



26th June 2021

Dear Madam Mayor and Councillors,

As I'm sure you can remember the FCLT commissioned a housing needs survey last Summer and from that information we discovered that there were at least 211 sofa surfers.

We are now gathering information regarding our 'hidden homeless' be that sofa surfers, families living in over-crowded situations for a variety of reasons from not being able to buy a house or even rent privately, to having lost their jobs and moving back with parents etc. We have already received some heart-breaking stories from local residents. We know that mental health issues are on the rise and housing need can be a big factor of that.

The FCLT is looking at running a campaign highlighting this issue and to also call for more really affordable housing. The average house prices in Faversham have risen by 6.8% in the last 12 months and we know that the strong market makes Faversham an attractive place to live but local people, families that have lived here for generations are being priced out of the market.

I am writing to you to ask for help, we are looking at sending a newsletter to every household in the town, making people aware of how some people in our town live and to also make them aware that we need to start to challenge developers with what they build. This would not be a financial contribution. All I am asking for is time. Time from the gifted Claire Windridge to help with producing the newsletter.

I know Madam Mayor that the residents and local families are close to your heart so I hope that you and your fellow councillors will support the FCLT in its campaign.

Best wishes.

Claire Martin

Chairperson FCLT