



2024-2025

Annual REPORT



FAVERSHAM
TOWN COUNCIL



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
GOLD

TABLE OF

CONTENTS

3	Mayor's Report	++
4-5	Active Travel Committee	++
6-7	Community Committee	++
8-9	Environment Committee	++
10-11	Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee	
12-13	Residents' Survey 2024	
14-15	Faversham Neighbourhood Plan	
16	Grants	
17	Budget 2025-2026	
18-19	Your Councillors	



THE MAYOR OF FAVERSHAM

Cllr Josh Rowlands



Faversham
Passport

This year has been another great year for the town of Faversham, and it has been a pleasure to lead the town council throughout.

This year I, along with other members from the town council had the pleasure of attending the installation of Lord Zambellas as the new Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in Dover joined by Mayors and representatives of our fellow Cinque Ports.

We have seen Faversham continue to thrive, from our bustling event calendar with new events like the Pirate Festival and Faversham In the Forties joining old favourites such as transport weekend and Howl-a-ween. New businesses continue to open and bring a broad diversity of options for local residents and visitors to the town alike.

But the greatest honour of being mayor is talking to you the residents of Faversham about your hopes (and fears) for the town, and getting to work with many of you on projects to make the town a better place, from opening the new scoreboards and club shop at Faversham Town Football Club, with the club also featuring in a national advertising campaign, to working with community groups to get the underpass at the station a new mural designed by residents.

As we head towards a year of uncertainty with the announcement of local government reorganisation, I want to assure you all that not just myself but all your town councillors will be working hard to make sure Faversham continues to be part of conversations at every level and making sure residents views are expressed fully.

As I said at the start, this year has been great for Faversham, and I'm sure with new opportunities quickly approaching, the coming year will continue to see the town thrive and continue to grow for the better.

ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE



East to West route,
Wallers Road

The committee has continued to pursue a safer and pleasanter environment for assisted mobility users, cyclists and pedestrians, bolstered by the success of the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan (FNP) at referendum, which has a key aim of promoting sustainable transport and active travel.

A comprehensive review of the Faversham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (FLCWIP), referenced as a key document for developers in the FNP, has taken place streamlining the document, adding additional proposals and aligning the FLCWIP as closely as possible with the Town's Highways Improvement Plan which lays out our priorities for Kent County Council (KCC) Highways funding. A process has also been put in place for adding interventions to the LCWIP as they are identified by residents' feedback.

The Committee has taken a strong interest in the physical implementation of the East West Cross Town Walking Route by KCC contractors. This is a project that the Town Council has supported since a bid went in during 2022 and it has been exciting to see the new pedestrian crossing on South Road open, alongside a set of improvements on Lower Road which have slowed traffic and helped pedestrians. The expectation is that next stages of the project running through to the Recreation Ground will be largely completed by the end of the council year.

Work on the development of designs for a North South Walking Route has continued with a highways designer developing detailed proposals for slowing traffic and improving pedestrian safety at the Briton Road/Forbes Road junction, North Lane near the entrance to Partridge Lane and the Bramblehill Road/ Church Road junction. Doing this groundwork should put the council in as strong a position as possible to attract Active Travel funds for this scheme in the future.

A 20mph Compliance Fund has been set up to contribute towards physical improvements aimed at slowing traffic, which we hope to negotiate with KCC in the coming months. An additional secure cycle hanger has been purchased to help residents and commuters keep their bikes safe. In the coming year we plan to take a stronger interest in developer funded highways proposals ensuring that they meet the guidelines laid out in the FLCWIP and the FNP.

The Committee also ran a successful Active Travel Month during June which included well supported walks through the town and into neighbouring countryside and a Cycling UK community day which was successful despite disappointing weather.

Finally, we have overseen the delivery of the Faversham Hopper Community Bus service, which is providing residents with a regular weekday minibus serving town suburbs and neighbouring villages. Reports on project development and performance have come back to the committee regularly and we have given feedback on the development of a business plan for the service.

Cllr Julian Saunders
Vice Chair - Active Travel Committee



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

This year the Community Committee has been very busy in a huge range of areas to benefit the town's residents, including town-wide events, youth funding, and healthy futures.

The Council's events officer, Claire Elliott, has organised an incredible programme of events for the town, including the very successful Transport Festival, Faversham in the 40s, and the inaugural Pirate Festival.

These and the many other town events have proved to be really popular amongst residents, and provide a welcome boost to our town's economy. The 2025 calendar is looking just as spectacular, with old favourites returning, as well as some exciting new events planned.

The Community Committee have also continued to work with local community groups such as Faversham Healthy Futures, the Salvation Army, and Faversham Community Networking Group to build on existing services as well as working in partnership on valuable new projects which will help the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Council once again budgeted £30,000 for youth funding, but this year we reflected on previous successes as well as gaps in provision, and trialled a new model of grant funding for essential projects to ensure we reach as many of Faversham's young people as possible.



Recipients of these grants included West Faversham Community Centre, Vibe, GEM72, and Sateda. We are also starting a youth partnership group, the aim of which will be to address the cuts to local services which affect young people by bringing together representatives from schools and local organisations to allow us to work in partnership with them in making positive change in the town.

The community lottery continues to be a success for the town, with over 50 local good causes being a part of it and thousands of pounds going to support the local community in a range of areas including mental health support and older residents.

Finally, we have had a successful year with our equality, diversity and inclusion projects, including an excellent display for Black History Month, and upcoming events and initiatives such as working towards White Ribbon accreditation (an organisation dedicated to men's involvement in ending violence towards women and girls), a neurodivergency celebration event, and becoming a 'dementia friendly' town.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in these inspiring community projects during my first year as Chair of the Community Committee, and I'm really looking forward to the work we'll be doing in 2025!

Cllr Laura Coniam
Chair - Community Committee



Howl-o-ween



Pirate Festival

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

It has been another busy year for the Environment Committee. A comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan has been launched outlining strategies to enhance the biodiversity across Faversham. This includes initiatives such as wildflower planting, habitat creation and community engagement programmes.



We have purchased some bat detectors as last Summer we ran a couple of events that proved very popular and were booked up extremely quickly. We will be running more of these events this Summer.

At the beginning of October, a wonderful talk was given by Audrey White of Hogwinkles. This was mainly about supporting juvenile hedgehogs. The Guildhall was packed with 60+ residents of all ages. It was wonderful to see so many people interested in one of our wonderful native species and how we can support them as they have been declining for a number of years. As it was so well supported and thoroughly enjoyable, we thought we would do it again this year!

In November we had our annual tree give away which again was a resounding success.

Perry Court allotments and green space including a Community Orchard was transferred late last year from the Management Company to Faversham Town Council. This was a significant move for the town council and the transfer of the green space marks a new chapter for the council. There is a lot of work to be done on the site, including planting new hedging, trees, bulb planting etc but I am extremely excited by this project.

This year is the first year of the Sunflower Competition and hopefully this will become popular.

The Allotments – we are incredibly lucky to have our wonderful allotment sites dotted around the town from St Nick, North Preston, Stonebridge, Millfield and now Perry Court. I look forward to visiting each one over the Spring and Summer months to see what is being grown and also to have a chat with some of the plot holders.

We have also formed a working group with FAVWAT (Faversham and Villages Water Quality Group) regarding the water quality of the Creek, Stonebridge Pond, The Westbrook and our other precious waterways. FAVWAT have already undertaken extensive testing of these waterways and we will be working together on raising awareness and ensuring that they are clean and healthy for people and for wildlife.

We have been incredibly busy this year and this is just a small amount of what we have achieved. There is so much more I could write about but finally, on behalf of the Council I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the volunteers from Faversham in Bloom, Cooksditch Volunteers, Westbrook Volunteers to Faversham Community Gardeners and everyone else in between. You are all fantastic!!!

Cllr Claire Martin
Chair - Environment Committee



HERITAGE, BUILDINGS AND CREEK COMMITTEE



Town Warehouse

The Heritage, Buildings and Creek Committee has responsibility for managing the Town Council owned Jetty along with Belvedere Road and Provinder Mill moorings on Faversham Creek, The Town Hall and Guildhall Buildings and the historical artifacts owned by the Town Council as well as liaising with other Heritage organisations and events.

One of the biggest projects that it works on, which it often has to do in private, is the campaign to renew an opening bridge into the Creek Basin. During the year the legal opinions have been sought to add to the campaign to have the basin usable by vessels. We continue to work towards a successful conclusion to this liaising with all those who have an interest in seeing boats being able to access the basin.

Town Quay and the Swale Council owned buildings in it's vicinity are in the process of being transferred to the Town Councils Ownership following talks with the Borough. Grants have been obtained to immediately ensure that the Town Warehouse (formerly TS Hazard) condition does not deteriorate any further once the transfer is complete.

The Guildhall Clock requires some repairs and Maintenance and the works are scheduled which will see the clock returned to its former glory. A survey of the Guildhall has been completed and during 2025 repairs will be undertaken and the external decoration refreshed. The Guildhall whilst used for meetings not only of the Town Council but various charities and groups throughout the year has become a popular wedding venue and is used for everything from stalls for the Antiques markets to talks and book launches during the year.

The Town hall will also see some repairs and a refresh of the external decoration during the coming year.

The Faversham Charters and Magna carta exhibition continues to be a popular visitor attraction, this year saw it become part of the Wheels of Time scheme with FREE activities for children aged 5-11. The Committee will be looking at obtaining Museum Accreditation during the next year. A review of the Town's 'Blue Plaque' scheme has been started in conjunction with the Faversham Society, this will look at all the existing plaques and recommend any additions to the scheme.

The committee also acts as the Town council link with heritage events during the year especially Open Faversham.

Cllr Trevor Martin
Chair - Heritage, Buildings and
Creek Committee





RESIDENTS' SURVEY RESULTS 2024

Although only 498 responses were received, they provide a sufficient illustration of trends and patterns in order for us to make some deductions.

Faversham as a place to live:

The data reflects a strong community focus on social interactions, heritage, and connectivity, while also emphasising the value of events, general amenities, and local markets. These insights could inform priorities for community development to enhance residents' quality of life.

The results also show a community concerned with infrastructure, traffic, housing, and safety, however, addressing these key issues is more difficult as these are the responsibility of other tiers of local governance, but we can argue for the improvements.

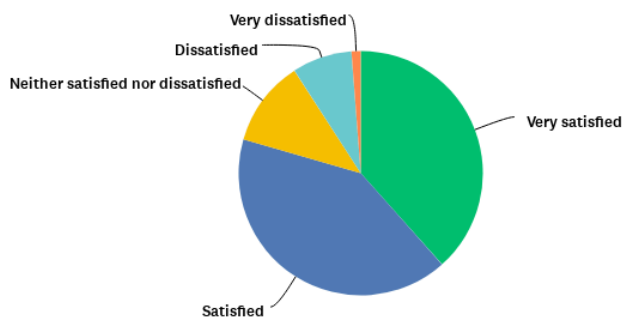
Overall, the data shows that the majority of residents use local services and amenities either daily or a few times a week, highlighting their importance to the community.

While the demographic of respondents reflects the town's older population, it may not fully represent the views of younger residents.

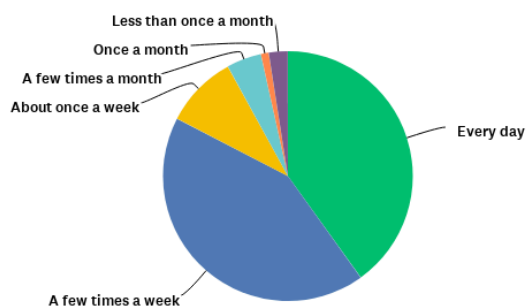
Faversham Town Council:

Overall, the majority of respondents either feel neutral or somewhat positive about the value provided by the town council. However, there is a significant neutral group, suggesting room for improvement in communicating the council's impact, the benefits of its expenditures to the community and the role of the town council.

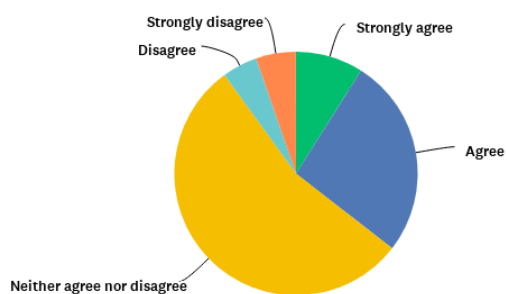
Q1 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with Faversham as a place to live?



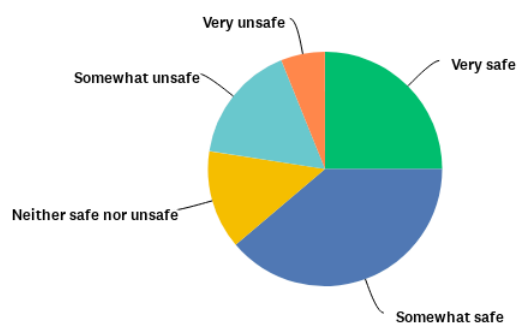
Q6 How often do you use local services and amenities in Faversham?



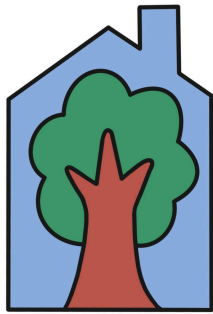
Q8 Does Faversham Town Council provide value for money?



Q12 How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in Faversham after dark?



**Look out
for more
surveys**



Faversham
Neighbourhood
Plan

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

After 5 years of work, on Thursday 21st November Faversham voted to support the Neighbourhood plan. 94% of those that voted, voted **YES** to secure a huge victory for the town.

Over the past 5 years, Community volunteers and experts, town council staff and Councillors have worked together to coproduce the plan which protects the things which people have said are important to them whilst sustainably planning for the future of the Town.

The Neighbourhood plan being supported by residents is a great example of how when a community comes together it can create something really special. A huge number of people in our community contributed to developing the plan, and we were able to include many of the ideas for strengthening the plan put forward during consultation events.

The vote to support the plan has secured Faversham a say in determining the future development of our Town. Prioritising such things as affordable housing, environmental and heritage protection, good design and the regeneration of the Creek basin.

The Faversham Neighbourhood plan will likely become a national case study of good practice in the creation of plans like this and I very much hope that the work that everyone has done is able to help other communities to craft their own Neighbourhood plans and secure a say in the future of development in their areas.

I would like to express my thanks to the numerous community volunteers and the staff, in particular the Deputy Town Clerk Adrienne Begent, who have all worked tirelessly over that last 5 years.

Collectively, we have carefully developed a Plan that has been made by the Town, for the town.

Cllr Hannah Perkin
Chair - Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

**Faversham
Neighbourhood
Plan Referendum
Version 2024 are
available from
Faversham Town
Council**



Grants Awarded 2024-2025

Assembly Rooms	£500
Autism Apprentice	£3,100
Cinque Port Rowing	£2,500
Faversham Pools	£4,988
Faversham Umbrella	£6,200
Hi Kent	£2,336
Open Faversham	£3,000
Sateda	£5,978
1st Faversham Scouts	£5,000
Creed Outdoor Learning	£5,000
GEMS	£3,000
West Faversham Community Centre	£4,000
Vibe	£15,623

£70,000
Total Grants

ANNUAL GRANTS

Faversham Community Christmas Lights
£5,000

Faversham Carnival
£3,000

Faversham Hop Festival
£5,000

Swale Citizens Advice
£6,000

FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
LOTTERY

Raised £40,000
for local good
causes

Faversham Town Council

2025-2026 BUDGET



Precept - £755,000

The precept is our share of the Council Tax, paid to Swale Borough Council, required to meet our budgeting commitments.

Band D - £101.33 per year

Band D is the average Council Tax Band used to demonstrate the medium council tax rate, which in Faversham is £101.33 a year or £1.95 per week.



Openness and Transparency

We are committed to openness and transparency, ensuring residents have access to clear and timely information about our decisions and activities.

Community Engagement

Thank you to those who responded to our 2024 Residents' Survey. We will be running a number of resident surveys throughout 2025 to help inform our priorities for the forthcoming years.



Community Grants

We continue to target funding for community grants, youth and events.

Town Council Meetings

Dates of our future meetings can be found in this newsletter and our website. Please join us and make your voice heard.



INCOME	£
Precept	755,000
Interest	6,000
Moorings	6,000
Events	7,000
Guildhall	8,300
Lottery	6,000
Community Bus	5,500
Charter Income	1,100
Bike Hangars	300
12 Market Place Rental	3,500
Movement from Earmarked Reserves	19,000
	817,700
EXPENDITURE	£
Civic	4,600
Office and Administration	498,710
The Guildhall	29,750
Front Brents Jetty and Mooring	2,700
Heritage, Buildings & Creek	12,000
Facilities Management	8,050
Grants	45,000
Community and Youth	41,000
Community Bus	9,840
Tourism & Visitor Development	5,500
Magna Carta & Charters (exhibition)	29,100
Events	30,500
Environment	17,250
Active Travel	10,000
Special Provision	3,500
12 Market Place Premises	70,200
	817,700



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Cllr Hannah Perkin*
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Cllr Becky Jones
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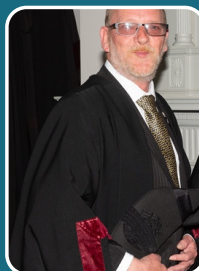
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*Also Borough Councillor

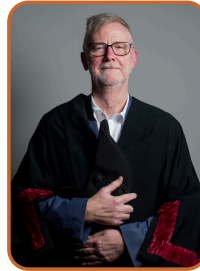
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