

Report to Community Committee 26th January 2026

Faversham Town Council joining the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities and proposed 'Take a Seat' campaign

1. Background

Faversham Town Council is delighted to have been accepted into the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities, a growing movement of towns, cities and counties working with the Centre for Ageing Better to make places better to grow older in.

The Council has joined the Network because it values its older residents and recognises the importance of taking proactive steps to ensure that people can continue to enjoy life and access support as they grow older.

2. What being an Age-friendly Community means

Becoming an Age-friendly Community is a long-term commitment to:

- Listening to older people and involving them in shaping local priorities;
- Making practical improvements to the built environment, services and social opportunities;
- Working in partnership with residents, local businesses, charities, health partners and voluntary organisations.

The approach is flexible and locally-led, allowing Faversham to focus on actions that reflect local needs while aligning with nationally recognised best practice.

3. Work already underway in Faversham

The Council has already begun planning and is building on existing strengths within the community, including:

- The Faversham Hopper Community Bus, improving access to services and reducing isolation;
- Faversham Healthy Futures, supporting health, wellbeing and prevention;
- The East to West Walking Route, promoting safe, accessible and enjoyable walking.

Working alongside the Faversham Community Networking Group, the Council will be engaging further with residents, local businesses and community organisations to identify priorities and develop a clear Age-friendly Action Plan.

A key early activity will be the promotion of Faversham's Age-friendly Survey, ensuring that older residents' voices are central to future decision-making.

The Council will also grow a network of Age-friendly Ambassadors, inviting residents and organisations to champion age-friendly improvements. Anyone interested can contact: agefriendly@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

4. Recommendation

That the Community Committee:

1. Notes that Faversham Town Council has joined the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities, becoming the first town council in Kent to do so;
2. Supports the continued development of an Age-friendly Action Plan informed by community engagement and the Age-friendly Survey.