

# Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Summer 2021 Edition

**Faversham Town Council Offices**

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## Mayor's Update

**Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham**

By the time you read this Newsletter the restrictions should be easing - what a relief. I am delighted to see all of our local shops open once more, a more active Town Centre, and to see a real start in economic recovery from the COVID pandemic.

It is great at the same time to see new businesses opening up - Hurlinghams taking on the butchers in East Street; Top Hat and Tales opening a brand new town bookshop, aptly named The Next Chapter; the new Hat Hats Café in the recreation ground, and Lottie's on the Market Place starting a new venture in the adjoining premises. The very best of luck to those brave entrepreneurs believing in Faversham, please support all our businesses and SHOP LOCAL!

It's a real boost that the vaccination programme is going so well. Many thanks to our two great GP surgeries who have been so innovative in encouraging a high take up of vaccinations. And a very positive welcome to Faversham Smiles, a much needed additional dental surgery.

Whilst still being in lockdown there were good things happening. I was able to visit the Abbey Physic Community Garden recently, who have made big improvements - there are now several wheelchair accessible pathways, plus a men's shed, a lady's shed and a memory tree. There is also a beehive and some new hedging; this is such a great place to help with well-being and mental health so I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to its development.

Work has begun on restoring Cooksditch, the stream that runs behind Cyprus Road. Lesley Seager has taken this on and has built up a team of volunteers as well as support from the QE School, with expertise and encouragement from the Westbrook Team, to clear and restore the stream. Forty bags of rubbish plus a chair, a bicycle, shopping trolley, tyres and other items were cleared away in one day, followed by the clearing of brambles and overgrown vegetation. This is an ongoing project but is already becoming a beautiful place with a huge increase in biodiversity and wildlife - many thanks to Lesley and her team. Litter picks are always helpful and the Town Council will keep on taking part in these and encouraging others to do the same.

It is exciting to see sport returning to venues in the Town, in particular the launch of the Faversham Junior Park Run for 4 to 14 year olds; this was made possible by a team of enthusiastic volunteers. Also, the already popular Faversham Running Club has been re-launched, whose logo is 'Inspire to Run, Love to Run, Free to Run'. I wish them all continued success as restrictions are now being lifted. May 17th was the Town Council's first face-to-face meeting which saw a past Mayor of Faversham, Cindy Davis, being presented with her Honorary Freeman Award - a well-deserved recognition of all her services to both the Town Council and the Community.

My sincere thanks to all our amazing volunteers who continue to help in every corner of our community.

## Lottery Update

### **Cllr Julian Saunders**

Faversham Community Lottery went live with its first draw on 2nd April. Despite the extended lockdown the new weekly draw already has over 500 players and 1,108 tickets are being sold weekly. Most importantly it is on target to provide good causes in Faversham with over £34,000 extra funding this year.

60% of the £1 ticket value goes direct to the local good cause that you choose to support, a far more generous amount than for other lotteries; but there is still the chance to win some big prizes with a jackpot prize of £25,000 if your six figure number matches the one drawn weekly on a Saturday night. Over the first weeks of the lottery local businesses have also offered add on prizes. So two local residents won 'fit bits' donated by Andersons as part of our first draw.

The best way to take part is by taking out a direct debit, but we know that is tough for many local residents and you can also go on line or ring up and buy single or multiple tickets.

Our local good causes need your support now that we are coming out of lockdown, and playing the community lottery is a way of helping the town and giving yourself the chance to win a generous cash prize. To find out more about getting involved visit: [www.favershamdistrictlottery.go.uk](http://www.favershamdistrictlottery.go.uk) or ring 01795 467017.

## Council Signs up to the Dyslexia Pledge

### **Cllr Ben J Martin**

At the town council meeting in February Faversham Town Council unanimously passed a motion to sign the Made by Dyslexia Pledge.

As part of the pledge the town council has written to schools across the town to make them aware of free training for staff and of resources available to help identify and support dyslexic students. Though a formal diagnosis of dyslexia can only be given a professional in the field such as an Educational Psychologist, free screenings are available online at <https://www.nessy.com/uk/screening-for-dyslexia/>. These screenings indicate if an individual might have dyslexia, and can be used to help secure a full assessment.

Faversham Town Councillor Ben J Martin comments, "I'm delighted that the Council supported the motion and is one of the first councils in the country to support the Made by Dyslexia campaign. As one of the 80% of Dyslexics that weren't diagnosed prior to leaving school I know only too well the positive impact a diagnosis can have, as well as the difficulties that arise from the lack of early diagnosis."

