Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Spring 2023 Edition

**Faversham Town Council Offices**

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

**Tel: 01795 503286**

[www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

# **Faversham Healthy Futures**

No matter how the current crisis of chronic under-funding and under-staffing of healthcare gets resolved, there needs to be a clear view of the town's future healthcare needs if appropriate services are to be provided. Unfortunately, the NHS is not used to planning for small, relatively self-contained (but growing) communities like ours.

Patient representatives from our practices talked about the problem and contacted a health research group at the University of Kent. They were really helpful and an outline project design emerged. We talked to the Community Committee of Faversham Town Council and as a result the Faversham Healthy Futures (FHF) project has been created. This will help local people explore the evidence about our future needs and ensure that local authority and healthcare planners are clear about the services Faversham residents will need and what resources, particularly buildings, will be required to deliver them.

There will be a 'pop-up' exhibition in the Town Hall running from Tuesday 25th till Saturday 29th April. Here you can learn what the research group says about the health of Faversham's population needs before being asked what you think we will require in the future. Issues like ‘Which services can best be provided locally?'; ‘What will we need to help us stay healthy?'; 'How should social care be provided and be covered?’ If you are not able to visit the 'pop-up' then contact us at fhf@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk and we will send you a questionnaire to make sure your opinions are included.

# **Helping Pedestrians and Bike Users**

**Cllr Julian Saunders**

The Town Council wants to encourage more walking and bike use, by slowing traffic so it's safer for pedestrians to cross streets and cyclists to share the road with cars. We have a comprehensive cycling and walking plan (LCWIP) for street layout changes to support these objectives.

The recent pedestrian improvements that Kent County Council (KCC) have made at Stonebridge Pond are typical of the changes we want to promote, narrowing streets and junctions so traffic slows and its easier to cross. They don't go as far as we want in helping pedestrians, but they are a good step forward in shifting priorities.

Highways design in urban areas is increasingly focused on pedestrians and cyclists in line with the new Highway Code and we want to see KCC adopt the same approach locally. We will do everything we can to support them in attracting national funding for improvements which make it easier to use active travel for shorter journeys.

# **An Extraordinary Year**

**Cllr Trevor Martin**

2022 was perhaps one of the most extraordinary years in my lifetime.

The year saw many of the events organised in Faversham return with probably greater support than before the pandemic. A Royal Jubilee, the death of Her Majesty and the proclamation of the King all contributed to making 2022 a year most of us will not forget. I want to thank you all for supporting them.

So what does 2023 look to bring? The return of the various festivals and events to the town will be continue, please support them. The many and varied groups who meet in the Town and rely on volunteers to enable their activities to take place will, I hope, be able to continue and grow. The first week in May is going to be particularly significant this year as the Town Council elections take place on Thursday 4th May, and the Coronation of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 6th May.

Sunday will see the national 'Big Lunch' event, and Monday is National Volunteer Day. More details of events around this time will be published soon on the Town Council’s website..

# **Linking with our Neighbouring Villages**

**Cllr Julian Saunders**

The Town to Parishes project is already influencing specialist active travel organisations. The project, funded by Swale Borough Council and managed by the Town Council, is working with neighbouring parish councils to look at how to make it safer and easier to cycle and walk between the town and neighbouring villages.

Amongst the priorities proposed are the development of an off road cycle route to Seasalter, which sustainable charity Sustrans have started to prepare a feasibility study for. Sustrans are also looking at improvements to National Cycle Route 1 making it easier to cycle to Teynham from Faversham using the Lower Road which goes through Lewson Street.

The proposal for Teynham along with similar ideas for the route to Boughton are likely to get picked up as part of Kent County Council's development of a countywide cycling plan with safe cycling linkages between towns. The final Town to Parishes project report will identify a network of cycling and walking routes providing a positive alternative to jumping in the car for short journeys.

# **Updated Nature Trails now Available**

# The very popular series of nature trails around Faversham and the surrounding villages have been updated and are now available at the Visitor Information Centre at 12 Market Place.

# These circular walks range in length and difficulty and incorporate some of the finest scenery and local villages the Kent countryside has to offer. Whatever your age or fitness level there is a walk for you to enjoy - it’s the perfect way to get outside and explore the countryside on your doorstep.

# The leaflets can be picked up at the town’s Visitor Information Centre in the Town Hall at 12 Market Place, or can be downloaded from the websites listed below.

# [www.visitfaversham.org](http://www.visitfaversham.org)

[www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

# **Highlighting Where Your Home is Leaking Heat**

# The Town Council recently invested in a FLIR thermal imaging camera and have been carrying out thermal imaging visits on a pilot basis before offering these more widely to residents across Faversham.

# The thermal imaging camera uses infrared rays to identify areas of a property that are leaking heat, most commonly through poor insulation, around doors and windows but also where damp may be penetrating. Quite often these issues can be resolved cheaply by fitting draught excluders and insulation tape around windows.

# We are very grateful to our small team of volunteers from Friends of the Earth who are helping us to carry out these visits. If you are interested in a visit, or in volunteering on thermal imaging, please email: rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

# **Can you spare some time to help make Faversham greener by joining the Volunteer Community Gardening Scheme**

**Keep Faversham buzzing**

Our community gardening volunteers carry out initiatives which help to preserve and create space for biodiversity, whilst linking in with existing projects and the wider environment.

**Adopt a planter**

There are a number of planters around the town centre, why not get in touch about keeping them maintained.

**Untidy verge or area**

Is there an overgrown unkempt piece of land or verge near your home or place of work that could do with a tidy up? Get in touch and we will sort it.

To volunteer and find out how you can help make Faversham greener, please email: **stacey.woolf@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk**

# **Bike Hire Scheme Spring Promotion**

To encourage us all to get out on our bikes, Faversham Town Council is offering the first two hours of any bike hire FREE for the months of March, April and May.

The offer applies to both the manual and electric bikes for hire, and helmets can be made available if required. Anyone interested in taking up this offer, please get in touch with Rob Gibbs on 01795 503286, or via email at: **rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk**.

# **Lottery Exceeds Expectations**

It's nearly two years since the Town Council launched the Faversham and District Community Lottery.

With 58 local good causes now signed up, with nearly £50k raised for those good causes and over £44k in cash prizes having been won, the town lottery is proving to be a great success.

The Faversham & District Community Lottery can play a big role in ensuring we have the vibrant and well supported voluntary sector that Faversham needs, and for as little as £1 a week, you can be a part of that. To start playing visit: [www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk](http://www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk)

**It's quick, easy and free to sign up!**

# **Faversham’s Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 14**

**Cllr John Irwin**

As part of the Regulation 14 consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held a series of pop-up events in January and February.

The events held at Faversham Town Hall, WFCC, the Jubilee Centre and the Community Room on the Recreation Ground were well attended. Feedback received from previous exhibitions had been fed into the Neighbourhood Plan and this was the first time that the plan had been presented to residents as a draft document.

A public meeting was held in January and the recording is the still available on the Town Council website at: <https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/regulation14/>

Regulation 14 was a statutory consultation. All feedback received will be considered and responded to. An update of the Neighbourhood Plan and Regulation 14 will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.

# **King Charles III Coronation Badges**

To commemorate the coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May, Faversham Town Council have produced a limited edition badge to mark the occasion.

The badges will be available to purchase from the Visitor Information Centre at 12 Market Place from the end of March at a cost of £2.50 each.

# **Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings**

Monday 6th March 7.30pm Community Committee

Wednesday 8th March 7.30pm Environment Committee

Monday 13th March 6pm Planning Committee

Monday 13th March 7pm Full Council Meeting

Monday 14th March 7pm Annual Town Meeting

Thursday 16th March 7.30pm Active Travel Committee

Monday 20th March 7.30pm Policy & Resources Committee

Monday 27th March 6pm Planning Committee

Monday 3rd April 7.30pm Community Committee

Tuesday 11th April 6pm Planning Committtee

Tuesday 11th April 7pm Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 12th April 7.30pm Environment Committee

Monday 17th April 7.30pm Policy & Resources Committee

Thursday 20th April 7.30pm Active Travel Committee

Monday 24th April 6pm Planning Committee

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. The entrance to Faversham Town Council offices is via the Visitor Information Centre between the hours of 10am – 4pm, Monday to Friday.

# **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](mailto:claire.windridge@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Emma Sunley Finance Clerk emma.sunley@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Rob Gibbs Assistant to the Town Clerk

[rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Stacey Woolf Facilities Manager stacey.woolf@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Joseph Hannah Facilities Apprentice joseph.hannah@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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# **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](mailto:Hannah.Perkin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

T: 07811 035512

## Cllr Chris Williams (Abbey Ward)

E: [Chris.Williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Kris.Barker@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

T: 07817 970012

## Cllr Carole Jackson\* (St Ann’s Ward)

E: [Carole.Jackson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Eddie.Thomas@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

T: 07872 472032

\* Swale Borough Councillor

\*\* Kent County Councillor