

Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Winter 2021 Edition

Faversham Town Council Offices

Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE

Tel: 01795 503286

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor's Update

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

As always people in the Faversham community are doing great things. Here are some of the events I have attended, but I am fully aware there were many others.

I must start with the project to welcome an Afghan refugee family to Faversham. At first it seemed like a worthwhile and nice idea, then I learned just how big a project it is. First find a suitable house - that has been achieved. Then raise money - that is happening. Then we need some or all of our skills to help the family, who will have been in a refugee camp for at least two years - from an interpreter to health provision, and schools, a long list of practical skills required. So please keep an eye out for news. Can you help in any way?

What about progress with the Town Hall? We are looking forward to welcoming the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and the Community Space, now known as The Hatch, in the Town Hall has already welcomed some great exhibitions already. Dyslexia Awareness Week expanded local knowledge of this problem and helped a number of families to deal with its effects. University of Third Age (U3A) gained lots of new members, and Faversham Rotary showed some of the valuable work they do to help the local community. It is hoped that the Faversham Charters and the Magna Carta Exhibition at the Town Hall will be up and running in the Spring of 2022 to attract visitors to Faversham and help the local economy.

Our Police Station in Church Road now also houses the new Kent Police Museum, which is a super new attraction in the Town boasting many interesting artefacts including Robert Peel's Family Bible dating back to 1800, kindly bequeathed to the Museum by the family. This is being seen as a national attraction bringing visitors from further a field as well as enticing local interest. I attended the opening ceremony in September, and the Curator, Paul Upton, even allowed me to sit on a police motorcycle.

Let's not forget the Carnival, after losing it to Covid in 2020 the organisers worked super hard to bring it back this year and put on a great show. I had not realised just how much work from the volunteers was involved - well done to everyone who helped. Many of the Cinque Port Mayors came to enjoy the fun and all were hugely complimentary about the show Faversham put on.

Faversham Christmas Lights Committee and volunteers are working as I write this on a full show of Christmas Lights this year as well as planning for a major event in 2022 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Faversham's Christmas Lights. There won't be a big switch-on event this year to avoid a tightly packed crowd in and around the Market Place. The Town Council is continuing to strongly support what is certainly the best show in Kent through its Community Grants programme.

Faversham Brass held its first concert for many months in October, a wonderful event which raised over £500 for the Mayor's Charity, which this year is for the youth of the Town. Many thanks for a great evening, again provided by a wonderful group of volunteers in the community.

On September 29th I walked the proposed 'Solar Cycle Way' with a number of supporters of the idea to create a safe cycle route through the planned Graveney Solar Site. This aims to provide a safe route for cyclists rather than use the dangerous Graveney Road. I strongly support this plan, which I believe can be achieved with co-operation from all sides.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas, which hopefully this year will be spent with friends and family and not in lockdown.

Faversham Youth Climate Panel

Cllr Chris Williams

With COP26 just around the corner and a strong focus on how vital it is that humanity work together to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis, it is important even on a small scale that we work to improve our local area.

We have seen how passionate and driven young people are to see change and actively get involved with finding the solutions. The Faversham Youth Climate Exhibition was designed to celebrate and connect with Faversham's young people to let them have the voice they deserve and connect with the work of the council and the local community.

Alongside the brilliant displays from the many organisations, volunteer groups and community projects, we had a series of different events to get involved with. We were joined by the Repair Café on the Tuesday evening, seeing young people and their families bringing items to be repaired, prolonging their use, and avoiding waste. On the Wednesday evening we had the Faversham Community Wardrobe along, run by the Salvation Army, so that items of clothing could be donated and then shared with others who require specific items, such as school uniform, coats, and other items of clothing.

This exhibition was also the launch of the Youth Climate Panel, with an evening event of free pizza, a brilliant talk on net zero and the journey to get there, and discussions with many young people and community groups.

The week long event ran from 25th October in the Town Hall and more events are planned for next year. Please do get in touch if you want to be involved, we would love to hear from you!

Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Gains Momentum

Cllr Julian Saunders

The Town Council is making good progress in developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Faversham. Swale Borough Council (SBC) awarded us a grant early this year to develop a plan which will help us meet national requirements for getting funding for active travel improvements.

