

### Highlights in this issue:

- Faversham Town Quay
- Ham Farm Appeal
- North/South Walking Route
- Patient Survey Update
  Faversham Creek Trust
  Friends of Westbrook
  Bat Detecting at Cooksditch



## **Town Quay Project**

In June 2025, Faversham Town Council became the owner of the Town Quay and its associated buildings, including the Old Town Warehouse and the 1911 Pumphouse.



The Town Council took ownership through an asset transfer from Swale Borough Council, which had acquired them from Faversham Borough Council during local government reorganisation in 1974.

The Old Town Warehouse, a Grade II\* listed building, was constructed in the early 15th century. It is the only surviving reminder of the vital role that Faversham Creek and its port once played in the town's development and prosperity. Formerly known as TS Hasarde, the warehouse was previously home to the Faversham Sea Cadets. Beside it stands a small, detached concrete building, which the Sea Cadets once used as their armoury. There is evidence that this was used during WW2.





The 1911 Pumphouse has since been replaced by a modern facility, still in use by Southern Water. Today, the original Pumphouse is home to Creekside Boxing Club.

From the 1970s onwards, as commercial shipping withdrew from the port, Faversham turned its back on the creek, and much of the Creekside was redeveloped for housing and the area fell into decline.

The recently adopted Faversham

Neighbourhood Plan seeks to reverse this decline by regenerating the upper creek and basin through the creation of the Maritime Gateway Regeneration Area (Policy FAV16).

The conservation of the Town Quay and its historic buildings for educational, recreational,

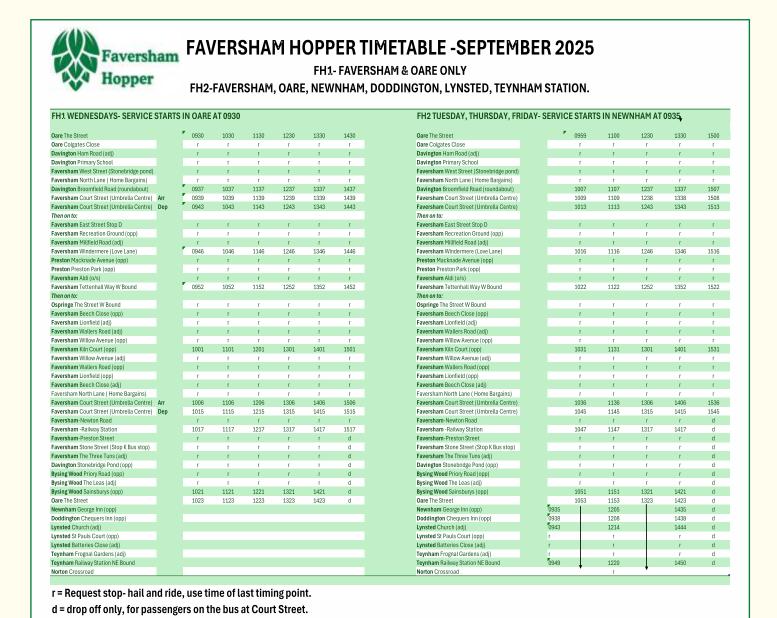
and leisure purposes is seen by the Town Council as central to the successful implementation of this policy.

The acquisition of the Town Quay is an exciting opportunity for Faversham. The Old Town Warehouse has been emptied and exploratory works to ascertain the condition of the structure completed.

The Queenborough Fishery Trust have pledged £50,000 over five years and Officers are researching and applying for further grants to bring this historic building back in to use. The building has been emptied, cleaned and investitive work on the structure has commenced.

The Town Council warmly welcomes your views on the future of the Town Quay and the Old Town Warehouse.

To complete the survey, please scan the QR code or collect a paper copy from the Visitor Information Centre at the Town Hall.



# Save Ham Farm Appeal Fund Now Open!

On 5 August Faversham Town
Council lodged a s288
Planning Statutory Appeal
against the Secretary of
State, following the appeal
decision allowing the
housing development on
land at Ham Road,
Faversham, Kent.



The appeal followed the refusal by Swale Borough Council. The claim was served on the defendants on 6 August 2025.

