

Mayor's Update

December already, the Town's excellent Carnival has come and gone and everyone that has commented seemed to agree that it is was certainly one of the best they had seen. The visiting Mayors that came on the day have all enthused about it. My personal thanks and congratulations to all involved, whether actually on the floats or behind the scenes, raising funds throughout the year, dealing with the red tape so efficiently or marshaling the spectators. Well done to all of you.

We are halfway through the civic year already! The clocks have been put back an hour, marking the end of what has been a truly remarkable summer. In fact the sun shone on most of the exciting events that have been carried out in and around the Town. The Mayoress and I have been invited to represent your Town at many events, such as school fetes, the opening of the Faversham Fringe Festival (where there were performances so varied that everyone should have found something to their taste), the presentation of richly deserved awards at both the Physic Garden to those who spend much of their free time preparing spectacular displays for the pleasure of those who pass their houses, to members of the Faversham Horticultural Society. And it gave much joy to my Grandchildren when I invited them to assist me in judging the scarecrows at Millfield Allotments. That was a fun day for them.

I have also attended many of the fund aising events held by charitable organisations in Faversham. These are too numerous to mention in the small space allowed in this newsletter, but you know who you are and my heartfelt gratitude goes out to you all for the amazing contribution you make to the lives of those who receive the benefit of your untiring work.

Hire this very special venue for your very special day . . .



From 1st January 2019 the Guildhall will be a licenced venue for civil marriages and partnerships.

We have already taken our first booking for a Summer wedding - a Faversham couple have decided to make the Guildhall part of their special day in June next year, amidst the hustle and bustle of the Saturday market.

For further information, availability and prices, contact:

Adrienne Begent at the Town Council on: 01795 503288

In this, the centenary year which marks the end of hostilities in World War 1, by attending many memorial ceremonies across the county and the Cinque Ports, I have had a poignant reminder of the sacrifice made by those who gave their lives, of those who suffered life changing injuries in the conflict and the families who struggled to rebuild their lives without their loved ones. Here in Faversham, where seventeen percent of the menfolk of the Town were lost, we now have a fitting memorial to them in the Stone Street Memorial Garden - truly a peaceful place to sit and contemplate. I wish to congratulate all those who have worked over the past seven years to secure funding from many organisations, businesses and individuals to make it happen on time in this centennial year.

As we move into the dark days of winter I would ask each of you to keep a watchful eye on those less fortunate than yourselves, who live close by you to make sure that they do not suffer from neglect. Perhaps offering a helping hand could be a lifesaver, even though they may be too independent to ask for assistance.

As this is to be the last newsletter of 2018, and I know it is possibly a little early, but Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2019.

Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham



COUNCIL SURGERY

Meet with Members of your Ward

Saturday 8th December
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 8th December	10-noon	Council Surgery
Monday 10th December	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 10th December	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 12th December	5pm	Community Services Committee
Monday 14th January	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 14th January	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 16th January	4pm	Policy & Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 21st January	7pm	Finance Meeting
Tuesday 22nd January	7pm	Faversham & District LEF
Thursday 17th January	10am	Public Realm Group Walkabout
Thursday 24th January	9.30am	Public Realm Group
Monday 28th January	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 11th February	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 11th February	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th February	4pm	Policy & Finance Committee Meeting
Monday 25th February	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 11th March	6pm	Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 11th March	7pm	Town Council Meeting

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

'Bloomin Marvellous' Faversham

Faversham in Bloom has for many years been judging all gardens in the town that are visible from the highway or footpaths and awarding commendations with cards put through letterboxes. The commended displays are judged by an external judge and various trophies are awarded annually in September.

In addition to our local judging we also enter Faversham as a large town in the South and South East In Bloom Competition. I'm pleased to report that for the third year in a row, the Town was awarded a gold and received high praise from the judges for community involvement, management and development of local heritage and they were particularly impressed by local schools.

"We also saw two primary schools with active gardening groups - Ospringe School presenting various habitats and garden areas and links with businesses (Edible Culture and Belmont House), and Ethelbert Road School with a front facing garden presenting an attractive and educational outlook for the school."

This year we have two more local groups working with Faversham in Bloom to plant the beds on South Road by the vets and in the Mall.

There are an increasing number of such groups and this year seven entered in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award: Gange Mews, Middle Row, Friends of Westbrook Stream and Stonebridge Pond, Faversham Abbey Precinct, Friends of Abel's Acre, Millfield Allotment Association and the Abbey Physic Community Garden, with the last four gaining

the highest award of outstanding. Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park was also awarded a gold in the country parks section.

