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Pedestrian Improvements a Step Closer

Cllr Julian Saunders

A next round of positive development for pedestrians in Faversham campaigned for by the Town Council's Active Travel Committee is getting closer.

Commitments made by Kent Highways should see the start of the build out of a North South Walking Route improving pedestrian links from Davington and North Preston to the town centre and key locations like the station and the Abbey School in the south of the town, in the next few months. This follows a feasibility study funded by the Town Council and Swale Borough Council back in 2024.

Over the last few months, the Kent Highways Active Travel team have been doing detailed work to verify the feasibility of a surface level controlled crossing of the A2 close to the junction with Canute Road, following their confirmation in March that they had Section 106 developer funding for this work. This work has included safety reviews and discussions with local schools and councillors aimed at ensuring the final design will meet local residents' needs and be effective at school starting and leaving times.



*Cllrs Julian Saunders and Ben Martin
with the Urban Transport Design Award*

Kent Highways have also confirmed that they want to use national Active Travel funding for capital works for North South Walking Route interventions. This work will ultimately involve the build out of some or all of the junction improvements that were shown as visualisations in the exhibition that the Town Council ran in October 2025 – so the Briton Road/Forbes Road junction, North Lane at the junction with Partridge Lane and the junction of Bramblehill Road with Church Road.

Kent Highways have written out to Swale identifying that they will be doing development work on other projected North South Walking Route interventions and in another positive development the Town Council is likely to be managing a nationally funded feasibility study which will be looking at the potential for active travel improvements in the Ospringe and West Faversham area.

A final piece of good news is that the East West Walking Route which runs from Lower Road through to the Recreation ground has won an award – more details in a later article.

The town's success in getting this additional funding is a direct result of the Town Council having developed and maintained a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which lays out where there is a need across the town for physical highways improvements to make it safer for walking, wheeling and cycling. If you identify places where improvements are needed please let us know.

Faversham Town Council's Marshaling Campaign

Eleonor Williams, Faversham Town Council

Regarding the recent success of Faversham's events, there is an increased need for more volunteers to help marshal and keep things running. Therefore, Faversham Town Council's events team are looking for friendly faces to join its team for future events; this extra support will allow officers of the council to continue creating and expanding activities that go on in your local area.



Event marshals with Faversham Town Council's Events Officer, Claire Elliott

This is a great way to meet new people, add experience to your CV or just to get out and about. Marshals help with crowd management, event safety, guidance and creating a positive atmosphere.

Volunteer marshals will be stationed at various locations around event sites in Faversham, depending on the needs of each specific event. Anyone is welcome to join if you are over 18 and willing to help. To sign up please email either Claire Elliott or Eleanor Williams, whose emails can be found on the Town Council website or sign up at the Visitor Centre.

Brad Sim, an events volunteer said: *"It is fantastic being part of the volunteer unit, being part of the community is really great and love being able to see the events run smoothly. I encourage people to do something like this as it looks good on a CV."*

Mentalk Health Coming to Faversham

Cllr Josh Rowlands

This October, Mentalk Health is proud to launch in Faversham, bringing free men's mental health support to the local community. Founded in Sittingbourne, Mentalk Health has supported more than 1,600 men, along with their families, through some of life's most difficult moments, and also runs a successful group in Ashford.

Founder Jason Firmager says: *"We believe that no man should have to struggle alone and that one conversation really can change—and even save—a life."*

The free weekly Faversham meetings will be held in a private function room upstairs at The Limes, with a separate entrance, providing a safe, welcoming and confidential environment where men can talk openly, listen, or spend time with others who understand.

"Mentalk Health is far more than a weekly support meeting," says Jason. "Our community also offers Walk & Talk groups, creative wellbeing activities, 24/7 peer support chats, educational talks in schools and workplaces, and our 15-acre Woodland Retreat, where nature, community and wellbeing help people reconnect, recover and grow."

The Faversham expansion has been made possible with support from Shepherd Neame and local partners who share the vision of building stronger, healthier communities.

Whether you're facing anxiety, depression, loneliness, stress, bereavement, relationship difficulties, or simply need someone to talk to, you'll receive a warm welcome. No referral, diagnosis or appointment is needed—simply come along.

Local businesses and organisations can also support Mentalk Health through sponsorship, fundraising, volunteering or partnership, helping reach more people, raise awareness and ensure no one faces life's challenges alone.

Together, we are stronger!



The Faversham in Bloom Project

Eleanor Williams, Faversham Town Council

Organised by Faversham Town Council's facilities team, Faversham in Bloom is a project set out to restore and maintain Faversham's green spaces. It focusses primarily on enhancing Faversham's seasonal displays and flower beds. It also creates habitats to increase biodiversity, particularly for pollinators and wildlife, while also endorsing sustainable gardening practices.

The project is run by a range of community volunteers who give their energy to maintaining the project, these volunteers give life to the project and Faversham itself. Faversham in bloom is always looking to take on more volunteers, so if you are looking to gain some hands-on experience, improve your well-being or even just something to do, have a look at becoming a volunteer for Faversham in bloom.