The transport planners we are working with have now done detailed work on the kinds of journeys that are being made on foot and by bike locally, and carried out an audit (with the help of local volunteers) on the problems that pedestrians and cyclists face in getting around town. Obvious challenges are crossing local railway lines and the speed and volume of traffic on busier roads like the A2 and Love Lane.

The next stage of the project will identify physical interventions that will make it easier and safer for people to cycle and walk. Our priorities here are likely to be interventions which encourage compliance with the 20mph scheme, and which make it easier for pedestrians to cross the road. An example is pavement widening on West Street by the Westbrook Stream, which we have already been successful in getting Kent County Council (KCC) to allocate funding for. Other possible

interventions have gone into KCC's latest bid to the Government's Active Travel Fund, which we are waiting to hear the result of.

We expect a draft of the plan to be ready for feedback from the public by the end of this year, and will then look for the Town Council, SBC and KCC to adopt the plan so that it can inform development when new housing and highways schemes are brought forward.

At the same time we will start work on a related project, where we will be looking at promoting and improving cycling and walking routes from our neighbouring villages into the town centre.

20's Plenty Update

Cllr Eddie Thomas

Faversham Town Council continues to await the result of a bid to the Department for Transport, for funding to improve streets around Faversham that will make both walking and cycling safer in Faversham, and encourage drivers to drive with more care and attention.

It is planned that initially improvements could be made to Newton Road, Whitstable Road, Lower Road and Oare Road, all to encourage slower speeds. More streets could follow if the first improvements are successful. This is all conditional on gaining Kent County Councils agreement.

By the time you read this newsletter the report on the 20mph consultation will have been published and we should know if the Swale Joint Transport Board has recommended to Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, that Faversham's trial 20mph limit should be made permanent, AND if the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways has agreed and signed off the 20mph limit as permanent.

Whatever the outcome Faversham Town Council will continue to lobby KCC for our streets to become safer, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

Faversham & Sittingbourne Age UK

Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne has had a busy couple of months since coming out of lockdown. Walking Football is one of the new activities launched, along with Walking Netball to follow shortly. These fun activities are a way for those 50+ to get low impact exercise and make new friends. Games are every week and new players are always welcome.

Our community services continue offering gardening, cleaning, laundry and escorted travel services. If you use one of these services, not only are you supporting the charity, but you get a DBS checked person, who attends each visit and performs a wellness check each time.

Our information and advice team have been busy helping clients 'Stay Warm' this winter, making sure they receive the correct help from their energy suppliers and have access to benefits they may be entitled to but are not claiming. No one should be cold this winter, or too proud to ask for help, reach out to our advisors on:

Tel: 01795 532766

Email: enquiry@ageukfs.org.uk

November, we launched two exclusive Hairy Bikers cook at home boxes, an exclusive partnership between us and the Hairy Bikers to celebrate the launch of their new cookbook - Everyday Winners published by Seven Dials. On pre-sale until the 16th December with delivery on the 20th & 21st December. Two options are available, serving up to four people: Lancashire Hotpot with Seasonal Vegetables or Vegetarian Chocolate Cake. Additionally we launched a F&S Food Xmas Tapas box ideal for people who want something celebratory but snackable, you can purchase via our website or by calling 01795 532766 priced at £10 each, or buy any two for £17.50 including local delivery.

December, we launched a new fortnightly social group 'Knit and That', to work on crafting items for good causes such as Blankets for Poverty, Premature Baby Hats and Remembrance Poppies. We also launched a monthly menopause group, a support group with regular guest speakers/advisors talking about options/support, providing a guiding hand through the journey of menopause.

Information on all our services, events and promotions can be found on our website:

www.ageuk.org.uk/favershamandsittingbourne

Faversham Youth Council Update - Dyslexia Awareness Week

Cllr Ben J Martin

In October to mark Dyslexia Awareness week, Faversham Youth Council hosted a range of events as part of Faversham Town Council's commitment to raise awareness of dyslexia through the 'Made By Dyslexia Pledge'.

The events which included a performance by the award winning Sam Rapp - the dyslexic poet, a community support event, supported by Faversham Dyslexia and a week long exhibition proved very popular, with employers, parents and education professionals. The event was an opportunity to engage with councillors and officers to learn and understand both the challenges and strengths dyslexic thinkers have. The Exhibition was officially opened by the Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Alison Reynolds and the Deputy Mayor of Swale, Cllr Simon Clark.

I was so pleased to be able to help, and reassure and I hope inspire so many young people with dyslexia. Much of the exhibition was put together by councillors and officers who have dyslexia, each bringing their own unique experiences and perspective to the development of the exhibition.

Sam Rapp, who is also a British Dyslexia Association rep, said "I have never seen anything like this raising awareness of dyslexia and neuro-diversity before. The visuals, the support and the passion is Amazing! There were people on the Dyslexic wall of Fame, even I didn't know about!"

It was fantastic to be able to engage with teachers and to signpost schools to free dyslexia training for teachers, and perhaps more importantly to be able to reassure parents of recently diagnosed dyslexic children and signpost them to all the amazing support available. It is estimated that 1 in 5 people have dyslexia, including many highly successful public figures from history and today, including Winston Churchill, Steve Jobs, Alexander Grahame Bell, Lewis Hamilton, Richard Branson, Mollie King, Holly Willoughby, Keira Knightly, Albert Einstein, Ed Sheeran and many, many more. The Town Council's youth working group have made the contents of the exhibition available to local schools and have placed a virtual version of the exhibition on the youth council website, so if you missed the exhibition, please visit:

www.favershamyouthcouncil.org/events.html.

Alternatively, if you'd like us to present the exhibition to your school, please contact Brooke Williams at:

brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Faversham & District Community Lottery

Why play the Faversham & District Community Lottery?

- Win cash prizes
- Chance to win £25,000 jackpot
- Tickets are just £1
- Weekly draws
- 60p of every £1 goes to local good causes
- You choose which cause to support
- It's a fun way to support YOUR community

Hundreds of players have already signed up to play, with over 50 local good causes to choose from
Visit the website, scan the QR code or ring to sign up to play today!

www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk

Tel: 01795 467017

Faversham Foodbank

Cllr Hannah Perkin

Faversham Foodbank is in need of physically fit volunteers to work in their back stock warehouse.

You will be required to sort foodstuffs in to type and date order, reorder crates in the warehouse building and deliver crates of required stock to the distribution centre.

If you are interested please contact our Warehouse Manager, David on:

warehouse@faersham.foodbank.org.uk

Faversham Foodbank is an independent charity founded by Churches Together Faversham and affiliated to the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network.

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings

Monday 10th January	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 17th January	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 17th January	7pm	Annual Finance Meeting
Monday 17th January	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 24th January	7.30pm	Policy & Resources
Thursday 27th January	9.30am	Public Spaces Working Group
Wed 2nd February	9am	LCWIP
Thur 3rd February	7pm	20's Plenty Working Group
Monday 7th February	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 7th February	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 14th February	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Working Group
Monday 21st February	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 21st February	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 21st February	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 28th February	7.30pm	Policy & Resources
Wed 2nd March	9am	LCWIP
Monday 7th March	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee
Monday 7th March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 14th March	7pm	Climate & Biodiversity Working Group
Tues 15th March	7pm	Annual Town Meeting
Monday 21st March	7pm	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Monday 21st March	6pm	Planning Sub-Committee

Thur 24th March	9.30am	Public Spaces Working Group
Monday 28th March	7.30pm	Policy & Resources

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	Community Development Officer	brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Abi Rainbow	Business Admin Apprentice	abi.rainbow@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Joseph Hannah	Facilities Apprentice	joseph.hannah@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

T: 07811 035512

Cllr Chris Williams (Abbey Ward)

E: Chris.Williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07826 264689

Cllr Josh Rowlands (Abbey Ward)

E: Josh.Rowlands@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor of Faversham Cllr Alison Reynolds BEM (Priory Ward)

E: Alison.Reynolds@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Mike Henderson* (Priory Ward)

E: Mike.Henderson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Kris Barker (St Ann's Ward)

E: Kris.Barker@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07817 970012

Cllr Carole Jackson* (St Ann's Ward)

E: Carole.Jackson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07746 772694

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

T: 07746 772695

Cllr Chris Cavanagh (Watling Ward)

E: Chris.Cavanagh@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr John Irwin (Watling Ward)

E: John.Irwin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07881 534476

Cllr Ben J Martin* (Watling Ward)

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

T: 01795 417806

Cllr Eddie Thomas* (Watling Ward)

E: Eddie.Thomas@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07872 472032

* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor