

Mayor's Update

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.

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

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.

Faversham Cycle Fest

REMINDER

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	12pm to 2pm
7pm to 9pm	7pm to 9pm
3pm to 6pm	3pm to 6pm
After-school check-up for children's bikes	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



Who will be offering a 10% discount on new electric bikes purchased on Bike Sale Day, Saturday 4th April 2020



COUNCIL SURGERY

Meet with Members of your Ward

Saturday 7th March

10am - 12pm at The Guildhall

INFORMATION

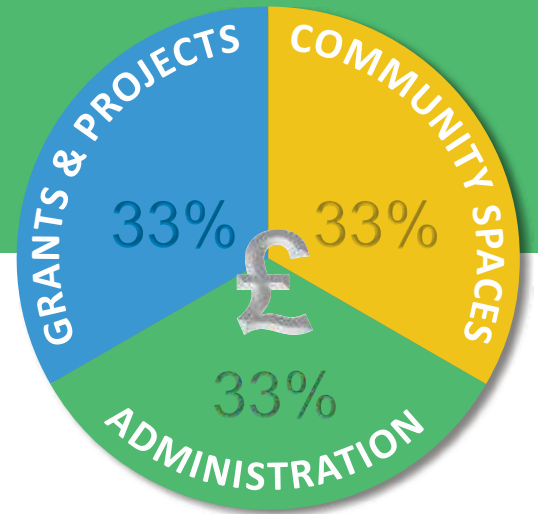
The Council Surgery is open to all Registered Electors of Faversham
Abbey, Priory, St. Ann's and Watling Wards

All information will be treated in strictest confidence & no appointment necessary

For further details contact the Town Clerk 01795 503288

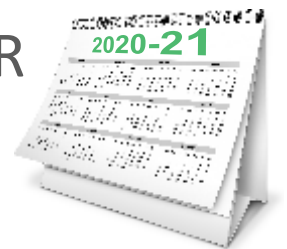
ANNUAL COUNCIL BUDGET 2020-2021

Faversham is a great place to live, work and visit. As we enter a period of profound change, both locally and nationally, Faversham Town Council have an ambition to make it even better. We have listened to residents and have set a budget that reflects the ambition to make things happen. This is a progressive budget that will enable us to work together to improve the situation for our young, our health, our disadvantaged and our built and natural environment. Let's continue to make Faversham a community of which we can be justly proud.



*What will it
cost Faversham
town taxpayers
per average
Band D
household?*

£78.05
PER YEAR



£1.50
PER WEEK



AN INCREASE OF 38½p PER WEEK

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

£40k

Engaging Youth



£28k

Town Wide 20mph



£18k

Climate & Biodiversity



£10k

Allotments



£12k

Community Events



£35k

Community Grants



£25k

Magna Carta Exhibition



£20k

Neighbourhood Plan



£25k

Community Land Trust



£11.5k

Creek Bridge



Priorities for 2020-21

- Engaging with the Town's Youth
- Climate Emergency
- Tackling Homelessness
- Health and Wellbeing
- Tourism

how do we compare to other Councils

Band D Comparisons 2019/20



Please forward any queries or comments you have regarding the budget to:
 Louise Bareham, Town Clerk, Faversham Town Council, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE.
 Or email: louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Giving wildlife a helping hand this Spring . . .

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 13cm 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.

Cllr Chris Williams



Shaping Faversham's Future

Local people working with the town council and borough planners to set out a vision for the future of our town . . .

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.*

Cllr Irwin on behalf of the NHP Steering Group



**Faversham Festival of Transport
will take place this 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



COAT AMNESTY

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.

Cllr Chris Williams and Cllr Hannah Perkin pictured with Faversham Sharing Community members



Loneliness Unconference

**Organised by the Abbey
Physic Community Garden
Wednesday 20th May 2020**

10am - 3pm

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 . . .”

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.

Cllr Carole Jackson

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

will take place on

Monday 23rd March

at The Assembly Rooms Preston Street

The Meeting will start at 7pm

All welcome from 6pm onwards



Diary of Events

WW2 Bunting Project

12 Market Place

Friday 1 May to Friday 15 May, 10am to 4pm

St Mary of Charity

Flower Festival

Friday 8 May to Sunday 10 May, 10am to 4pm

Proms in the Market Place

Friday 8 May from 5.30pm

With live music from The Railway Swing Band.
Refreshments available from The Gunpowder WI

The Mayor invites the

Town to Remember VE75

Civic Service, St Mary of Charity
Sunday 10 May, 6pm

AGES 11 - 17
FAVERSHAM YOUTH SILENT DISCO
FAVERSHAM ASSEMBLY ROOMS
9TH APRIL 2020
6PM TILL 8PM

FREE EVENT

Entry Tickets can be reserved by booking it at Faversham Youth Cafe or Eventbrite, please go to Faversham Youth Council Facebook page for the direct link.

For further information, contact Brooke:
Brooke.Williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Faversham Town Council - Staff List

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Claire Windridge	Economic Development Officer	claire.windridge@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Emma Powell	Finance Assistant	emma.powell@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	adam.andrews@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Brooke Williams	Marketing & Admin Assistant	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.



Faversham Town Council Offices
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Kent ME13 7AE

T: 01795 503286

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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Cllr Denise Knights*

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Cllr Hannah Perkin*

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Cllr Chris Williams

(Abbey Ward)

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Mayor of Faversham

Cllr Alison Reynolds BEM

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* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor