

Statement on how Faversham Town Council Engages with the Community on Issues Related to the Environment and Climate Change

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. The duty applies to all local authorities, including parish and town councils. Its purpose is to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a natural and integral part of policy and decision making.

In 2019 Faversham Town Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and agreed an action plan to work towards reducing emissions.

Examples of how we have delivered on this commitment to date:

- Given away 2,500 native tree whips to residents
- Given away 10,000 wildflower seed bombs
- Replaced two bus shelters with living roofs
- Increased the number of planters within the town, some of which are looked after by volunteer community gardeners.
- Started a free thermal imaging scheme to help residents identify areas of heat loss
- Worked with Kent County Council and Swale Friends of the Earth on an Open Homes project to encourage uptake on alternative resources such as heat pumps and solar panels.
- Working on Pesticide Free Town status
- Worked with Plastic Free Faversham to gain plastic free town status
- Received a Gold Award for Wilder Town from Kent Wildlife Trust
- Large network of volunteer community gardeners.
- Actively encourage cycling and walking through the implementation of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, regular events including Cycle Fest and Active Travel Month.
- Set up a community bus service to reduce the number of small car journeys.

Our work in this regard can be found at <https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/climate-and-biodiversity/>