Faversham Town Council understands that dyslexia is a different way of thinking, and that it can contribute to success. Early diagnosis can have a profound positive effect on the mental health and prospects of the 1 in 10 people with dyslexia.

Though dyslexia can be seen as a challenge, dyslexics also have a variety of strengths, which should be recognised and encouraged. GCHQ, the Government's communications and security organisation has recently opened up about dyslexic thinking skills being critical to their job of keeping the nation safe. If you think you or your child might be dyslexic, please do take a free dyslexia screening and contact your school or educational institution to see how best they can support you to fulfil your potential and to secure a diagnosis if required.

## Cycling & Walking

**Cllr Julian Saunders**

The Town Council made a successful bid to Swale Borough Council (SBC) in February for funds to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

The plan will help us meet government targets for increasing the number of journeys made on foot or by bike and is being developed using government guidelines. It will identify the main routes being used by pedestrians and cyclists currently, propose physical improvements to these routes to make them easier for pedestrians and cyclists to use and develop outline costings for this improvement work. Once completed it will be signed off by the Town Council, SBC and Kent County Council and referenced into their planning documents so that the town is well placed to attract funding from developers and central government for improvements which will make Faversham a better place for cycling and walking.

We are particularly concerned to ensure that there is good cycling and walking connectivity to the town centre from new developments and the area for the plan has been drawn to cover the possibility of development in the area towards Brenley Corner. Effective partnership between the Town Council and the local community has already resulted in Faversham being chosen as one of only two towns in Kent to trial a 20mph speed limit and the Town Council is hoping that the LCWIP will help put it at the front of the queue for the fresh funding we need to encourage active travel locally. Alongside the LCWIP we have also attracted funding from Swale for a project encouraging more active travel between Faversham and neighbouring villages.

## Neighbourhood Plan - Surveys

**Cllr Kris Barker**

The Neighbourhood Plan is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to shape how their communities develop. Sadly, it does not govern the volume of housing, which is largely determined through a Local Plan, which in our case is created by Swale Borough Council – which has to allocate land sufficient to build the housing targets set by central government. The Neighbourhood Plan does, however, allow us to determine the nature of the development and protect areas of community importance.

We are incredibly lucky in Faversham to have a body of experts across a wide range of competencies: from design to the environment; from heritage to planning; and, from tourism to transport. The support we have received in ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan can shape the development of our community has been outstanding. We hope, in the very near future, to share a draft for the community to comment and provide feedback on.

The Neighbourhood Plan is now taking shape, with policies being drafted to help shape the nature of future development in Faversham. The following areas are all being crafted:

- Faversham Town Centre
- Residential Development
- Movement and Sustainable Transport
- Environment
- Design
- Historic Buildings and Places
- Community Facilities
- Local Green Space
- Renewable Energy
- Faversham Creek
- Maritime Gateway Heritage Area
- Faversham Basin Heritage Regeneration Area

The basis for the input to these policies has been a number of community engagement activities. Two public exhibitions in the autumn of 2020 outlined the areas that comprise a local plan and sought feedback.

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/exhibition-one/>

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/exhibition-two/>

In addition, a Residents Survey was carried out in both print and digital formats between 20th November 2020 and 31st January 2021. Copies of the survey in paper format were delivered by Royal Mail to every household within the Faversham Town Council postcode sector areas.

The digital version of the survey was promoted on the Town Council's Facebook page and website during the same period. Faversham Town Council also made use of paid-for social media advertising, targeting residents who live within the boundary postcodes identified.

The survey generated 527 responses, of which were 316 submitted electronically, with the remainder 211 responses submitted via the freepost service for the paper surveys. The full response report can be viewed here:

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/faversham-neighbourhood-plan-surveys/>

To provide a flavour of the report, here's a summary of the of the first answers to the first question, "Looking forward 10 years, what kind of place would you like Faversham to become?"

503 out of a total of 527 respondents (95.4%) answered this question. Top repeating phrases include "market town" (mentioned 102 times), "heritage" (mentioned 72 times) and "independent shops" (mentioned 36 times).

Key Themes identified:

- **Key Theme 1:** "We want to preserve a market town that respects its historical heritage and retains its character and unique status".
- 291 of 503 (57.8%) of respondents aligned to this theme.
- Related comments include:
- "We would like it to remain a unique, quirky market town with independent shops and have people who care about the town."
- "One that maintains a link with its past, retains its sense of community, preserves its environment and furthers its inhabitants' well-being whilst meeting the challenges of 21st century development."
- "A vibrant medieval market town which can cater for its population."
  
- **Key Theme 2:** "We want to live in a safe, clean, family-friendly town with a real sense of community."
- 217 of 503 respondents aligned to this theme
- Related comments include:
- "Safe, good community spirit, clean."
- "We need to be a thriving community that cares about everyone with good schools and care services and infrastructure."
- "Inclusive, safe, friendly environment for all ages."
- "Safer, egalitarian and compassionate!"

The Steering Group meets regularly, and residents are welcome to join:

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/steering-group/>

## Cooksditch Clean Up

### **Cllr Hannah Perkin**

Over the past few months, a dedicated team of volunteers have been working to clear many years of rubbish from the Cooksditch stream which runs along the back of Cyprus road and out to the Creek. Many residents, members of the Town Council and representatives from the school worked to remove bottles, bike frames, shopping trollies and office chairs as well as removing some of the brambles to create a space that could not only improve biodiversity but to also help to stop the stream being taken for granted in the future.

Lead by Lesley Seager, the Cooksditch Restoration Group are now looking to invest in the long term future of the area with the view to it becoming an important green space. Speaking to residents the stream was an important part of their childhood and to the history of Faversham as a settlement. The work that has been done already has been warmly received.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of the volunteers for the work that they have all done.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Faversham & Hazebrouck Town Twinning

### **Trevor Bryans, Faversham Town Twinning Association**

The modern concept of town twinning developed in about 1947 as nations sought ways to establish friendship and understanding after two global 20th century conflicts. The main objective of twinning was to foster cultural and economic links between cultures.

After the Second World War twinings were established between U.K. cities and towns and others in Europe and beyond. During 1960, Faversham and Hazebrouck engaged in a year of reciprocal visits, and the first official twinning ceremony took place in Hazebrouck in July 1961 in the presence of the Mayor of Faversham and a group of Councillors.

The Faversham ceremony followed on 23rd September the same year, attended by the Mayor of Hazebrouck and town officials. Soon, many contacts had been made between groups in each town, with exchanges between carnival organisers, choral societies and cycling groups leading to the development of friendships. The current Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Alison Reynolds, remembers visitors from Hazebrouck enjoying a picnic with Faversham friends on the Rec with children's races and cycling events.

Faversham residents looked forward to meeting the Hazebrouck giants 'Tisje Tasje' and 'Toriah' on Carnival days! Hazebrouck visitors were guests at Faversham Carnival, and the daughter of a former Faversham Mayor remembers looking on to the site of the infamous Vimy Ridge battlefield and observing the working coal mines there.

The frequency of contact diminished over the years but in 2016, under the auspices of Faversham Town Council, a management group including secretary Sheila Maister began the process of rebuilding the links between our two towns. Today the FTTA has an active group of 45 members, and a local cycling club cycled to Hazebrouck and groups of residents visited Hazebrouck to celebrate their 'Mi Careme' Festival in March.

Unfortunately Covid has precluded direct contact with Hazebrouck since then, but the Committee continued to organise meetings and a French picnic in a member's orchard. Group discussions on Albert Camus and avant-garde French cinema have ensured that members can participate in cultural activities.

2021 marks the 60th anniversary of our twinning with Hazebrouck. We have re-established contact with Hazebrouck's new administration and are working together to plan a year long celebration, to

include cultural links between our schools, a repeat Dejeuner sur L'Herbe garden party and the planting of a tree in each town. To find out more and how to join, please email:

favershamtownwinning@gmail.com - Vive l'entente cordiale!

## Wilder Towns – what this means for Faversham

### Cllr Chris Williams

People are part of nature - we are losing touch with it and this is causing us great harm. Children are suffering from 'nature deficit disorder'; adults and children need to reconnect with nature. The evidence shows that getting out into nature improves our mental and physical health. Urban green spaces rich in wildlife, boost our immune systems. We must fill the spaces close to where we live with wildlife.

Faversham has an amazing sense of community and this can certainly be said for the many community gardening projects that we have around the town. From planters, flowerbeds, hanging baskets to verges and larger planting schemes, they all play a part in rewilding and increasing biodiversity in our town. The more diversity of planting we provide, the more diversity of wildlife this will attract.