I must thank everyone from the town for helping us to once again gain a gold award, whether it is putting a bit of colour in a front garden or filling old jeans with soil, putting them on a seat and planting them with bedding plants in Abbey Street.

If you are interested in helping to improve your neighbourhood please contact me, ted.wilcox@btinternet.com, Chair of Faversham in Bloom.

Cllr Ted Wilcox

Faversham Christmas Lights

One of the many special events of our Christmas festivities is that special time on a late Saturday afternoon in November when the Faversham Christmas lights are switched on.

For over 25 years volunteers begin in October to work on the lights that help make Faversham so special. Every Sunday whatever the weather you can see them with a fork lift truck, platform ladder and an array of cables stringing and fixing the lights along West Street and Preston Street and into the Market Place. So when Saturday 24th November came this year everything is ready for the big switch on.

This is an exciting time for children and for all those that love to see our Christmas lights that are always good but get better every year. People have made donations and many have bought individual light bulbs on which you can write a name. So when you see those lights brighten the night sky, you can say "I helped with that". This year was special for me as well. Unfortunately the Mayor was unable to perform the switch on, and asked me to stand in for him. So this year instead of being one of the crowd, I was allowed onto the stage. Well the market square was packed with a sea of cheerful faces waiting with expectation for the moment to arrive.

Although this event is for everyone, it is very special indeed for children who wait with growing excitement until everything is ready. Of course the lights don't just get switched on immediately; there is a build up with some false starts. Will they come on, or Won't they?

Are we ready.....? So 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1, all together now SWITCH ON!! With shouts, cheers and whistles on they come, a magical wonder of colour and light. This is what everyone has been waiting for, and now you see them you just know that Faversham's Christmas lights are the best in the whole world. Gradually the crown thins out, people begin to walk away, under the new lights, shining, glinting and lighting up the evening sky. I think this year's lights were the best ever; well the best until next year, see you then, and tell all your friends.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Deputy Mayor of Faversham

NOMINATE A COMMUNITY HERO

KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019

Nominations are now invited for the KALC Community Award 2019

Faversham Hero

which is presented by the Mayor of Faversham at the Annual Meeting of the Town in May 2019.

Nominees are individuals, aged 18 or over, or groups who have made a significant contribution to the local community in any of the following criteria:

- a) Long and sustained service to the community or part of it;
- b) Achievements or actions of an inspiring nature to the local community;

- c) Such other activities which have reflected credit on or brought benefits to the town or its people.

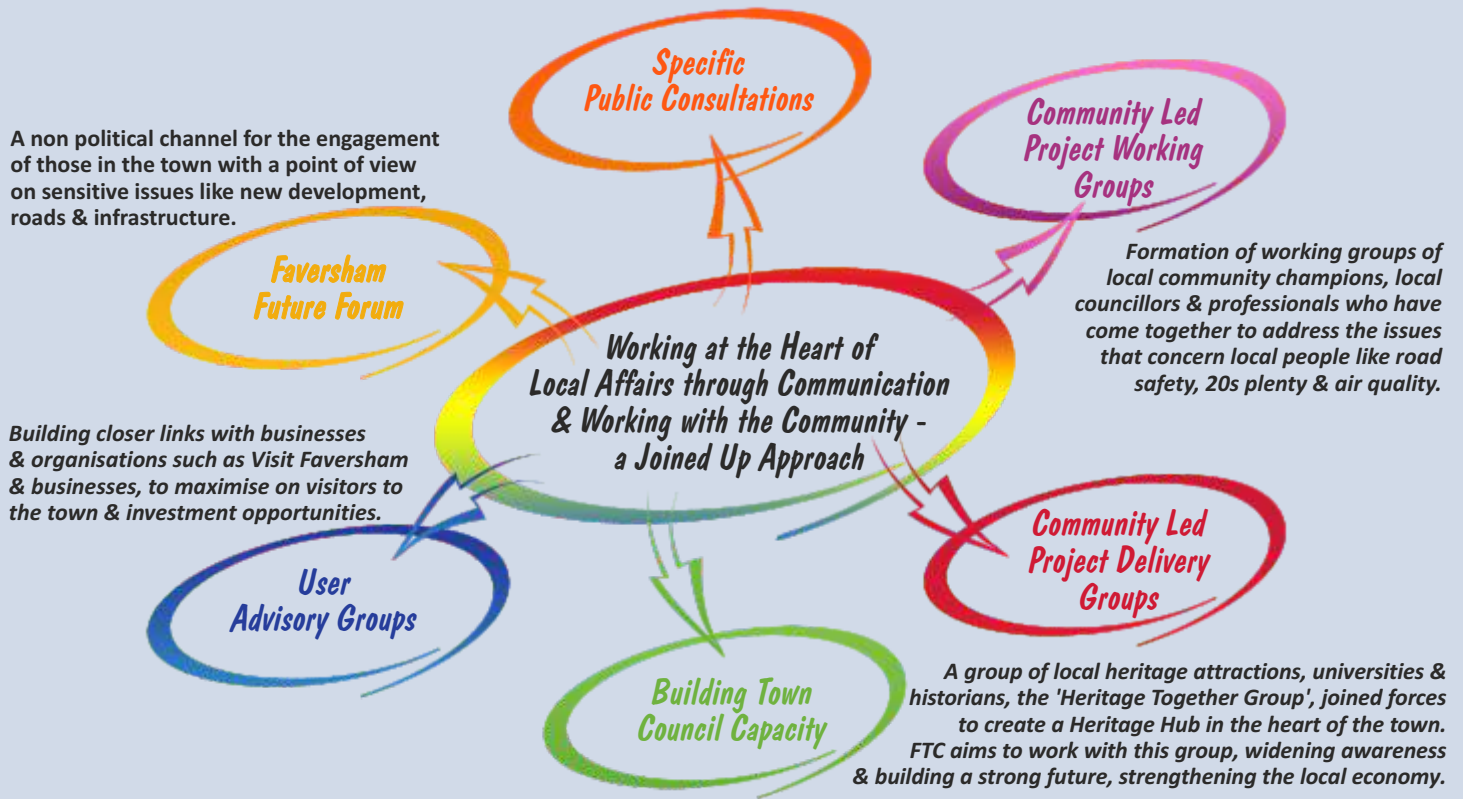
If you would like to nominate a **Faversham Hero**, then contact the Town Clerk giving full details of your nominee (full name of individual or organisation, address, telephone number, email address and the name of the organisation the nominee provides services to), together with your reason in no more than 30 words why you have nominated them.

Don't forget to include your name, organisation if relevant, address, telephone number, email address and your relationship to your nominee.

Nominations close at midnight on Sunday 6th January 2019. Please mark for the attention of the Town Clerk and email louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk or post to 12 Market Place, Faversham.

Town Action Plan Review

Where major FTC decisions have been necessary public consultations & meetings have been held to inform action like the acquisition of No.12 Market Place which has now become the Town Hall.



As the Action Plan for 2019/20 is prepared the FTC aims to work closer with the community, strengthening the joined up approach, supporting, challenging, supplementing not duplicating the work of Swale and Kent County Councils that is so essential to life in Faversham.

'Faversham Remembers' exhibition launch commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War One

The exhibition commemorating the death of every serviceman from Faversham who died in WW1 opened to the public last Friday, following a VIP launch party the previous evening. The exhibition, called 'Faversham Remembers', features the Community Bunting Project which is made up of 383 pieces of bunting, each dedicated to a Faversham serviceman who died in the War. Over the last year, members of the public, schools and youth organisations have been creating personalised pieces of bunting, many contributors are descendants of those who gave their lives.

The exhibition will also feature a new book on Faversham's experience of WW1 called 'Faversham in the Great War'. It features insights into how the War affected the town including arrangements for treating wounded soldiers; the role played by local women during the War; personal accounts of the experiences of local soldiers and the famous story of the Great Explosion in 1916.

Councillor Mike Cosgrove, Deputy Mayor of Faversham, says: "It is extremely important to the people of Faversham that local service men and women who gave up their lives in the Great War are remembered. The bunting project and Faversham Remembers Exhibition have engaged hundreds of people throughout Faversham, who have worked together to show our gratitude and deepest respect to the 383 servicemen that died. The exhibition and book also remember the other local men, women and children whose lives were hugely affected by WW1."



Faversham Remembers is taking place from 2nd to 26th November at 12 Market Place in Faversham. The exhibition, organised by Adrienne Begent the Deputy Town Clerk at Faversham Town Council, is jointly funded by Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council, will also feature a display of memorials including original graves from France.

Faversham Recreation Ground HLF Improvement Project

Following the announcement in the summer of an award of £1.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund toward an ambitious £1.9m, heritage led regeneration of Faversham Recreation Ground, Swale Borough Council have been working with architects and designers on refining designs.



The award followed detailed community consultation and seeks to make improvements such as refurbishment of the former gardener's lodge, restoration of original wrought iron gates and boundary fence on Whitstable Road and Park Road, reinstatement of some areas of historical planting and paths, refurbishment of the main changing pavilion and toilet block, improvements to both the play area and skate park, development of a catering kiosk and creating an outdoor performance space.

In addition Swale will employ additional staff to assist in the management of the site, with volunteer opportunities and an events programme to help bring the Rec to life. We are very keen that local people are involved and given the opportunity to use their skills or to just participate in activities.

Significant work to tender the improvements is currently being undertaken before starting on site, with the play area improvements in the spring prior to the main refurbishment work taking place over the summer, scheduled around users such as local football teams and the Rugby Club. Clearly with significant work there will be a large amount of disruption to neighbours and users, but we will keep communicating over this period.

Research and investigations during the preparation of our initial HLF bid have uncovered a large amount of interesting information relating to the Rec and this is available on internet at: www.swale.gov.uk/faversham-recreation-ground.

Cllr David Simmons



Faversham recreation ground

Update on 12 Market Place

During the summer there have been a number of exhibitions that used 12 Market Place and the building is starting to show it's potential. Since occupying the building a total of 6,614 people have visited the various exhibitions on display. The Medieval Faversham exhibition, put on by Christchurch University had 1,600 visitors and Faversham 365 had 3,800 visitors.

We have had a slight set back with our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, as they have decided not to support the concept of the Heritage Hub, and have indicated that we should apply to another HLF with an application focussed more on the Magna Carta and the other Charters and Town artefacts. This was not entirely unexpected, as competition for HLF grants is intense as sales of National Lottery tickets have declined dramatically, and the amounts available for grants have been greatly reduced.

It is hoped that in 2019 it will still be possible to get the priceless Town documents back to the Town from Kent Archives and for them to be displayed in secure and climate controlled conditions. As the area needed for their display will not take the whole of the ground floor of 12 Market Place, a series of different exhibitions will take place during 2019. Organisations in the Town who are interested in using this area should in the first instance contact Louise Bareham the Town Clerk.

There continue to be many myths about 12 Market Place, the first is that Faversham already has a Town Hall. In fact up to the local government reorganisation in 1974, Faversham did have a building that acted as the Offices of the then Faversham Borough Council. Then, unlike our other Cinque Ports such as Sandwich and Hythe, Faversham did not retain it's Town Hall and the Alexander Centre was taken over by Swale Borough Council, as it needed to be converted into a cultural centre with the addition of the Gatefield Hall. This was because Faversham's Cultural and Community Centre, the Faversham Institute, which stood on the corner of East Street and Newton Road, was in such a bad state of repair following a bomb exploding near it during the Second World War, that it had to be demolished.

There are also a lot of incorrect figures banded about the costs of the building as well. In fact it has been purchased using a loan with a fixed interest rate with equal instalments over 50 years. The comparative costs of renting offices and buying 12 Market Place were subjected to a detailed financial assessment using a discounted cash flow analysis, which will be familiar to people who work in finance or banking that adjusted for the expected rate of inflation of 2.5% over the next 50 years. Buying was overwhelmingly more beneficial, even before taking into account the fact that 12 Market Place is five times the size of the previously rented offices at the Alexander Centre.

Cllr Nigel Kay



Faversham Transport Weekend

2019

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th May 2019

The 25th Faversham Transport Weekend will take place next 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.



Exciting new steps on road to slower speed limits

Our '20's Plenty' Working Group has received a report from Phil Jones, one of the world's leading experts on street design and slower speed limits.

Earlier in the year, Kent Highways said they could be persuaded to sign off about 60% of the road space in Faversham with a 20mph limit. But our view is that better than that is possible. Phil Jones' report should help us achieve that.



The report has been funded at no cost to the Town Council, by some of my community grant fund as County Councillor and similar funds from Swale Councillors David Simmons and Mike Henderson.

Saving lives and preventing injuries is a key reason for 20 mph speed limits. The evidence is that most people drive slower if the limit is reduced (even if not everyone does) and every 1mph speed reduction reduces the number of collisions by 6%.

Phil Jones' report also looked at the rates of cycling in Faversham. Even though we're a compact town our cycling rates are well below

other areas. In part, this is because some local streets don't feel safe to cyclists. 20 mph speed limits should improve that.

More cycling and walking will help local health. Phil Jones' report included data on obesity rates, which are higher than average in parts of Abbey and St Ann's wards.

Phil Jones' team are looking to obtain more data on current speeds in Faversham. Ordnance Survey are offering a new product: speed information based on mobile phone data. In my day job, as a lawyer, I have seen mobile phone data used in serious criminal trials. It is a powerful tool. Our advisers are assessing whether it can help us understand traffic speed locally.

