever we find it.
- Encourage a call to action to make a commitment or pledge to help tackle loneliness by doing things themselves or by working with others.

Contact The Abbey Physic Community Garden on communitygarden@abbeyphysic.org for more details.

Walkies

Cllr Carole Jackson

Like many other Faversham residents I am a proud dog owner and enjoy taking my dogs out for a walk. Dog walking is a great way to keep fit for those of us who don't enjoy other forms of exercise and all the evidence suggests that pet ownership has a positive impact on our mental health.

While most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their dogs, it's a bit distressing to still see dog mess on our pavements and alleyways. The Town Council has now put in a number of bag stations where owners can pick up bags to use for their dogs and provided it is bagged, dog mess can now be dropped into both the special dog bins and the ordinary rubbish bins provided by Swale Borough Council. So there is absolutely no excuse for not picking up your dog's waste. If anyone does feel there are not sufficient bins, please let me know and I will take it up with the relevant council officers.

Finally, can I also make a plea that if any cyclists do use local pavements and alleyways, they are particularly careful to look out for dog owners and their dogs. Our pets may be on long leads and not so immediately obvious as you come up behind them.

Become a Special Today

The people of Faversham are widely known to have a great sense of community. Kent Police are currently recruiting Special Constables in our area. Special constables are volunteer police officers, with full police powers, uniforms and equipment.

As a Special you will support regular officers, undertake patrols, support calls for assistance from the public and investigate reports of crime. Volunteering as a Special is a great way to give back to your local community, build new relationships and develop new skills.

Kent Police Specials work in a range of policing areas, so whatever your interests, Kent Police will find a volunteer role that works well for you.

For more information visit www.kent.police.uk/volunteers

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday 23rd March at The Assembly Rooms, Preston Street. The Meeting will start at 7pm – all welcome from 6pm onwards.

VE75 Celebrations

WW2 Bunting Project – Friday 1st May to Friday 15th May, 10am to 4pm at 12 Market Place.

St Mary of Charity Flower Festival – Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May, 10am to 4pm at St. Mary of Charity.

Proms in the Market Place – Friday 8th May from 5.30pm, with live music from The Railway Swing Band. Refreshments available from the Gunpowder WI.

Faversham Youth Silent Disco – for 11-17 year olds

Thursday 9th April, 6pm till 8pm at The Assembly Rooms, Preston Street.

This is a FREE event – entry tickets can be reserved by booking them at Faversham Youth Café, or via Eventbrite. Please go to the Faversham Youth Council Facebook page for the direct link.

For further information contact Brooke at: brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Faversham Town Council Staff

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
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Claire Windridge	Economic Development Officer	claire.windridge@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
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Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	adam.andrews@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Brooke Williams	Business Apprentice	brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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.

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

[Cllr Antony Hook**](#) (Abbey Ward)

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[Mayor of Faversham Cllr Alison Reynolds BEM](#) (Priory Ward)

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[Cllr Kris Barker](#) (St Ann's Ward)

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* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor