

Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Spring 2021 Edition

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

NEW TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE LAUNCHED www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Annual Town Meeting via Zoom - Tuesday 9th March 2021 - 7pm

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk for joining details

Mayor's Update

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

2020 has been a year like no other. It has been difficult for everyone, but especially for those who have lost loved ones or who have family or friends ill at this time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

As I write this newsletter in mid January let me follow up with two pieces of very good news. Firstly our GP surgeries are making great progress in administering the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccine to our priority groups of Faversham residents. Secondly I have been humbled and hugely appreciative and proud of how the whole Community has come together to help those in need, all of our front line workers getting on with daily tasks under very difficult conditions, also our wonderful volunteers, raising money, delivering food and medications, caring for the elderly, vulnerable and looking out for neighbours. Faversham has shown itself to be a real Community and together we will come through this pandemic, stronger and kinder. Being Mayor this year has been strange, unable to spend much time helping and encouraging local organisations – such a stop and go year.

I have kept in touch with Age UK and thanked them for having cooked 80 fresh meals each day, 7 days a week and delivered these to our residents, all throughout this pandemic – amazing!

Another good thing which happened was the planting of 1,000 trees around Faversham during National Tree Week, sponsored by your Town Council. I personally delivered a tree to each of our Primary Schools, but was unable to enter and help with the planting ceremony. I hope to visit later in 2021 and provide a celebratory plaque saying: 'Planted in 2020, the Year of the COVID 19 Pandemic', which of course will be recorded in our history records.

Making a Buzz – very proud moment. The Kent Wildlife Trust has been involved in a partnership with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and other organisations, running a project called making a Buzz for the Coast (Dartford to Deal). One of the projects over a three year period was to find a neighbourhood with the Best Buzz. They were delighted to announce that whichever way they looked at the maths, the town of Faversham came out as the clear winner by a high margin. The award was presented to Ted Wilcox, Chairman of Faversham in Bloom and myself and on Thursday 29th October at Faversham Abbey Physic Garden. Apparently 22 out of 24 species found in the UK are here in Kent! We have also taken part in our 'Wild About Gardens Awards Scheme' for the last three years. Again this year Faversham won Gold in the South and South East in Bloom Competition, a huge THANK YOU to the people of Faversham for making this possible.

My thanks also go to Oare Gunpowder WI, Faversham Lights, Residents, Shops and Businesses for lifting our spirits and brightening our town over the Christmas period. Thanks to Churches Together in

Faversham, all eleven, for providing a well supported and organised Christmas Trail and bringing the year to a close with a brilliantly recorded virtual Carols (Not in the Market Place). Viewed on Facebook and Youtube, we could sit at home and sing along; an amazing production involving choirs from a number of the primary schools, a very uplifting way to end the year.

Finally I must mention my visit to Nellie Wade, a 103-year-old resident of Cooksditch Nursing Home, where Covid safe visiting has been arranged for relatives. Full of priceless memories of her life in Faversham, her father was caught up in the 1916 Great Explosion and lay in a field for three days before being rescued. Her family had a shop on the Front Brents and she would take carrots over the Creek Bridge to the Shepherd Neame's Shire Horses. She was full of many happy memories. I have promised to return next October (2021) for her 104th birthday and shake her hand (no more Perspex barriers) hopefully.

Let's look forward to all the Spring bulbs our wonderful volunteers have planted. I anticipate a more hopeful year, having together got through 2020. There can be no Mayor more proud of their Community, the kindness, care and compassion has been outstanding.

Town Lottery is on its Way

Cllr Julian Saunders

Faversham's Community Lottery is on its way. Tickets are now on sale and the first draw is only a few weeks away on Saturday 3rd April. We believe it's a fantastic opportunity for residents to support a local good cause that is special to them or contribute to local good causes generally.

Faversham's Community Lottery is on its way. Tickets are now on sale and the first draw is only a few weeks away on Saturday 3rd April. We believe it's a fantastic opportunity for residents to support a local good cause that is special to them or contribute to local good causes generally.

In order to get involved and buy your first ticket you need to either visit the Lottery website www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk or ring the Lottery phone line 01795 467017. On the website you can choose whether you support an individual local organisation or contribute to the general community fund, which will be used to give grants to local community groups.

The Jackpot prize is £25,000 paid out when entrants match the six figure number drawn. There are also smaller monetary prizes and there will be a range of add on prizes supplied by local businesses. The minimum weekly stake is £1 but we would encourage those who can afford to purchase a larger stake so that local good causes can benefit more - 60% of the income will go to local good causes, a far higher amount than most other lotteries including the national lottery.

The Town Council has set up the lottery in order to make it easier for local charities, community groups and causes to fundraise during the pandemic, but it is planned as a permanent contribution to supporting the local community sector. A wide range of good causes have already signed up for the lottery including large venues like Faversham Pools, which is such a fundamental part of the community, as well as specialist charities like Abbey Physic Garden working with those with mental health problems and community sporting & youth groups like Faversham Strike Force Football Club. If you are involved with a good cause and want it to be part of the lottery it is not too late. We will be adding new organisations on a regular basis.

In order to protect local residents from any risk we have contracted with Gatherwell Ltd., to deliver the lottery for Faversham. They already run community lotteries for more than 70 local councils, but Faversham will be the first Town Council to have its own lottery. Gatherwell have developed robust systems to ensure that the lottery does not lead to problem gambling and the Town Council has committed itself to not using lottery funding to support its own services. We want this to be a genuine community lottery running to build a stronger more successful network of charities, community groups and good causes in the Faversham area.

The last 12 months have been challenging for our community facilities, events, charities, clubs and societies. Please get behind the lottery and help local organisations rebuild their services for the future. **DON'T MISS THE FIRST LOTTERY DRAW** – Saturday 3rd April 2021.

20mph Limit – Help us make Faversham – Healthier, Safer, Cleaner

Cllr Eddie Thomas, Chair Town Council's 20s Plenty Committee

What's the next move for 20mph in Faversham?

THERE'S STILL TIME - 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 the experimental scheme.

Visit: www.kent.gov.uk/faversham20mph in order to register and give your views.

We are informed by KCC that their officers will prepare a report based upon evidence from the consultation, market research, vehicle speed measurement and observational studies. Later this year this report will go to the Swale Joint Transportation Board, before the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways, makes a final decision on the scheme becoming permanent.

The feedback we've received as a Town Council via our own 20mph consultation and the NP consultation indicates there is good support for making the scheme permanent, and for more action to encourage compliance with the limit and make town streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians. As your town council we are committed to do what we can to continue to encourage more people to walk and cycle around town. Therefore from your comments and suggestions, plus advice and recommendations from PJA our scheme designers, we are now investigating what further improvements can be made to our streets. These must encourage safe driving, safe street crossing points and a safer cycling environment.

Until the result of KCC's consultation is announced, if any further improvements are made they should be suitable for either a 20mph or 30mph limit.

Therefore some of the improvements being actively considered are:

- removing the white centre line of some streets, but not at junctions. Trials have found that this led to a reduction in injury collisions and traffic speeds.
- providing a safe place for pedestrians to cross at the new Mall 'gateway'.
- relocating the Bysing Wood Road gateway away from the roundabout, to a location between Wildish Road and the Western Link.
- making it safer to cross streets on the 'cross town alleyway' walking route from South Road along Cross Lane and Gatefield Lane to the Rec. These improvements would create highly visible crossing points and therefore also reduce the speed of traffic.
- developing easier pedestrian crossing points near; Stonebridge pond; Whitstable Road/Millfield Road junction; The Mall/Forbes Road junction.
- additional safety improvements to the existing Forbes Road zebra crossing.
- identifying potential locations for a "healthy streets" design that will complement our 20mph scheme. This is where a junction is converted to only allow pedestrian and cycling access, similar to the existing arrangement where Hatch St. meets Fielding St. and where Penshurst Rise meets The Knole.

Please continue to provide feedback on our CommonPlace website - 20mphaversham.commonplace.is - thank you.

Will you help the most important creatures on the planet?

41% of insect species face extinction

Cllr Chris William

The loss of their habitats and overuse of pesticides are two major reasons why insects are dying out eight times faster than large mammals. However, it's not too late and we can all help, to put insects into recovery.

By working together, we can change the future of insects. Starting right now, you can make small changes in your home, lifestyle and community that will help these fascinating creatures.

Why should we care?

Without insects, many birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals and fish would die out as they would have nothing to eat.

- 87% of all plant species require animal pollination, most of it delivered by insects – that is pretty much all of them except grasses and conifers.
- In addition, 3 out of 4 of all the crops that we grow require pollination by insects.
- Only by working together can we address the causes of insect loss, halt and reverse them and secure a sustainable future for insect life and for ourselves.
- Together, we can stop this alarming loss and create an environment that is rich in nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

So, what are we doing about it?

Faversham Town Council are working with Kent Wildlife Trust to tackle the Climate and Biodiversity emergency here in Faversham. Kent Wildlife Trust's Action for Insects campaign focuses on trying to raise awareness and tackle the massive decline in the UK insect population.

You can find out more at: www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/action-insects

Here in Faversham we are working for better management of local green spaces, creating community gardening opportunities, becoming a pesticide free town and demonstrating ways we can all make changes in our own gardens, through information and events.

All of these initiatives, plus many others, will help create biodiversity net gain across the town and tackle climate change. The more biodiverse our neighbourhoods are, the greater the health and wellbeing benefits there are for all of us.

Please do let us know your thoughts, listen into climate and biodiversity meetings and look out for projects coming up, all of which can be found on the Town Council website.

Faversham Tree Week

Plant a tree for free update

Back in December & January your Town Council gave away 1000 trees of varying varieties to be planted in small, medium or large gardens.

The project was a huge success with all the saplings being snapped up by local residents - well done to all those residents who took part in this initiative to help save our planet!

Update on Faversham Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Kris Barker

Our last newsletter covered the fantastic level of community engagement in the two exhibitions in September and October. In these sessions we asked for opinions on a range of key areas that will contribute towards the policy formation in the Neighbourhood Plan. In the intervening period we've also conducted a Residents Survey, both by post and online. Again, the level of support and feedback has been great.

In the coming weeks we are launching two further surveys, for businesses and youth, also with the aim of shaping the vision and policies contained within the plan.

More recently Swale Borough Council has issued a Draft Local Plan, which details the housing allocations and planning guidelines across the borough. Swale Borough Council, as expected, has allocated 5,729 additional houses to Faversham, which includes 2,229 houses already allocated from the existing Local Plan. As previously stated, the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan cannot block these allocations. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will seek to ensure that the design standards, transport links and encompassing infrastructure will deliver a homogenous community and NOT a series of independent conurbations, distinct from one another. As such we have been reaching out to each of the developers of the allocated sites to talk through ambitions for the community as a whole. Whilst it is still early days, the engagements have been positive, and the developers share our desire to see harmonious developments to the community of Faversham.

Neighbourhood Plan Timeline Update

Cllr Kris Barker

With the pandemic impacting how we can engage with the community and contributors alike, the timeline for the delivery of the plan has slipped. Our expectations of the time required to support the formal elements of the process had also been very ambitious, and this latest update takes a more pragmatic view. We will shortly be speaking with the planning team at Swale Borough Council and hope to confirm their resources and the overall timeline.

With residents' survey responses being collated we are now at the point of being able to draft policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. This is being done in conjunction with the expert team of volunteers from across the community. The 'business' and 'youth' surveys will also contribute to the vision and policy as their input is collated across February. Swale Borough Council (SBC) has issued a Draft Local Plan, which details the housing allocations and planning guidelines across the borough. As anticipated, SBC has allocated an additional 3,500 homes to the existing 2,229 houses covered in the current Local Plan ('Bearing Fruits'). Of the 3,500 houses, which will primarily be delivered through large scale developments to the East of the town, 200 houses have been allocated to the area within Faversham parish and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan. The 'call for sites' will look attribute those houses, where possible, to brown field developments.

Looking to the next civic year, the finalised draft plan will enter the formal elements of the process. The Town Council will, on approval from the SBC planning team, consult on the plan with the community. At this stage updates may be made depending on the responses to the consultation. From there, SBC as the Local Planning Authority will undertake its consultation process. Finally the Neighbourhood Plan goes through an independent examination. All being well, this will all culminate in a referendum on the plan in early 2022.

The key right now is to formulate the plan, taking in to account all of the community engagement thus far. We are confident, with the support of the extensive team of local experts, that can start the formal adoption process in the summer.

Once again I'd like to thank those who have taken part in the exhibitions and surveys.

NO Increase to the Town Council portion of your Council Tax for 2021/22

At the Annual Finance Meeting, Faversham Town Council Members agreed the precept of £504,997 which is equivalent to £78.05 per annum for a Band D household.

This maintains the Band D rate at the 2020/21 figures and means there is no increase in the portion of Council Tax you pay for the Town Council for 2021/22.

2021 Grants Awarded

<u>Association/Group</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
Animate Arts CIC	£497.00
Assembly Rooms Faversham	£1,750.00
Creed Outdoor Learning Trust	£1,680.00
Cinque Ports Rowing CIC	£3,000.00
FACE	£5,000.00
Faversham Pools	£5,000.00
Faversham Umbrella	£5,000.00
WFCA Youth Drop In	£3,236.00
Millfield Allotment Association	£4,998.00
Faversham Carnival Club	£3,000.00

Faversham Town Council schedule of virtual meetings

Monday 1st March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 1st March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 4th March	7.30pm	Extraordinary Town Council Meeting
Monday 8th March	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Committee
Tuesday 9th March	7pm	Annual Town Meeting (via Zoom)
Monday 15th March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 15th March	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 22nd March	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Thursday 25th March	9.30am	Public Spaces
Thursday 1st April	7.30pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 5th April	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 5th April	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 19th April	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 19th April	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 26th April	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee

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.

Faversham Town Council Staff

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Claire Windridge	Visitor & Events Development Officer	claire.windridge@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Emma Powell	Finance Assistant	emma.powell@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adam Andrews	Facilities Manager	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.

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

Cllr Antony Hook** (Abbey Ward)

E: Antony.Hook@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Hannah Perkin* (Abbey Ward)

E: Hannah.Perkin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Williams (Abbey Ward)

E: Chris.Williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor of Faversham Cllr Alison Reynolds BEM (Priory Ward)

E: Alison.Reynolds@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Kris Barker (St Ann's Ward)

E: Kris.Barker@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Carole Jackson* (St Ann's Ward)

E: Carole.Jackson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Trevor Martin (St Ann's Ward)

E: Trevor.Martin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Julian Saunders* (St Ann's Ward)

E: Julian.Saunders@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr John Irwin (Watling Ward)

E: John.Irwin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Ben J Martin* (Watling Ward)

E: Ben.J.Martin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Eddie Thomas* (Watling Ward)

E: Eddie.Thomas@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor