

Proposal: Faversham Town Council Awards

Community Committee, 21st July 2025

To consider creating a Faversham Town Council Awards Scheme to recognise individuals, groups, businesses and others.

Existing Awards

- a. [KALC Community Award](#) – presented around May
- b. [GEMS Awards](#) (under 19s) – presented March
- c. [Helen Whately's Unsung Heroes Award](#) – presented May
- d. Faversham Mayoral 'Thank you' Awards – presented ad hoc
- e. Honorary Freeman – presented to past mayors ad hoc

Possible Award Categories

Civic Award – Individuals who benefit the town

Volunteer Award – Perhaps recognising long service

Youth Award - Young people (under 24) making a positive different

Community Award – Local groups or charities serving Faversham

Business Award – Businesses that support and engage with the town council and community

Process & Governance

1. Annual timeline:

There are currently several award schemes that operate early in the year, with presentations taking place between March and May. We need to be careful that residents do not become award weary or blind, as somewhere between March and May would work better, as awards could be presented at Faversham Annual Town Meeting, Mayor Making or the Civic Service, negating the need for an additional ceremony and costs. Alternatively, a presentation could be made between September and November to avoid the other awards.

2. Panel Composition:

- Community Committee Members or Full Council Members

3. Nominations:

- Open to all residents and organisations supporting Faversham.

4. Selection Guidelines:

- One award per category per year.
- Recipients may be honoured again in exceptional circumstances

5. Conclusion

The Community Committee should consider carefully before setting up another awards system due to concerns over cost, capacity, and the potential duplication of existing local recognition schemes. Additionally, many individuals and groups are already recognised in duplicate awards.

Instead of creating a new event, the Council could develop existing methods to celebrate community contributions more efficiently and inclusively, through the well established KALC Community Award, Honorary Freeman and the Mayor's Thank You.

As these awards are rarely given, they will retain greater significance and value.

Additionally, last year we distributed 1,000 volunteer thank you badges, which were extremely well received and cost approximately £600. Instead of recognising a handful of people, this would go somewhere to acknowledge the huge number of volunteers in Faversham.

Louise Bareham
Town Clerk
26th June 2025