### In summary, the grounds of claim allege the following errors:

- Error of law in effectively applying the Exception Test despite the Sequential Test not having been undertaken;
- Irrational approach to mitigation measures in that the Inspector decided correctly that paragraph 175 of the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework;
- Error of law in interpreting paragraph 11(d) of the 2024 NPPF where flooding risk is in issue to require a substantive risk or harm in order for there to be a "strong reason" for refusal;
- Lack of consistency in decision making and/or failure to give clear and cogent reasons for coming to a different.

Although the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan (FNP) is not specifically named in the appeal, the flooding grounds are defending the FNP, because that plan directs development away from areas of flood risk; so the claim is not disconnected.

The FNP is part of the statutory development plan and became a material consideration before the Inspector's decision was made in June 2025. The relevant FNP policies are Policy FAV8: Flooding and Surface Water and FAV10: Sustainable Design and Character.

The defendants had until 29 August to respond. Our barristers are now reviewing the grounds of defence and preparing a response. A judge will then consider the case papers and decide, on the basis of the documents alone, whether to grant permission for the matter to proceed to a full judicial review. This decision is expected by mid to late October. Only at that stage will we know whether our claim can move forward.

If permission is granted, the costs of proceeding to the next stage are likely to be anywhere in the region of up to £100,000 - funds that the Town Council does not currently have. We are therefore asking the community to pledge financial support to help us continue this vital challenge – **CAN YOU HELP?** 

### Important points to note:

- All funds donated will be held in a dedicated account solely for the purpose of the appeal against Gladman Developments at Ham Road.
- If funds are not required, they will be returned to donors.
- Once legal proceedings are complete, any unused balance will be returned to donors on a proportional basis.
- Once we have received your pledge you will be provided with details of the bank account together with a unique reference number to quote when depositing funds.

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HamRoadAppeal

Or telephone Louise Bareham, Town Clerk on 01795 503286.





### **Protecting and developing Faversham Creek**

Philippa Dickenson and Simon Lintott, Faversham Creek Trust

# The town of Faversham began with its Creek which is a rich source of history and amenity for the town. It needs investment to develop it as an area for all of us to use and enjoy.

In 2011, a group of local people founded a charity, the Faversham Creek Trust, to protect the Creek, its heritage and future. Since then, the Trust has been working to ensure the Creek can become a clean and usable space for all. It supports investment in maritime skills, education and facilities and is working to develop the Creek as an exciting place to enjoy, whether on foot or by boat.

### **Protecting the Creek**

Faversham Creek is a 'drying creek' which means that boats sit on the mud when the tide is out. Silt settles out of the water as the tide goes out which is why regular sluicing and dredging have been needed for hundreds of years. Plus, the Creek is polluted by overflows from the town's sewage system and local boat users tipping their waste overboard.

Help us to protect the Creek to make it a clean and usable space for all:

- Support the Faversham Creek Navigation Company to take on more dredging work
- Work with Southern Water to clear silt from their storm overflows
- Support the Town Council to put pressure on the Port Authority to get the sluices working again
- Help Favwat to keep testing the water and identify exactly the sources of sewage

HENRY HATCH, WHO DIED IN

1533

WAS A WEALTHY MERCHANT. HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO BUILD A SLUICE TO FLUSH AWAY THE SILT, ORIGINALLY IN STONEBRIDGE POND, WE THINK. THE SLUICES UNDERNEATH THE CREEK BRIDGE WERE PROBABLY PUT IN WHEN GUNPOWDER WAS MADE IN THE CENTRE OF FAVERSHAM.



THE SLUICES – THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PORT AUTHORITY – ARE NOT WORKING, DREDGING HAS NOT BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

### **Support the Creek**

The Creek has been a major trading corridor going back at least 750 years. In the 1800s, boat-building was big business. The Thames Sailing Barge with its dark red sails was developed to go up the shallow creeks

at Faversham and Sittingbourne. In the 1900s, ships of up to 100 tonnes were built here, made from wood, steel and, even, concrete. Pollocks Shipyard, now Faversham Reach, launched their steel ships sideways!

Although commercial trade has stopped, boat builders still work along the Creek from the Tester's yard at Oare



to Iron Wharf, Alan Staley's boatyard on Chamber's Wharf and in the Purifier Building where the community boat-builders construct the St. Ayles' skiffs used by Cinque Ports Rowing.

Help us support the Creek with investment in maritime skills, education and facilities:

- Keep heritage boat-building skills alive on the Creek
- Support community boat-building to bring old wooden boats back into use and build new ones
- Learn how the ancient Graveney Boat was built and used
- Learn about blocks and rigging used on Cutty Sark – and repaired by local skilled craftsmen
- Share Faversham's history as a trading port

   learn about it from the recent community
   archaeology dig

### **Develop the Creek**

The Creek can be enjoyed by nature lovers, rowers, runners, walkers and foodies alike.



Are you a foodie?

- Stop off in Faversham at The Albion, The Quay, Possilipo's, The Anchor, Standard Quay, Quint's Café
- Or at Oare: the Café by the Creek, The Castle, the Three Mariners and the Shipwright's Arms.



If you want to be active, why not turn up and row with Cinque Ports Rowing leaving from Town Jetty.

Or visit Quayside Crossfit or Creekside Boxing.

Watch out for the Creek Trust's interactive walking – running – history trail launching in 2026.



Are you interested to help us develop the Creek as a place for all to enjoy?

Volunteer, just a few hours a month, to help organise events to promote the Creek and its history Support us to increase dredging, reduce storm overflows and clean up the water Assist us to re-float our 'replica' of the ancient Graveney Boat.

Become a member to be part of everything that is going on:
Join us at www.favershamcreektrust.com

## Stonebridge Pond: Tackling a Challenge Hidden

**Beneath the Surface** 

Anna Stonor, Secretary of the Friends of the Westbrook & Stonebridge Pond

# Stonebridge Pond may look as pretty as a picture, but underneath the surface, things have been building up.



Silt (made up mainly of road run off and decomposing vegetation) has been accumulating in the pond since regular sluicing stopped after the closure of the Home Works gunpowder plant in the early 20th century. In places silt levels are 2 to 3 metres deep, with just 20 centimetres depth of water above. If nothing is done to tackle the build-up, the future of the pond as we know it, is uncertain.

The Friends of the Westbrook & Stonebridge Pond have been coordinating local efforts to tackle siltation in the stream and pond. In the stream, this has been done via the installation of a 'low-flow channel' where natural materials have been used to create narrower, wavy channels which encourage the movement of silt aside and down the stream, exposing the gravel bed and improving habitat for invertebrates, fish, bats and birds. This approach, however, is not suitable for the pond as it is much deeper.

As such, the Friends have been working with Swale Borough Council (who own the pond), Faversham Town Council (who own Stonebridge allotments), Stonebridge Allotment Society, the Environment Agency and others to investigate alternative approaches. These include manually desilting the pond, separating the pond from the stream (to reduce the build-up of silt) and



reprofiling the stream along Flood Lane to increase its gradient. However, these approaches are costly and potentially disruptive. As such, a less invasive and more cost-effective approach has been suggested by the Environment Agency – the use of aquatic chalk.

Aquatic chalk, often called Siltex, is an established method of managing silt in ponds



and is currently being used nearby at Oare Gunpowder Works and Stodmarsh SSSI. It is calcium carbonate powder that, once applied, can increase oxygenation and speed up the breakdown of organic material within sediment. As such, it can help reduce silt, improve water quality, and support conditions for biodiversity.

The success of aquatic chalk largely depends on the levels of organic content in the silt.

Samples have been analysed and results show the use of aquatic chalk could help reduce silt levels at Stonebridge Pond. As such, Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council have agreed to share the costs of using aquatic chalk at Stonebridge Pond. The chalk will be applied this autumn, and effects will be monitored. It should be noted that following application, the pond may look white and cloudy for some time. This is normal and will soon settle.

If monitoring shows positive results, the application of aquatic chalk will likely become a regular occurrence.

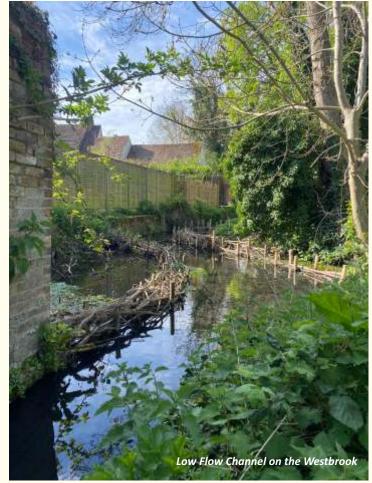
The Environment Agency, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the Internal Drainage Board have all been contacted about the use of aquatic chalk at Stonebridge and are

happy for it to be trialled.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends of the Westbrook & Stonebridge Pond, please take a look at the website:

friendsofthewestbrook.wordpress.com.





