

Mayor's Update

I am writing to you just as we go into another lockdown, so I know where Covid19 is at present but have no idea where we will be by the time you read this. I do know that Faversham has responded magnificently to all the problems, helping each other and supporting the community. I visited all the Faversham schools during October to thank them for working so hard and bringing all our children back into education. Every single head teacher, with full commitment from their staff, has found and implemented a whole new way of working. Every single one told me that the children and staff are delighted to be back!

Two big issues in Faversham at present are the development of the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan and 20s Plenty. Both issues are very important so please be sure to have your say!!

It was a privilege to present the KALC Community Award to Harold Goodwin on the 16th September 2020, this was primarily to recognise his work as Chairman of the Faversham Society, but included his unstinting work on other Town issues.

Regrettably 2020 saw us lose so many of our Festivals and Events and at this point I would like us to remember Mr Magic (Myles) who provided his Magic shows at many, many events and was part of the fabric of Faversham. For me personally he became the finale of the Gym Club's Christmas Fun Day for over 20 years, always enjoyed by staff and children alike, he will be sadly missed. Our Carnival Club organised by Sylvia Lawrence and her team found a way to keep the flame burning by organising a photographic exhibition. Also the Window Spotting Competition, which I have enjoyed since my childhood. The Carnival Queen and her Princesses helped raise over £400 selling raffles tickets outside 12 Market Place and the event ended with a short procession around the Guildhall which raised many smiles!!



Harold Goodwin receiving the KALC Community Award from Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham, accompanied by Cllr Trevor Martin, Deputy Mayor of Faversham



Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham, pictured with the Faversham Carnival Queens

I was absolutely delighted to see Steve Sherlock and his team putting up the Christmas lights, sadly there will be no official switch on this year which saw unbelievable numbers of people in the Market Place last year. This display lifts our spirits on the dull gloomy days in the run up to Christmas. Sadly it will also not be possible for us to meet for the annual Christmas Community Carols in the Market Place. Individual Churches will be planning Christmas Carol Services all of which will be subject to the current socially distancing guidelines, and information regarding these is being sent out by Churches Together in Faversham.

The Youth Bus/Trailer at the time of writing is present in the Recreation Ground Friday evenings at 6.00pm, positioned by the Pavilion Car Park. Covid restrictions permitting it will have visited other locations within the Community; carefully controlled visits are developing with huge enthusiasm and optimism from the organisers. When Covid restrictions are lifted the project has great possibilities.

Many thanks to all the children who entered the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition - at the time of writing a winner has not yet been announced.

Also in spite of what has been a very difficult time for all our shops and businesses, the window decorations and displays have brightened our visits into town and have been much appreciated.

Due to the outstanding support from organisations and volunteers COVID-19 will not beat Faversham. Many thanks to everyone who is helping our Community and may Dennis and I wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

20MPH LIMIT

Help us make Faversham
Healthier - Safer - Cleaner

Healthier
Safer
Cleaner



Faversham

What YOU are telling us

The **20mph Faversham** town wide speed limit will have been in operation for over two months by the time you read this.

The Town Council is a proud supporter of the 20 mph limit and all councillors are actively campaigning for the scheme to become permanent because we believe that 20 mph speed limits reduce casualties, enable slower traffic, increase walking and cycling, reduce air pollution and are cost effective – saving far more public money than they cost.

Your feedback from our market stalls, the **20mph Faversham** social engagement site and from emails and phone calls, is that most residents support the scheme. Your thoughts and suggestions are proving very helpful to enable us to prioritise the improvements or adjustments that are needed for the scheme to achieve its objectives.

We want YOUR feedback

We have committed ourselves to listening to residents' feedback:

- 1 We have already asked Kent County Council (KCC), the Highways Authority, to make adjustments to increase safety.
- 2 The scheme designers were always clear that we would need traffic calming measures to make it easier for drivers to observe the new limit. We need residents to tell us where these are best placed. Please give us your views on current problems and potential improvements at <https://20mphfaversham.commonplace.is>, our community engagement platform.
- 3 Following your suggestions to improve the scheme's effectiveness, we will assess which parts of the original design which aren't included in the experimental scheme should now be implemented.
- 4 One issue that you have raised frequently is bike users riding in pedestrianised areas and on pavements. **20mph Faversham** aims to give cyclists the confidence to cycle on road and to reduce pavement cycling. We share public concerns about careless cycling in areas where pedestrians should have priority, and have taken steps to improve the situation by increasing the number of town centre cycle racks and introducing signage asking cyclists to dismount in pedestrianised areas.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Despite the positive support for 20mph Faversham there is no guarantee that the scheme will become permanent. The Town Council is not taking the decision on whether the scheme continues. KCC runs the public consultation on the scheme and the final decision on its future will be taken by the KCC Cabinet member for Highways and Transport after it has been to the Swale Joint Transportation Board.

So, we need your support. You can help encourage compliance by observing the limit and driving at 20mph. Limit the town journeys you take in the car and walk and cycle more. Make others more aware of the limit by displaying publicity and telling friends and neighbours about the benefits.

Healthier
Safer
Cleaner

20

Faversham

FAVERSHAM
TOWN COUNCIL

Say
YES
to 20s Plenty

Say
YES
to the KCC
Consultation

Finally, if you want 20mph to become the permanent speed limit on your street it is very important that you take part in the formal consultation on experimental scheme.
Visit:
www.kent.gov.uk/faversham20mph in order to register and give your views.

Cllrs Eddie Thomas &
Julian Saunders,
Chair & Vice Chair
Town Council 20s Plenty
Committee

A VIRTUAL MILE OF POUNDS FOR FAVERSHAM POOLS

Faversham Pools is Swale's most popular tourist attraction and opened for business again this autumn. The Pools team has worked hard to put new Covid-secure measures into place, and can't wait to welcome you back. As well as fun for all the family, swimming is an excellent all-round, low-impact form of exercise, with both physical and mental health benefits. Sessions do need to be booked in advance, either through www.favershampools.com or by calling reception.

Although committed to providing this essential community service, the Pools have been hit hard by the pandemic. As a registered charity, the Pools rely on donations and the income from users to restore funds lost from the Covid shutdown, and to make much-needed improvements. But the charity is fighting to stay afloat after its six-month closure, with depleted reserves, restricted opening and uncertainty about whether it will be able to open the outdoor pools in 2021. **This autumn, the charity is launching a new campaign to help raise funds to secure its future, and needs your help.**

Back in the 1960s, the people of Faversham came together to build an outdoor swimming pool in the heart of the town. They raised funds by collecting a mile of pennies – quite a sum in those days!

Over half a century later, the Pools aim to raise almost £70,000 by making a virtual mile of £1 coins. This sum will secure the longer-term future of Faversham Pools and will help keep swimming, and this very special place, at the heart of our community.

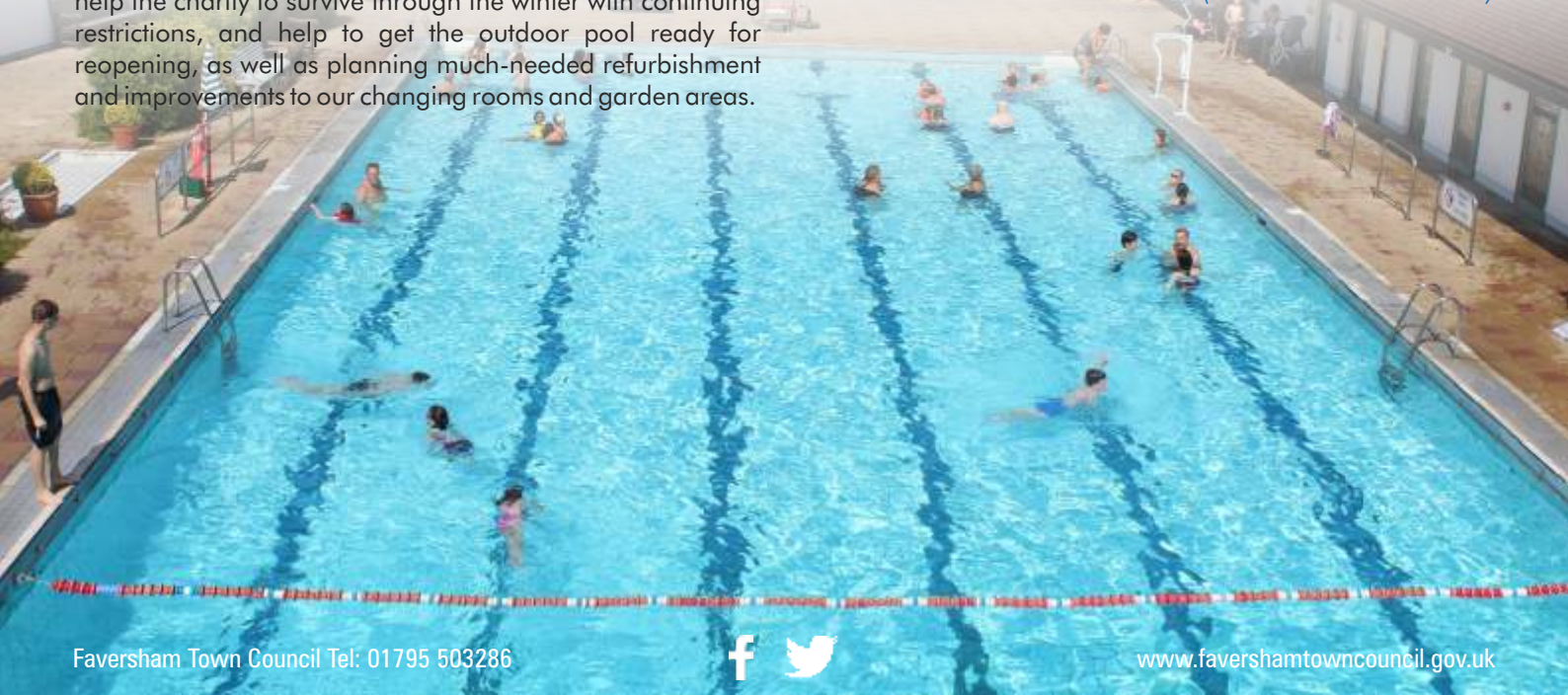
During the pandemic, the charity has been generously supported by Swale Borough Council and wonderful donations from individuals. But, in such unprecedented times, the Pools need even more support. Funds raised will help the charity to survive through the winter with continuing restrictions, and help to get the outdoor pool ready for reopening, as well as planning much-needed refurbishment and improvements to our changing rooms and garden areas.



With fun activities planned, and pop-up stalls in Faversham Markets, there are loads of ways to get involved. Visit www.favershampools.com/support to learn how you can help. Cash donations are very welcome in the new collection box in the Pools' reception area.

#favershammileofpounds

Cllr Ben J Martin (Trustee of Faversham Pools)



Rotary Club of Faversham Christmas Carol Tour

One of Faversham's traditions at Christmas is the Rotary Club's Carol Tour collection for charities and good causes. The Carol Tour has been running for 69 years and despite the challenges of COVID is set to continue this year, albeit with some changes.

Our Christmas float will be touring the town playing carols on the evenings of **Monday 14th December to Saturday 19th December 2020 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.**

We will not be knocking on your door collecting donations as in previous years, for obvious reasons. We hope that you and your family will open your curtains and doors to listen to the carols and to exchange a seasonal greeting from a safe distance. If you do wish to donate, we will have a donation box attached to the float so that you can donate safely.

Faversham Rotary Club is well known for its generosity towards local and international good causes. This year it has been distributing grants to charities and good causes directly affected by the current COVID crisis.

If the arrival of our Float brings some cheer in these difficult times, and you would like to support our causes through the Rotary Club of Faversham Trust Fund, please visit our website and make a donation. Please be as generous as you can, everything you donate goes directly to support and bring Christmas cheer to local elderly, vulnerable and young carers, amongst others.

Check on our Facebook page when we are due to visit your area. Please remember to mark the date in your calendar and come out to greet our float from a safe distance.

Rotary Club of Faversham Trust Fund -
Registered Charity Number 272383



Scan here with your smartphone to go to our website and donate.

www.favershamrotary.org



Scan here with your smartphone to see when we are visiting your area.

www.facebook.com/favershamrotary

"Faversham Rotary Club would like to wish you and your household a Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year"

Tree planting season - why it's more important than ever!

You might have just one or two goals in mind when planting trees: to attract garden birds, give amazing autumn colour or create much needed summer shade, whatever your reason, trees have far-reaching benefits for all of us. Trees are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines. Like great carbon sinks, trees absorb atmospheric carbon and lock it up for centuries. They do this through photosynthesis. The entire woodland ecosystem plays a huge role in locking up carbon, including the living wood, roots, leaves, deadwood, surrounding soils and its associated vegetation.

Tree planting season is from November until March and there are species that will be suitable for all planting situations. It is important to put the right tree in the right place, and there are lots of resources to provide advice from the Woodlands Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Faversham Town Council are actively working to see more trees planted in Faversham through working with partners such as Swale Borough Council, Faversham Trees and community groups. This winter the Town Council will be distributing over 1000 trees for residents to plant in their gardens and community spaces to help increase tree cover in the town. We are also working on projects with the towns schools to involve young people in tree planting too.

Did you know? Young trees absorb CO₂ at a rate of 6kg per tree each year. Trees reach their most productive stage of carbon storage at about 10 years at which point they are estimated to absorb 21kg of CO₂ per year. At that rate, they release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.

CLlr Chris Williams



UPDATE ON FAVERSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Over 4 weeks in September and October the Neighbour Plan Steering Group with the support of volunteers, ran two separate exhibitions at Faversham Town Hall to help better understand the community's priorities. We had over 400 individual visitors for both exhibitions and we are very grateful for those who took the time to post comments. All the feedback has been captured and is now available to view on the Faversham Town Council (FTC) website. If you were unable to visit the exhibitions, the content is also on-line for commenting.

Not everyone can of course visit an exhibition, and to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate, we have posted a survey to every household in Faversham. Please do take the time to complete and return the survey to ensure your opinion is heard. An online version is also available on the FTC website.



STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS . . . STOP PRESS

We have had confirmation from Swale that Faversham has been allocated an additional 3500 houses (additional to the 2,229 earmarked in the existing Local Plan Bearing Fruits). These will be built out over the course of the revised Swale local Plan i.e. by 2038. At the time of writing Swale Officers have recommended that 3300 of these houses are delivered by four sites, land north of Graveney Road (240 houses), land east of Faversham (600 houses), land at south east Faversham (the Duchy site) (2,500 houses) and land at Preston Fields (70 houses). The remaining 200 housing sites will be allocated within the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.

This underlines now, more than ever, the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan that delivers for the people of Faversham. Please make sure you take part in the consultations.

Cllr John Irwin



TOWN LOTTERY ON ITS WAY

Town Councillors have given the go ahead for planning work to start on a community lottery in order to raise funds for local charities and community organisations.

The pandemic, lock down and resulting economic dislocation have made fundraising difficult for many local community venues, events and services. Councillors are keen to make sure that the Town Council does what it can to help local organisations renew themselves in the future.

We intend to work with Gatherwell, a community lottery manager already used by over 70 councils across the country, to develop the lottery. It will operate on line, using a partnership model which allows players to choose which local charities or voluntary groups benefit from their participation and gives each organisation its own fundraising page. We are hoping a wide range of voluntary and community organisations will want to get involved including arts, culture and recreation providers. Our initial market research has confirmed that organisations have found it difficult to fundraise in the last few months and that their income has declined - 85% of organisations responding to our latest survey have said they would be interested in participating in a community lottery.

Tickets are likely to cost £1 and prizes of up to £25,000 will be available. Community lotteries are considered low risk by the Gambling Commission. Most participants are motivated by supporting good causes and Gatherwell have robust systems in place to mitigate against the risk of problem gambling. If organisations want information on our plans at this stage, please contact the Town Clerk on 01795 503288.

Cllr Julian Saunders



TACKLING LONELINESS

Before lockdown, the Abbey Physic Community Garden were supposed to be running their first "loneliness unconference". Due to Covid-19 that was sadly cancelled but a survey was issued to users of the garden and to partner agencies to open conversations around the subject on loneliness, something that until lockdown changed everything, was not often spoken about.



At the moment, the Physic Garden run the following sessions:

- Faversham Community Kitchen (outdoor cooking) Wednesday & Friday 10 am – 12 pm
- Outdoor Faversham Men's Shed (Wednesday and Friday – 10am - 1 pm)
- Happy Café every 2 Wednesdays in the month 1 pm – 3 pm
- Social Sessions Afternoons – Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
- Gardening morning and afternoon sessions but limited to 4 per session

You can also find out more about what they are doing to combat loneliness in Faversham by emailing Jacqui at jacqui.abbeyphysic@gmail.com or visit their website www.abbeyphysic.org or Facebook Page @abbeyphysic.

Faversham also has community projects such as the Umbrella Centre, Faversham Assistance Centre and Age Concern, to name but a few, who are all doing their utmost to improve the Health and Wellbeing of our community. Lockdown has raised awareness on loneliness and isolation and brought the reality of being lonely into the forefront of our minds. Over lockdown the town councillors, charity organisations and members of the community befriended and helped people who were struggling across the town. One of the key conclusions from the Community Gardens Loneliness report is as follows:

"We have also been struck by the many examples of neighbourliness and greater willingness of people to look out for each other. Sustaining these behaviours over the longer term might be a challenge but it's something that Faversham should value and encourage."

As we move into the winter months and a second lockdown we must continue to be there for each other and to encourage those that are struggling to reach out to organisations that can help. Faversham is a strong community and we can all do our bit to prevent someone from feeling lonely.

Cllr Hannah Perkin

Faversham Town Council - Staff List

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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 Schedule of Virtual Meetings

Monday 7th December	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 7th December	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 21st December	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 4th January	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 4th January	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 7th January	7pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 11th January	7pm	Annual Finance Meeting
Monday 11th January	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Committee
Monday 18th January	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 18th January	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 25th January	7pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Thursday 28th January	9.30am	Public Spaces
Monday 1st February	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 1st February	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 4th February	7pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 15th February	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 22nd February	7pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Monday 1st March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 1st March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 4th March	7pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 8th March	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Committee
Monday 15th March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 22nd March	7pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Thursday 25th March	9.30am	Public Spaces

Please check details of all meetings and how to attend virtually on the Town Council website at www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings



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