

Youth Climate Panel

The proposal is to form a Youth Climate Panel, overseen by the Climate and Biodiversity Committee, to achieve the following:

Vision:

The Youth Climate Panel will, work with Faversham Town Council and the community, to help to bring about a low carbon, resilient and attractive Faversham where all people are proud to live and work.

Purpose of the group:

1. Provide a platform to the young people of Faversham interested in Climate Change issues, environmental issues and biodiversity and the impacts on Faversham and the wider landscape.
2. Allow young people to feed into Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council policies and actions, helping to influence future decisions.
3. Link up with school environment groups and have climate school ambassadors.
4. Open opportunities for young people to get involved with community projects and volunteer roles.
5. Organise events and presentations at schools, public meetings or at town events.
6. Lobby parliament through the local MP and councillors on acting on the Climate Emergency.
7. Work with the Faversham Youth Council, Swale Youth Forum and other youth partners within the town and borough.
8. Assist the council to empower residents to act on Climate Change, providing insight into how to encourage people to take responsibility for their behaviours.
9. Create discussions and form opinion on national and international matters in relation to Climate Change and Biodiversity loss.

Terms of reference:

The Youth Climate Panel will:

1. Promote and provide opportunities for young people to learn, engage and give feedback on climate change issues.
2. Provide a meeting to consult young people and raise ideas about improvements to the Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council's Climate action plans.
3. Act as ambassadors for the actions which the council and partner organisations are taking regarding climate change issues.
4. Establish links with other community groups and external agencies representing young people.
5. Promote and demonstrate low carbon behaviours in their daily lives as much as possible.

Panel:

1. The panel will consist of young people from the town between the ages of 11 and 18.
2. A representative councillor from the Climate and Biodiversity committee and a Town Council officer will attend each meeting.
3. The group will elect a chairperson for each meeting.
4. Seek to secure a diverse membership, as representative as possible of the demographics of young people in the town.
5. This panel will be shaped, and its agenda driven by those in the group.
6. The panel will meet bi-monthly in person or virtually, whichever is appropriate.

Next Steps:

For the Climate Youth Panel to be a success, it is going to need a good range of young people to support it. Therefore, the next step is to contact those that have expressed interest and reach out to others to gain their interest, to start to formulate the panel.

Brooke has created a page on the Faversham Youth Council website, which can act as a good information place and way to register interest. It is important as well that we write to the secondary schools, youth clubs and other young person organisations in the town.