

Spring 2024

**Highlights in this issue:**

- Reflections of The Mayor
- Men's Mental Health Awareness
- 2024/25 Budget
- Cross Town Walking Route
- Action Against Graffiti
- New Elected Councillors
- Report Faversham's Potholes



FAVERSHAMTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK

# Faversham Town Council Celebrates 50 Years

**This April sees the 50th anniversary of the formation of Faversham Town Council as a successor parish to the former Municipal Faversham Borough Council.**

The 1972 Local Government Act saw some of the largest changes to local government since 1894.

Faversham Town Council held its first meeting on 9th April 1974 and to mark this we are hosting an exhibition 'The 5 Decades of Faversham Town Council' in the Town Hall, 12 Market Place in April. We have also produced a very limited edition Faversham Town Council 50th Anniversary lapel badge, which will be available to purchase from the Visitor Information Centre for £3.00.

You are invited to join us at a Civic Service of Celebration at St. Mary of Charity Church on Sunday 28th April at 2pm.



**Commemorative Pin Badge available from the Visitor Information Centre for £3.00**

# My time as Mayor of Faversham

*Clr Trevor Martin, Mayor of Faversham*



**Firstly what a period to have been elected Mayor of Faversham. As someone who grew up here and brought up a family in Faversham I cannot recall another period which has had so many significant royal events.**

It has been a real honour and privilege to represent the town for these, particularly during 2022 and 2023. These included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, followed by the sad death of Her Majesty, through to the Proclamation of King Charles III and his Coronation.

Thinking back to the start, we were all still wary of Covid and events were planned with contingencies in case of restrictions being brought back. Faversham Charters and Magna Carta exhibition was opened, which has become a popular attraction with visitors and residents alike.

The number of you volunteering in so many ways that help that community spirit never ceases to make me smile. It is quite humbling to represent you in the mayoral role and get a chance to say thank you.

As we reach the spring the Town council will celebrate its 50th Anniversary, having been established following the changes to local councils in 1974. The fact that the mayoral role has survived throughout the various changes

to local government since 1256 and to be part of that history is in some ways overwhelming.

The Town I am sure will continue to evolve, we are seeing demand for more housing of different types as the way we live our lives change, and the types of businesses adapt to those changes. I take heart from a guide to the Cinque Ports published in the 1880's the entry for Faversham says "it is one of the most successful of the Ports as it has adapted to new businesses". Long may that continue.

I am struggling to find the one thing that really stood out during my tenure and that is the pleasure of meeting so many residents and hearing your pride in the things that you do and support. The fact that so many have approached us and felt able to do is a source of immense personal pride.

My personal thanks must go to my family and my wife, Brenda, for the support over the past two years, and also to the Town Council officers for the considerable support; particularly Adrienne Begent, Deputy Town Clerk, in her role of organising my diary and events.

# Faversham's Annual Town Meeting

**TUESDAY  
19 MARCH**

at The Assembly Rooms  
Doors open 6.30pm  
Meeting commences 7.30pm


This is YOUR meeting!  
Talk Openly. Share Opinions & Ask Burning Questions

**Agenda items include:**

- NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS' UPDATE
- AWARD PRESENTATIONS
- COMMUNITY LOTTERY CHEQUES PRESENTATION
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - YOUR AGENDA ITEMS

From 6.30pm come and visit local groups and organisations who received grants in 2023

**More information email:**  
louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



ATTENTION ALL BUSINESS OWNERS!

## ADVERTISE WITH US AND REACH MORE LOCAL CUSTOMERS.

SHOWCASE YOUR BRAND IN OUR UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS. CONTACT LOUISE BAREHAM, TOWN CLERK FOR MORE DETAILS.  
LOUISE.BAREHAM@FAVERSHAMTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK  
01795 503826

Your text here



**OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IS DELIVERED VIA ROYAL MAIL TO OVER 11,000 PROPERTIES IN FAVERSHAM**



# FAVERSHAM FAMILY BIKE RIDE

a Rotary Club of Faversham event

**Sunday 12th May 2024  
Start 10am**

12.5km route

@favershambikeride  
favershambikeride.org



**ASC**  
FINANCE FOR BUSINESS





## COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

Connecting Faversham and the surrounding villages

# VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED!

We are looking for some amazing volunteer drivers. If you are a "people person" and looking to give some of your time to help the community, we'd love to hear from you. You can give as much or as little time as you can spare.



**To volunteer you will need:**

- To be over 25
- To have category D1 on your licence
- Willing to undertake training on the bus and how to operate the wheelchair lift

Telephone **01795 503286**  
or email:  
[rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
for more information

community transport association  
MEMBER



# Deputy Mayor Leading Town Council Fight for Mental Health Support

*Cllr Josh Rowlands, Deputy Mayor of Faversham*

**Cllr Josh Rowlands is leading on a project to get Faversham talking about mental health and particularly to remove the taboos around men's mental health, as part of this project the council are getting organisations together to push these issues to the top of Faversham agenda.**



*Councillor Josh Rowlands with Alex Richardson*

To kick off the project a talk was held in the Guildhall during Men's Mental Health Month in November where Alex Richardson from Keep Talking Services spoke to a large group about "Mental Health, Men's Mental Health, and Loneliness" this talk allowed the town council to bring a number of organisations and residents together to have an open and frank conversation about mental health and how we support residents to reach out.

One of the organisations that has become involved in the project are the Abbey Physic Community Garden and their Men's Shed. Men's Sheds are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure and to practice skills. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Abbey Physic Men's shed runs a regular coffee morning anyone interested to get involved should contact the physic garden to find out the dates of the next coffee morning.

Our congratulations go to Cllr Rowlands for being nominated for the National Association of Local Council Awards for Young Councillor of the Year.

# FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET 2024-2025



## YOUTH £30,000

We continue our commitment to support youth through our partnership with Vibe.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS £45,000

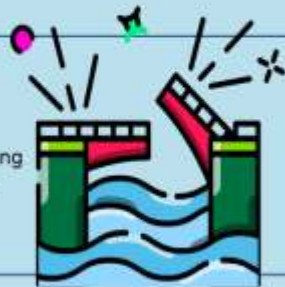
We have increased the amount of funding available for local groups in grants.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS £20,000

An exciting diary of new and returning old favourite free events throughout the year.



## THE CREEK £30,000

Reconfirming our support for an opening bridge and regeneration of the Creek.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN £15,000

After 5 years of work, taking the NHP to a vote by residents at a referendum.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL £16,000

Includes funding for the community bus, more secure cycle storage and updating the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan.



## OPERATION AND PROCESS £250,000

Includes administration costs, tourism, community bus service, insurance, staffing, grant applications\*

\*In the year 2023/24 we successfully received £85,000 in additional grant funding

**2024/25 Precept**  
**£666,741**  
9% increase

## AVERAGE BAND D



£1.74 A WEEK

## TAKEAWAY COFFEE



£3.80 A CUP

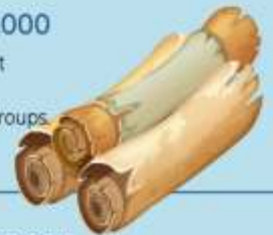


## COMMUNITY LOTTERY GRANTS £12,000 + £40,000

This successful lottery provides an additional income to local groups, of which £40,000 goes direct to good causes, the rest is distributed by the Town Council as grants.

## FAVERSHAM CHARTERS £30,000

Our medieval charters are on permanent display to visit for free, we also run a programme for school visits and other groups.



## CIVIC £10,000

Supporting the work of the Mayor, civic functions and the Confederation of the Cinque Ports.

## BUILDINGS AND LAND MANAGEMENT £100,000

Facilities management, Town Ranger services, buildings, land maintenance and management.



## PUBLIC WORKS LOAN £43,500

12 Market Place; which now houses the Visitor Information Centre, Faversham Charters, the Doddington Library collection and town council staff.

## ENVIRONMENT £7,000

We will continue our important work to raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity emergency.



## OTHER INCOME £57,000

We continue to look at different ways to provide an additional income such as the Guildhall as a wedding venue.



25 pence a day  
average Band D property

# Cross Town Walking Route Takes Shape

*Cllr Julian Saunders*

**The Town Council organised a well supported exhibition in the Town Hall on the plans for the Cross Town Walking Route (XTWR) project at the end of last year, which ran for three weeks.**

The XTWR project is being delivered by Kent County Council Highways and funded by Active Travel England and will involve building a set of physical improvements to local streets, junctions and pavements along a route from Lower Road through to Faversham Rec. It aims to make it easier for pedestrians and wheel chair users to move around and to encourage residents and visitors to make journeys on foot.

The exhibition objectives were to make the public more aware of the scheme and what it involves and to gather feedback from residents which could be used to enhance the outline designs on display. The exhibition allowed the public to view the detailed designs for each of the interventions and also look at a number of computer generated visualisations of how some of the most significant interventions will look once they are completed.

Over 300 people visited the exhibition and 116 residents gave us feedback, either while they were visiting or by email later. Overall, the feedback was positive, although there were concerns expressed about the overall costs of the scheme which some considered to be high, even if the funding is coming from central government rather than local councils.

In terms of specific interventions both the new zebra crossings on Newton Road and South Road were broadly welcomed as were the improvements at the junction of Lower Road and South Road and the planned work at St Marys Road. Amongst the concerns were whether pedestrians would have sufficient right of way at the Bank Street informal crossing, some of the detail of the crossing design at the Napleton Road/ South Road junction and the effectiveness of the Lower Road interventions in slowing traffic.

All residents responses have been fed back to Kent Highways who are currently finalising their plans for the scheme. The Town Council was a partner in the development of the project bid alongside KCC and Swale Borough Council and we have continued to argue for a scheme which draws on feedback from residents, has the maximum impact in slowing traffic and helping pedestrians and which provides real value to the public, during the process of detailed plans being prepared.

If you want to look at the designs and visualisations that were exhibited and find out more about the project please visit: <https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel/cross-town-walking-route/> where you can see a virtual version of the exhibition.





# Faversham Community Networking Group

Do you want to get more involved with your community, make positive changes in your life and meet new people?



Maybe the Faversham Community Networking Group can help you. Made up of several local charities, voluntary organisations and community groups, our aim is to work together, and with you, to highlight what excellent support is available within our community.

Collectively, we can support you with lifestyle changes, volunteering opportunities, family care, benefits advice, loneliness, mental health and much much more.

Why not come and say hello at one of our Chatty Bench events, an opportunity to meet us, have a chat and learn more. You'll find us underneath the Guildhall on Thursday and Friday 16th & 17th May and 13th & 14th June 10-2pm.

If you can't pop down in person, you can find details of all our different groups at the Faversham Town Council Visitor Centre, 12 Market Place, or you can visit the communities page on Faversham Town Council's website or simply pop into Faversham Umbrella, Court Street (next door to Ask Italian) between 10am-3pm, Tuesday - Friday. **We look forward to meeting you!**

# Action Against Graffiti

*Cllr Hannah Perkin*

**In December, Faversham Town Council's Environment Committee agreed its graffiti policy and action plan. The Town Council itself does not have a duty to remove graffiti, that lays with Swale Borough Council, but residents expect the town council to take the lead in fighting to reduce levels of graffiti within the town.**

The first thing any resident can do is to report graffiti to the right place.

If the problem is on public property and or offensive you should contact the Borough Council. You can do this through their online portal: <https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/littering/report-graffiti>.

If the problem is on street cabinets (those green boxes dotted around town) or on railway property then you can report that here:

<https://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/about-us/our-community>.

- Openreach and report Virgin Media street cabinets - **phone 0330 333 0444 BT**
- (Openreach) street cabinets - **phone 0800 023 2023**

For more information on where to report graffiti, you can also look at the Town Council's "report it" page. The town council is also in discussions with Swale Borough Council about the potential of borrowing their graffiti buster machine and looking to engage with local businesses and schools and local community groups to encourage everyone to work pro-actively together to tackle the problem.

Alongside the action plan councillors have worked with stakeholders to look at art projects on private buildings and communication boxes to look to turn graffiti problem areas into art assets that benefit the town.

The Environment Committee will continue work on the action plans recommendations and as a community it is hoped that we can all work together to make a real difference in tackling levels of graffiti all across Faversham.





## **Cllr Charles Gibson (Abbey Ward)**

[Charles.Gibson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Charles.Gibson@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Charles was born and raised in Kent then following university worked for nearly 10 years in local government and the not for profit sector around Britain.

Having moved to Faversham Charles lives in the town centre with his partner, house rabbits and foster dogs. He now works for an armed forces charity.

Charles has previously been a councillor, school governor and charity trustee and is passionate about making local government work for everyone.

In his spare time Charles enjoys swimming in Faversham pools (and the sea if weather and sewage allow) and walking in our towns beautiful green spaces.



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## **Cllr Becky Jones (Watling Ward)**

[Becky.Jones@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Becky.Jones@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Becky was born in NE Wales and lived there for 18 years, throwing herself into all the outdoor activities that were available in the area.

Moving to Staffordshire University to study for a BA (Hons) in Development and Environmental Studies, Becky then achieved a couple of post graduate degrees and an LLM, Masters in Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights Law. Staying in Staffordshire for around 25 years, Becky and her family lived in a rural village in the Peak District for 15 years of those 25 years, before moving to Faversham in 2022. Becky has loved getting to know the town and being involved in lots of local activities.



Working for the NHS, Becky specialises in the areas of social value and sustainability. Working across the country, sharing best practice and focusing on reducing health inequalities and strengthening communities, Becky's focus is ensuring the longevity of the NHS and other public services.

Becky has previously worked in local government, in the areas of equality and diversity and partnership working and is passionate about fairness, inclusivity and equality for all.

In her spare time, Becky loves going to the theatre and watching live music, as well as going out for meals with friends and family.

# Are you interested in the power of low-carbon technology?

## Introducing: Green Open Homes, 6th April & 11th May 2024

**Green Open Homes** can help local people understand how to reduce their home's carbon footprint and why – but we cannot run these events without you.

Kent County Council is teaming up with Swale Friends of the Earth, Faversham Town Council, and Swale Borough Council to host two Green Open Homes events in Faversham. Register here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/zUaEe5A5YM> to visit **Green Open Homes** near you! Or scan the QR code below.

If you already have low-carbon technology such as Heat Pumps (air, ground, or water-source); Solar PV; Electric-Vehicle charging points or retrofit measures, please read on.

### Why participate?

By allowing people in your neighbourhood to view your home, you can:

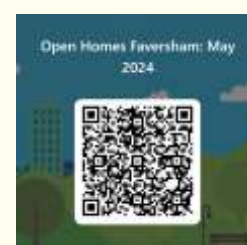
- Share your knowledge and experience of low-carbon technology
- Showcase your commitment to sustainability to an audience that is interested in your home upgrade journey
- Inspire others to adopt low-carbon technologies and retrofit their home.

### How can you get involved?

To participate as a homeowner in our 11th May event, please express your interest here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xXrY3pq7dU> or scan the QR Code below.

If you have any questions, please email [victoria.frost@kent.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.frost@kent.gov.uk) - Community and Domestic Energy Support Officer, Kent County Council).



COMMERCIAL VEHICLES  
**FREE VINTAGE BUS RIDES**  
SATURDAY 18TH MAY




**FAVERSHAM'S FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT 2024**  
SATURDAY 18TH & SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024

EXHIBITORS  
**CAR SHOW**  
SUNDAY 19TH MAY


FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Faversham Transport Weekend  
Faversham Transport Festival

Stagecoach SOUTH

South East Coastworks  
Sustaining our heritage

SINCE 1849  
**SHEPHERD NEAME**  
ENGLAND'S OLDEST BREWERY




FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

STEP BACK IN TIME


**FAVERSHAM**  
Market Place

**IN THE FORTIES**




Sunday 9th June 2024  
10-4pm

**D DAY CELEBRATIONS**



**80 YEARS**



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S  
**FEAST**  
STREET FOOD MARKET

MARKET PLACE & COURT STREET  
SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024  
6-9PM

inspired by....  
*A Midsummer Nights*  
dream




Entertainment & Music

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**Pirate Festival**



SUNDAY 7TH JULY  
10 - 6PM  
TOWN QUAY & FRONT BRENTS

# Reporting Faversham's Potholes

*Cllr Rob Crayford*



**Potholes pose significant risks, damaging vehicles and endangering pedestrians. Reporting potholes to Kent County Council is crucial. Residents' reports help prioritise repairs and enhance overall road safety.**

The more potholes that are reported, the more repairs can be made across Faversham. Each report guides Kent County Council in resource allocation, ensuring timely fixes. KCC have a target of 28 days to repair potholes once reported. If we stop reporting potholes in Faversham, KCC resources will be directed to repairing potholes in other areas of Kent.

Active resident participation is vital for an efficient and safe road network. By promptly reporting potholes, we collectively contribute to maintaining Faversham's roads. Let's take pride in our community, working together to report potholes and aid Kent County Council in creating safer roads.

Please report potholes by using the QR code opposite or this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>



## Town Council Meetings

Faversham Town Council meets the second Monday of each month in the Guildhall at 7pm.

Faversham Town Council's Planning Committee meets the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Guildhall at 6pm.

Faversham Town Council's Policy and Resources Committee meets the first Monday of each month in the Guildhall at 7.30pm.

The Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday 19th March 6.30pm in The Assembly Rooms, Preston Street.

## Town Council Offices

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

**Town Clerk: Louise Bareham**

**E: [louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)**  
**T: 01795 503286**  
**[favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

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



**For details of other committees please visit the Council's website at:**

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

## Your Town Councillors

Laura Coniam	ABBEY WARD
Hannah Perkin***	ABBEY WARD
Josh Rowlands**	ABBEY WARD
Charles Gibson***	ABBEY WARD
Peter Cook	PRIORY WARD
Alex Eyre	PRIORY WARD
Rob Crayford	ST. ANN'S WARD
Kieran Golding***	ST. ANN'S WARD

Robert Newman  
Julian Saunders  
Ben J Martin\*\*\*  
Claire Martin\*\*\*  
Trevor Martin\*  
Becky Jones

ST. ANN'S WARD  
ST. ANN'S WARD  
WATLING WARD  
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WATLING WARD

\* Mayor of Faversham, Councillor Trevor Martin  
\*\* Deputy Mayor of Faversham, Councillor Josh Rowlands  
\*\*\* Borough Councillors

**ALL COUNCILLORS CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH**  
**01795 503286**