Faversham Town Council is working with Kent Wildlife Trust on a project called Wilder Towns. Faversham has been identified as being a significant place for bumblebee habitat and the many community and council run schemes, are increasing insect, bird and mammal numbers within the urban and rural parts of our town. This is great news!

### What does it mean?

Faversham would be the first town in Kent to receive this accolade and will help to set a benchmark for other towns and cities reaching this goal. This will recognise the work that has already been achieved in Faversham and will encourage and promote new projects in public spaces, whilst also providing encouragement for us all to change how we maintain our own gardens into more sustainable and biodiverse environments. Faversham Town Council's Climate and Biodiversity Working Group has a lot of opportunities for all to get involved. We have a community gardening Facebook page and hold monthly meetings (via Zoom) which anyone is welcome to attend. You can also visit [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-kent](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-kent) for more information on Wilder Towns.

## An Important Message from your GP

### Dr Caroline Baker (FMP) & Dr Sonia Gupta (NPS)

Unfortunately, we know that cancer will affect one in two people born after 1960. But there is good news - with advancements in treatments, more people are surviving cancer than ever before! There are many things that we can do ourselves to reduce our risk of getting cancer or to identify cancer at an early stage. Faversham GPs are working to raise awareness and share some important information with you about this.

Firstly, prevention - there are some simple changes that you can make to reduce your risk of getting cancer.

- Smoking is the biggest cause of cancer Worldwide and being smoke free can prevent 15 different types of cancer, including lung cancer. What we eat and drink can also affect our risk of getting certain types of cancers.
- Drinking less alcohol and eating less processed foods and red meat can reduce your risk of cancer, as can eating more fruit, vegetables and whole grains such as brown rice or whole grain bread.
- Maintaining a healthy weight can also reduce your risk of cancer and in addition can decrease the risk of conditions such as heart disease and osteoarthritis.

- Too much ultraviolet radiation from the sun or sun beds is the main cause of skin cancer. You can protect your skin and enjoy the sun safely by using a combination of sunscreen, clothing to cover up and staying in the shade.

## Screening

Spotting cancer early means that treatments are more likely to be successful. The UK has three screening programs which can help identify cancer early before they cause symptoms.

- Cervical screening is offered to women (and anyone with a cervix) aged 25 to 64
- Breast screening is offered to women aged 50 to 70
- Bowel Screening is offered to everyone aged 60 to 74

If you are eligible for a cancer screening programme, you will be contacted directly to participate, but in the meantime if you have any concerns, contact your GP straight away.

## Symptoms

Cancer can cause lots of different symptoms and it is important to be aware of any new or worrying symptoms. Some symptoms of cancer can include blood in your poo, a lump that doesn't go away, unexplained weight loss, a cough that lasts longer than 3 weeks, coughing up blood or bleeding vaginally after the menopause.

Although it's unlikely to be cancer, please contact your GP practice if something doesn't feel quite right.

## Further Information

One You Kent can help support you in making healthy changes to your lifestyle:

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/>  
0300 123 1220

Screening information can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-screening/>

Cancer Research UK

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/>  
0300 123 1022

Macmillan Cancer Support

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>  
0800 808 0000

## Faversham Town Council schedule of virtual meetings

Monday 5th July	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 5th July	7pm	Town Council Meeting*
Monday 12th July	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Group
Monday 19th July	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 19th July	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Thursday 22nd July	9.30am	Public Spaces Group
Monday 26th July	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee*
Monday 2nd August	7pm	Planning Committee
Thursday 5th August	7pm	20s Plenty Working Group
Monday 6th Sept	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 6th Sept	7pm	Town Council Meeting*
Monday 13th Sept	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Group
Monday 20th Sept	6pm	Planning Committee

Monday 20th Sept	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Thursday 23rd Sept	9.30am	Public Spaces Group
Monday 27th Sept	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee*
Monday 4th Oct	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 4th Oct	7pm	Town Council Meeting*
Thursday 7th Oct	7pm	20s Plenty Working Group
Monday 11th July	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Group
Monday 18th Oct	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 18th Oct	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 25th Oct	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee*

\* Meeting to take place at The Guildhall

Please check details of all meetings and how to attend virtually on the Town Council website at [www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings

## Faversham Town Council Staff

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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.

## Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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