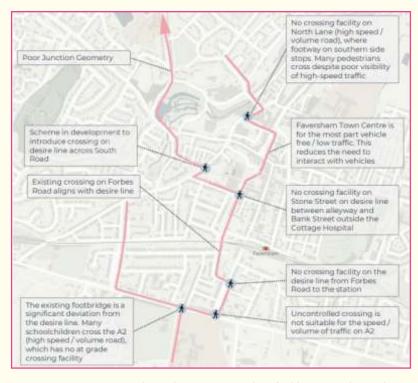
# North South Walking Route Public Exhibition

Cllr Julian Saunders

The Town Council will be running a public exhibition during October about its plans for a North South walking route stretching from the Abbey School, via the town centre through to Davington, the Brents and North Preston.

We are committed to making Faversham easy and safe to walk around. More walking and wheelchair use alongside reduced vehicle journeys results in a number of benefits including improved health, reduced air pollution, more use of local shops and cafes, more casual social interactions, fewer accidents and less traffic congestion.

We were delighted when Kent County
Council successfully bid for Active Travel
England funding for the town wide
20mph scheme and then the East West
Walking Route and the exhibition is



Key North South Route issues identified by external consultants

aimed at building fresh momentum for a next successful funding bid for further highway improvements aimed at slowing traffic and making it easier and more attractive to walk.

Many residents and visitors already use the walking corridors that run from the Abbey School to the town centre and then across town to Davington, the Brents and North Preston. They provide access to community and business facilities like the Railway Station, Faversham Market, Faversham Pools, The Royal Cinema, Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham Creek, The Grammar School and Standard Quay. However pedestrian journeys are made more difficult by the 'severance' problems caused by the A2, the railway line and the Creek and a significant number of challenging crossing points on local streets.

There are major problems at the entrance to Abbey School, where the crossing is formed by a narrow stepped bridge which is unusable by people with mobility needs and pram and pushchair users; and on North Lane, the main crossing point for pedestrians travelling to the town centre from the Brents, which has no formal or informal crossing points and narrow or non-existent pavements. Other areas of concern include the walking route to Davington - the pavement of Davington Hill is very narrow, the junction of Priory Road and Priory Row is very wide and it remains difficult to cross at Stonebridge Pond despite improvements carried out by Kent County Council 4 years ago; and the town centre, where there have been persistent concerns about the volume of traffic parking and driving through the area.

WSP Consultants have been funded by Kent County Council and the Town Council to produce proposals for a North South Walking Route. They have reviewed the relevant corridors, identified main issues and proposed four key focus areas to prioritise in developing improvements. They have then developed detailed designs and visualisations for three locations, which will be on display as part of the exhibition.

As part of the exhibition, we also want to gather your views on proposals, in order to find out how the project can be improved, ensure there is a good level of support for what we are planning and address any concerns that the public might have. Feedback questionnaires will be available at the exhibition, but also available on line along with virtual copies of all the display boards which are part of the exhibition.

Visit: https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel/cross-town-walking-route/ or use the QR code here to access.

The exhibition will be held in the Town Hall exhibition space next to the Visitor Information Centre, 12 Market Place. It will run from Monday 13 October to Sunday 26 October and will be open every day between 10am and 4pm.



# In Defence of Queen Matilda Place

Cllr Charles Gibson

Many of you will be aware of the discussions around the naming of the path from St Mary's Church to Abbey place. The Town Council have proposed to call it Queen Matilda Place, there has been much discussion around how local people refer to various paths and our town's history.

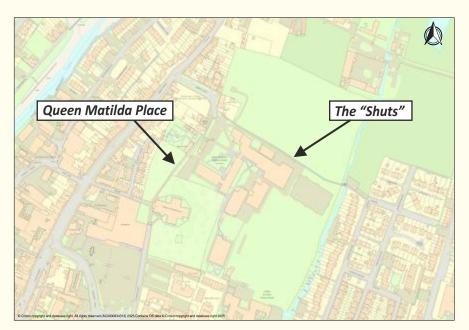
So a brief historical note. The English Queen Matilda who was married to King Stephen, founded Faversham Abbey and was buried here, and quite possibly disinterred and their remains thrown into the creek (not to be confused with Empress Matilde, a cousin in law and military rival who is of great historical importance but has no connection to Faversham).

The site of the current Grammar School is widely documented to be the Shooting Meadows where Longbow practice was carried out by the men of the Town during the period of the 100 Years war.

Now in a town with as rich a history as Faversham some historical overlapping is inevitable, as we see at Town Quay where the Town warehouse is also known as T S Hasarde recognizing its various roles throughout time. This is clearly the situation in this particular corner and so the Town Council have proposed a compromise which allows us to recognize as much of the Town's history as possible.

It is suggested that the long path from Abbey Place to Cyprus Road will be named "The Shuts" (a local pronunciation of the Shoots from Shooting Meadows) and the shorter path from Abbey Place to the Church will be named Queen Matilda Place in recognition of the route that may well have been part of an English Queens final journey, long before shooting meadows had even been conceived.

Whilst there is wide documentary evidence of the long path being named the Shooting meadows, the shorter path has no such evidence so while some people have referred to both paths as Shooting Meadows (and are welcome to continue doing so, as so many of us do with all sorts of names), this compromise represents the best opportunity to celebrate 2 parts of our town's rich heritage that are currently not commemorated.

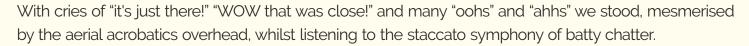


## **Bat Detecting at Cooksditch**

We had a wonderful turn out for the first of a few bat walks planned in Faversham this summer, on Friday 11th July. It was a very warm evening and there was a lot of insect activity, which is great for bats.

Led by Councillor Charles Gibson and Liz Vinson from the Kent Bat Group, we were delighted to be able to share the Faversham Town Council's Magenta Bat 5 Heterodyne Bat Detectors out amongst the attendees, so everyone could have a go at bat detecting.

The start of the walk at the Parish Church yielded little bat activity (wildlife can be so temperamental!) however, as we approached Cooksditch, clicks, smacks and buzzes started echoing around the group as the detectors picked up the calls and shouts of foraging bats.



We heard two species, Soprano pipistrelle and Common pipistrelle. These are the most likely species of bat that you might see soon after dusk flitting around your gardens, they may look sparrow sized, but only weigh around 6g each and are so small they can fit in a matchbox! They can eat up to 3,000 insects a night, so they are natures best pest controllers!

The Town Council have 12 Magenta Bat 5 Detectors which are available to hire for FREE! Find out more on the website: https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/bat-detectors-for-loan/ or email Rob Gibbs with the quantity of detectors needed and 3 suggested dates: rob.gibbs@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

These detectors are such a wonderful resource for the community, and allow anyone to become a bat detector, and spend time watching as well as hearing these much maligned mammals that grace our skies at night.

If you need help or advice regarding bats, or if you have found a grounded bat (a bat that is out during the day or is unable to fly) please contact the Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Helpline on 0345 1300 228. You can also find advice on the Kent Bat Group Website:

https://www.kentbatgroup.org.uk/help-ive-found-a-bat and failing that just google "help I've found a bat"



Bats are protected by Law in the United Kingdom because they are seriously in decline, if you would like to help conserve bats in Kent and learn more about them, why not become a member of the Kent Bat Group and sign up to be a volunteer.



# Faversham Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) Patient Survey - Update on Key Issues August 2025

Since the PPG volunteers from Newton Place Surgery and Faversham Medical Practice completed our survey of patients in October 2024 the two practices have become 'Faversham Medical Group'. Whilst nothing is changing for the time being, over the coming months the patient lists will merge and the two practices will increasingly work together.

PPG members from both practices have met with clinicians and other staff, keen to find out what actions were being taken or planned to address the concerns raised by patients in the survey.

GPs say that the new merged practice will improve health services in town and address some of the areas of concern raised by patients in the survey. They say that:

- Additional GPs are being recruited and there will be more GP appointments available
- Nurses are already working flexibly to cover any gaps at either practice and delays in seeing nurses or health care assistants are reducing
- GPs are committed to making it simpler to get a doctor's appointment, including with a named GP to improve continuity of care for patients
- This will not include the use of E-consult for same day problems which will be changing nationally shortly
- Opportunities to improve the reception areas will be looked at for both sites
- As the NHS App continues to be improved, patients will be able to check more things online, including what they can expect to happen after an appointment
- Weekend and evening appointments will become more readily available

An early example of the two practices working together is that from October 1st all Covid and Flu vaccinations will take place at Faversham Medical Practice.

We will continue to press for improvements for patients in the key areas identified by our survey and keep patients informed.

## **Water Quality Working Group**

Cllr Charles Gibson

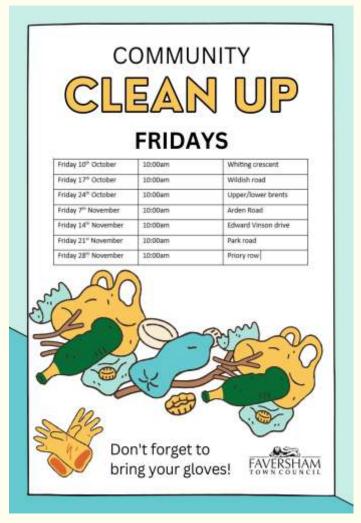
At the beginning of this year Faversham Town Council set up a water quality working group to help bring together the several groups in the town doing excellent work in monitoring and fighting to improve the water quality in our towns waterways.

In June the Town Council received a briefing from Southern Water on some of the work they are planning to reduce storm overflows which have so frequently caused unacceptable levels of pollution in our creek. This was an excellent session with lots of public questions raised and taken away by Southern Water which will be being followed up in the Water Quality Working Group.

We are looking forward to keeping up the work with our excellent partners like Favwat and the Creek trust who have done such excellent work over many years.

If you want to get involved please check out the website, or come along to our next Water Quality Working Group: https://favershamcreektrust.com/favwat/.





### Faversham Branch Royal British Legion



ROYAL BRITISH LECION

We've been here since 1921 and we'll be here as long as you need us.

We provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

0808 802 8080

Lines are open from 8am-8pm every day. rbl.org.uk

### **Membership**

Our friendly membership team are here to help.

Call our helpline

0800 307 7773

today or email

faversham.secretary@rbl.community



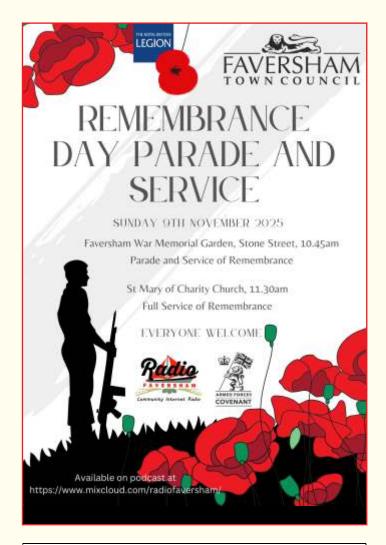
By volunteering with us you can help change the lives of people in the Armed Forces community. Interested in volunteering? Please visit www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer or email faversham.secretary@rbl.community

Registered charity number: 219279



### Faversham Poppy Appeal Organiser 07961 806029

MEETING CALENDAR 2025					
	Start Time	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Town Council (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon)	7pm	8	13	10	8
Planning Committee (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon)	6pm	8 22	13 27	10 24	8
Active Travel Committee (1st Thurs)	7:30pm	4	2	6	
Community Committee (3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon)	7:30pm	15	20	17	
Environment Committee (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed)	7:30pm	10	8	12	
Heritage, Buildings, and Creek Committee (1st Wed)	7:30pm	3	1	5	3
Policy & Resources Committee (1st Mon)	7:30pm	1	6	3	1



### ABBEY WARD

Cllr Josh Rowlands (Mayor of Faversham)

Cllr Laura Coniam

Cllr Charles Gibson\*

Cllr Hanah Perkin\*

### PRIORY WARD

Cllr Alex Eyre\*

Cllr Peter Cook

#### ST ANN'S WARD

Cllr Rob Crayford

Cllr Kieran Golding\*

**Cllr Robert Newman** 

Cllr Julian Saunders

### **WATLING WARD**

**Cllr Becky Jones** 

Cllr Ben Martin

Cllr Claire Martin (Deputy Mayor)\*

Cllr Ben Martin

Cllr Carole Jackson\*

SBC Member only, for St Ann's Ward

carolejackson@swale.gov.uk

Cllr Antony Hook

KCC Member for Faversham

Antony.hook@kent.gov.uk

Helen Whately MP for Faversham and Mid Kent helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

All Town Councillors can be contacted through the office on 01795 503286, or our website has their email addresses:

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Faversham Town Council**

Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE
T: 01795 503286 E: clerk@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk