

Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Summer 2022 Edition

Faversham Town Council Offices

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www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Faversham Charters & Magna Carta now on display at the Town Hall

Faversham has a magnificent series of royal charters granted to the town by successive English monarchs. The earliest surviving Faversham charter dates from the reign of Henry II in 1252, followed by eighteen more granted by 1685.

For a town of its size, the charter collection of Faversham is one of the finest anywhere in England, and in the newly opened exhibition room at the Town Hall, you will see a selection of them, including an example of Magna Carta, one of the most celebrated documents in English history.

Also on display are other documents, maps and artefacts that have been preserved here in the town for many centuries.

What a fantastic start to the civic year

Cllr Trevor Martin, Mayor of Faversham

I am humbled being Mayor of Faversham, as a near lifelong resident, my first six weeks were in Kent and Canterbury Hospital, I have been involved in many aspects of town life over my near 60 years. The first month or so saw Faversham at its best. The Festival of Transport returned with a superb selection of vehicles in town, the furthest having travelled from Scotland! The Faversham Charters and Magna Carta exhibition sees some of the town's most significant medieval artifacts on permanent display which, was a privilege to open.

The Queen's Jubilee saw a considerable number of events from street parties and Proms in the Market Place, to a Civic Service and tree planting. Brenda and I have also been to fetes and presentations, as well as attending some events out of town meeting fellow Mayors and Cinque port friends.

Faversham charity networking group

A Faversham charity networking group has been started within Faversham by Becky at Faversham Umbrella. The idea of this group is to ensure that all charities within Faversham and the surrounding areas are aware of each other and the services we provide. We can signpost to each other and potentially work together in partnership. Longer term we can look at joint funding bids and further collaborative work. The group is in contact with both doctors' surgeries in Faversham who are keen to work with us and utilise the facilities we all provide.

We had our initial meeting in June, which was very positive, and our next meeting will be on 6th September 9.30am at Faversham Umbrella. If you are a local charity or not for profit group, please feel free to join us or contact Becky Duffy to find out more at: becky@favershamumbrella.org

Will YOU, yes YOU, help biodiversity?

Cllrs Chris Williams & Mike Henderson

Biodiversity is vital. Biodiversity simply means maintaining a healthy population of every living thing on the planet, plants from the smallest mosses to large trees, bugs and insects, animals, birds and others. We estimate Faversham has around 6000 gardens – both large and small. Whatever the size of your garden you can improve biodiversity in some way.

Please try to take your own personal action to help biodiversity. Many species are declining rapidly and we must save them. Faversham has already done a lot and has the Gold Wilder Town status from Kent Wildlife Trust - let's do more.

The first top thing you can do is create a pond, however small, and there is lots of advice out there to help you do that. The next action is eliminate or greatly reduce pesticide use.

Then think about plants, can you create more or bigger flower borders - you can! Then fill them with plants which attract pollinators – especially single flowers and native species. Again there is lots of advice out there. Just some suggestions – herbs, lavender, penstemon, salvia, foxgloves, echinacea, verbenas, daisies, etc. Focus on perennials, as they are cheaper and less work. Expand if you can to flowering shrubs like hebes, climbers like honeysuckle and trees if you have space.

You certainly have space for some nest boxes, insect houses, bat boxes, a log pile, part of your lawn as no mow. Again there is lots of advice out there. Finally for now, please don't use artificial grass. It is damaging during manufacture and disposal - it's a biodiversity desert.

Please respond to this. Some useful web sites are noted below, and you can ask for help directly from Chris and Mike. Finally think more widely and take the same action on allotments and spare pieces of ground. Many thanks and watch out for more information to achieve more.

<https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife>

Neighbourhood Plan to set out a positive vision for the future of Faversham

Faversham Town Council is working with the community to finalise its draft Neighbourhood Plan ahead of a public referendum

Faversham Town Council is working closely with the local community to finalise its draft Neighbourhood Plan. Local residents, community groups and volunteers have been working together on the draft Neighbourhood Plan over the last two years. The development of the plan has included extensive research, community consultations and survey, as well as a series of exhibitions and meetings in order to bring the plan to life.

Neighbourhood Plans enable communities to have a say on future development and help shape the character of an area. They set out where future development should take place and what it should look like, from new homes and offices to shops and industrial units. Neighbourhood Plans also enable communities to protect local green spaces.

Neighbourhood Plans are different to 'Local Plans'. The Local Plan in our area is produced by Swale Borough Council and is the principal planning document for the whole borough, which includes the town of Faversham. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot override or change the Local Plan.

The aim of Faversham's draft Neighbourhood Plan is to empower Faversham to have a say on future local development. It sets out where future development should take place, what it should look like

and how we can ensure we protect the unique character of our own. It also sets out a plan to protect local green spaces. The draft plan also sets out the critical need for improved health services, schools, transport, sport and leisure facilities.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan includes, for example:

- Improve access to Faversham Creek and to ensure that no adverse effects, such as flooding, impact downstream from development. Encourage moorings along the creek, particularly for heritage vessels.
- Sustain vitality and viability of the town centre whilst protecting its unique and distinctive character.
- Promote new community services and facilities that are inclusive and accessible to all and to protect existing services and facilities.
- Encourage the provision of new or improved outdoor spaces and facilities for leisure and recreation.
- Ensure that the landscape and biodiversity in and around Faversham is protected. Promote net gains in biodiversity, habitat and landscape.
- Provide sufficient small and medium site housing allocations to meet local needs. Support initiatives for self-build and community-led housing provision. Re-balance housing provision to meet local needs and help deliver sustainable communities. Ensure that affordable housing is an integral part of housing schemes so as to support inclusive communities. Ensure sustainable design and construction.
- Ensure that the economic and social benefits provided by broadband can be secured.
- And so many more plans to provide long-term, sustainable benefit to Faversham.

In autumn 2022, the council will be undertaking a formal consultation, called Regulation 14, where local people can have a final say before the draft plan is formally submitted to Swale Borough Council. Following further consultation and checks, the plan will be subject to a referendum by residents in Faversham, which is likely to be held in May 2023.

If approved, the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan becomes a statutory (legal) document. This means that it must be considered when Swale Borough Council decides whether or not to approve planning applications.

Breaking free from crime in Faversham

Cllr Antony Hook

Speaking to local residents, I have been told again and again that crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) concerns people.

We would like more police on the beat, but that is not within the control on the Town Council. So, what else can we do to prevent crime and increase the chance that the selfish few who commit crime will be identified?

Crime and ASB are complex problems. What motivates crime can be greed, anger, resentment, boredom, alcoholism, drug addiction or a combination of these. What enables people to commit crime can include insecure property, vulnerable victims, places that are out of sight and access to items used to commit crime, among other factors.

We commissioned a criminologist, Dr Barry Blackburn of Canterbury Christchurch University to study crime/ASB in Faversham and recommend what we (as a council and a wider population) can do about it.

Dr Blackburn has secured data from Kent Police on every reported incident in Faversham. He is analysing patterns in where, when and how crimes occur and has also spoken to local business and residents.

Dr Blackburn's report will be ready by the end of the summer. We look forward to it and to taking steps to make us all safer.

Fight for our bridge

Cllr Antony Hook

For years Faversham has suffered broken promises on our Swing Bridge.

Repairing the bridge so that it opens again will allow boats to moor in the basin, the water between the bridge and Morrisons. This will bring in visitors, and potentially create jobs and recreational opportunities for local people in the heart of our town.

Kent County Council are responsible for the highway surface of the bridge on which people cross. Peel Ports are responsible for the sluice gates and broken mechanism below that should open the bridge. Peel are a huge corporation that own a number of ports that the Government privatised in the 1990s, including the Medway Port area, which includes Faversham Creek.

After years of Kent County Council and Peel Ports blaming each other for the lack of repair, Faversham Town Council obtained our own legal advice for the people of the town.

This identified that the Transport Secretary (at the time of writing this is Grant Shapps MP) has legal power to issue an 'Abatement Notice', an order that the bridge must be repaired by Peel Ports. We have written to the Transport Secretary calling on him to do this.

His civil servants have asked for evidence about the bridge's history which has been sent. We still wait for action.

We refuse to accept Government inaction. We demand the Transport Secretary issues the order and gives Faversham the bridge that we need, have been promised and are legally entitled to.

Councillor Antony Hook is in the process of meeting with local groups interested in the bridge to plan our next steps.

Town jetty open again

Cllr Antony Hook

Faversham Town Council has re-opened the Town Quay after repairs have been made, allowing boats to moor here again.

The jetty is located on the west side of the Creek near the Albion restaurant.

Councillor Antony Hook said,

"Allowing boats to moor here again will be good for locals and visitors alike.

Boat owners will pay a reasonable fee to use the jetty, and the money they pay will be used to maintain the jetty and be reinvested for the benefit of local people".

Anyone interested in mooring a boat on the Town Quay should contact the Town Council office at 12 Market Place.

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings

Monday 5 th September	7.30pm	Community Committee
Monday 12 th September	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 12 th September	7pm	Full Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 th September	7.30pm	Environment Committee
Thursday 15 th September	7.30pm	Active Travel Committee
Monday 19 th September	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Monday 26 th September	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 3 rd October	7.30pm	Community Committee
Monday 10 th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 10 th October	7pm	Full Council Meeting
Wednesday 12 th October	7.30pm	Environment Committee
Monday 17 th October	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Thursday 20 th October	7.30pm	Active Travel Committee
Monday 24 th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 7 th November	7.30pm	Community Committee
Wednesday 9 th November	7.30pm	Environment Committee
Monday 14 th November	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 14 th November	7pm	Full Council Meeting
Thursday 17 th November	7.30pm	Active Travel Committee
Monday 21 st November	7.30pm	Policy & Resources Committee
Monday 28 th November	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 12 th December	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 12 th December	7pm	Full Council Meeting
Monday 19 th December	7.30pm	Policy & Resources 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
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The entrance to Faversham Town Council offices is via the Visitor Information Centre between the hours of 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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** Kent County Councillor