

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
EQUALITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

Friday 14th July 2023, 7pm

Cllr Perkin	Present	Cllr Coniam	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	Cllr Newman	Absent
Cllr Williams	Present		

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Perkin – item 4d

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the ED&I meeting of 23rd November 2022 were noted.

4. Update Report from the Chair

a) Black History Month (October)

Plans for a workshop, written document in partnership with Faversham Society and Marika Sherwood.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED to set aside £1,000 from the ED&I budget for Black History Month**

b) Swale Pride co-opting a member to Working Group

No response had been received from Swale Pride

c) Accessible Toilets

SBC are closing the disabled toilet in Central Car Park at 6pm due to vandalism and a review of this has been requested. Suggestions were to include a note to ensure the door is closed fully after use.

d) Faversham Station Lift

It has not been possible to find out how often the lift is not working as Network Rail has refused to provide the information due to ‘GDPR regulations.’

e) Accessible Play

Cllr Perkin has worked successfully with Andersons on developing a fully accessible playground at the Lakes. She will investigate the possibility of a similar addition at Perry Court.

5. International Women's Day

Cllr Perkin advised she would like the stone to commemorate the witches hung in Faversham to be unveiled on 8th March 2024, being International Women's Day. Costings will be sought from Clive Sherwood, the location is to be confirmed but in front of the pump seemed the most suitable.

The usual IWD coffee morning was also planned to be held, which would be hosted by the Mayoress of Faversham.

6. West Faversham Community Centre

As already approved at Full Council, Cllr Perkin proposed and Cllr Williams, seconded and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED to give £500 for WFCC's Pride Event**

The following actions for stall at Pride event were noted:

- a) LGBTQ+ history leaflet (HP)
- b) Guess the name of a 'Pride' bear
- c) How many (rainbow) sweets in the jar

7. City of Sanctuary

Cllr Perkin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rowlands and on being put to the meeting it was **RECOMMENDED that Faversham Town Council applies for City of Sanctuary status <https://la.cityofsanctuary.org/membership> and recommends the following motion for Full Council**

"This council is committed to support an initiative to make Faversham into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary' welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries. We recognise their potential contribution to our town, and also recognise that a comprehensive, co-ordinated and forward-looking approach is needed if the welfare of people moving into the town, and community cohesion between new and existing communities, are to be supported effectively. To this end, we:

- ***Acknowledge the contribution of refugees and people seeking sanctuary to the town of Faversham,***
- ***Are willing to add our organisation's name to the list of supporters of Cities of Sanctuary***
- ***This council will work to implement the City of Sanctuary pledges through its actions and policies, and with its partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors.***
- ***This council is committed to support an initiative to make Faversham into a recognised 'City of Sanctuary'."***

8. Inclusivity Funding Request

It was proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Williams and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED as ED&I funding had largely been account for, to advise Strikeforce to apply for a community grant.**

9. Awareness Calendar

The awareness calendar was noted and it was requested that a transgender flag be purchased.

10. Matters for Report

The Town Clerk noted the following items:

- Requested that the 3 office fire doors be made accessible for wheelchair users (quotes obtained). Members asked that this motion be included at the next Town Council meeting.
- The Town Council signs up to being Disability Confident Employer – it was agreed for this to be on the next agenda.