This is an exciting time and in due course the Faversham 20'S Plenty Working Group will seek a further meeting with Kent Highways to see if we can improve on the 60% of road space they say could have a 20mph speed limit.

We'll ensure the people of Faversham are kept informed and are listened to all the way.

Cllr Antony Hook



Faversham Carnival Club

We have enjoyed a bumper carnival this year with over 60 entries including floats from businesses, local scout, guide, cub and brownie groups. We were particularly impressed with the entries from the schools this year. With help from both Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council we were able to book two fantastic marching bands which added to the atmosphere.

For more than 40 years we have held our Selection Dance to choose the new Miss Faversham and her Court in August, and then officially crowned them on Carnival Day. This was out of line with other towns and villages who have their selection dances between February and May.

This year we decided to trial changing the date to January so that our new Carnival Court saw the whole year through. There were a number of reasons why this was felt to be a good idea. When we chose in August a lot of potential entrants were on holiday so missed out on the chance to enter. Over the years we have often had people ask to enter around Carnival time when it was too late for the coming season. We felt that if those who wanted the opportunity to represent their town saw the girls on Carnival Day on their floats, they have a chance to quickly apply to join us. Other reasons taken into account were financial and logistical with regard to arranging dresses and training prior to carnival whilst still having an overlap with the previous carnival court.

If anybody would like more information on joining the Carnival Court please contact us on 07860 276000 or send a text. The Selection Dance will be at The Alexander Centre on Saturday 26th January 2019. The Junior Competition is for ages 7 to 12. The Senior Competition is for ages 13 to 23. It does not cost anything to enter and the successful applicants are provided with all their dresses and regalia.

Sylvia Lawrence - Carnival Queen Chairman & Honorary Secretary of Faversham Carnival Club



Pictures courtesy of KM Group

2019 DIARY DATE

The Annual Hat Festival

will take place next year on Easter Saturday 20th April with the craft workshop taking place on Good Friday
www.faversham.org for full details when available



Faversham Volunteer Garden Completed

The volunteer garden on the junction of West Street and South Road has now been completed, and will be cared for by community volunteer gardeners to improve Faversham's environment for both people and wildlife.

This project has been a partnership between the Faversham Society, Faversham Town Council, Faversham in Bloom, Swale in Bloom, Swale Borough Council with special thanks to Edible Culture.

If you have a community garden project in mind for your area which will benefit your local environment and wildlife, then get in touch with Louise Bareham the Town Clerk on 01795 503288.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW AT ST. NICHOLAS ALLOTMENTS

Would you like a plot at St. Nicholas allotments?

Would you like one year's free rent?

Can you spare a few hours to help clear the site ready for 2019 planting?

Then get in touch with us now to offer your services to help us clear the site in readiness for next year's planting.

With only a few plots remaining, priority will be given to those who have given up their time to clear the site, and will benefit from the first year's rent free of charge.

Anyone interested please contact Louise Bareham at Faversham Town Council, on 01795 503288 or email her at: louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

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

- ◆ Are you fed up with feeling like there's nothing for young people to do?
 - ◆ Do you think nobody ever listens to your views?
- ◆ Do you wish you had more control over what happens in Faversham?
- ◆ Are you between 11 and 19 and living, working or studying in Faversham?

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



Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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Deputy Mayor of Faversham
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* Swale Borough Councillor
** Kent County Councillor

The Faversham Town App

Designed and produced by the **Faversham Traders Association** is now available for free download from Google Play and the App Store

The app gives access to all areas of Faversham Life:

- * What's On * Where to Shop
- Where to Eat * Pubs * Services
- * Special Offers

Funded by FTA membership fees and donations



STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS ... STOP PRESS Developments in the Planning System National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Revised

On 24th July 2018 the Government issued the revised NPPF. This sets out the new standard methodology for housing targets for future Local Plans. The Bearing Fruits Local Plan horizon date is 2031, although it would have needed to be reviewed and rolled forward before then under existing national policy which required local councils to keep local plans up to date. In fact an immediate review was recommended to address concerns raised very late in the process by Kent Highways in respect of the A2 corridor especially at the western end of the Borough. Please visit the Town Council's website for full details at:

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
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Faversham Town Council - Staff List

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Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk
Claire Windridge	Economic Development Officer	claire.windridge@favershamtc.co.uk
Emma Powell	Finance Assistant	emma.powell@favershamtc.co.uk
Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	adam.andrews@favershamtc.co.uk
Brooke Williams	Apprentice	brooke.williams@favershamtc.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 at Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.