Volunteers are also involved in judging and helping to promote Faversham's depth and diversity of green efforts. Every pair of hands helps Faversham flourish. To sign up, you can contact Stacey Woolf by finding his email on the town council website, or by asking at the visitor centre. Faversham in Bloom is proud to work with the community.

A beautiful display of flowers from the Faversham in Bloom Project



Building a Stronger Faversham – Our Community Projects

Cllr Hannah Perkin

There's a lot happening across Faversham, and at the heart of many of these projects is one simple idea – bringing people together and making our town an even better place to live.



Faversham Town Council is working with residents, volunteers, charities and community organisations on a growing range of projects, supporting people of all ages and helping our community thrive.

Age Friendly Faversham is a great example. Following our community survey, we're working with local people to develop an action plan for the next two to three years. This will look at the things that really matter as we get older, from transport, housing and accessible outdoor spaces to social activities, health services and making it easier to find information and support.

We're also working to tackle loneliness and social isolation. "Involve Kent" has launched an Ambassador Programme to recruit volunteers who can support older residents, while our Chatty Table during Loneliness Week offered a friendly place for people to stop, talk and discover what's available locally. The response was really encouraging, with residents asking for more opportunities like this.

Listening is an important part of what we do. Feedback from the Chatty Table highlighted ideas including befriending schemes, youth clubs, dementia-friendly activities, children's groups, volunteering events and improved accessibility. These conversations help us understand where the gaps are and where the Council can help make things happen.

Another important strand of our work is supporting the organisations that already do so much for Faversham. The "Faversham Community Networking Group" brings local charities and voluntary groups together to share knowledge, make connections and tackle common challenges. Recruiting volunteers and finding funding remain big concerns, so we're working with partners to find practical ways to support groups, including sharing expertise and speakers with the Sittingbourne Networking Group.

Practical projects are making a difference too. The Family Food Map was developed to help families find food-related support during the summer holiday, while the Faversham Hopper community bus continues to provide an important connection for people who may otherwise struggle to get around.

We're also proud of our work supporting the Armed Forces community. The Council recently received a Silver Award through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and continues to promote local Armed Forces groups and activities.

The Faversham Charters and Magna Carta project continues to be popular and we're working with volunteers, schools and visitors to bring our remarkable history to life. From supporting someone who feels lonely to helping a local charity find volunteers, improving connections or celebrating our heritage, these projects are all about people, partnerships and our special community.

There's plenty more to do, but by listening, working together and turning good ideas into action, we're helping to build a stronger, friendlier and more connected Faversham.



GOOD NEWS!
FROM
**SATURDAY
15TH AUGUST**

FH2 ROUTE
*will be running on
Saturdays!*

WITH THE
SAME TIMINGS
AS THE WEEKDAY TIMETABLE.

**Faversham
Hopper**

Your local link, now even more connected.

East West Cross Town Walking Route Wins Prestigious National Award

Rob Gibbs, Faversham Town Council

Faversham's East West Cross Town Walking Route has been recognised with a prestigious national award, highlighting the success of a partnership project that has improved opportunities for walking across the town.

The route was named winner of the Urban Transport Design Award at the Annual Transport Practitioners Meeting, held in Manchester in July. The award citation specifically recognised the collaborative work of Faversham Town Council, Kent County Council and Swale Borough Council, whose partnership helped deliver the project and its benefits for local residents and visitors.

The East West Cross Town Walking Route, which runs from Lower Road, through the town and the Recreation Ground, to Love Lane, was developed to make walking across the town easier, safer and more attractive, encouraging active travel and helping people access key destinations without relying on a car.

The recognition does not end with the award. The walking route has also been selected to feature in a forthcoming Sport England walkability best practice guide, due to be published this autumn. Inclusion in the guide will showcase the project as an example of good practice to local authorities and transport professionals across the country.

Councillor Ben Martin, Chair of the Active Travel Committee at Faversham Town Council, said: *"We are delighted that the East West Cross Town Walking Route has received this national recognition. This award reflects the successful partnership between Faversham Town Council, Kent*



County Council and Swale Borough Council, and our shared commitment to making it easier and more enjoyable for people to walk around the town. It is particularly pleasing that the project will also be highlighted in Sport England's forthcoming best practice guide, helping to inspire similar initiatives elsewhere."



The Urban Transport Design Award presented to the partners behind Faversham's East West Cross Town Walking Route, winner at the Annual Transport Practitioners Meeting in Manchester

Faversham Town Council Meetings Calendar

	Start Time	Oct	Nov	Dec
Full Council				
Town Council (2 nd Monday)	7pm	12	9	14
Committees				
Planning Committee (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	6pm	12 26	9 23	14 -
Policy & Resources (1 st Monday)	7:30pm	5	2	7
Environment Committee (2 nd Wednesday)	7:30pm	14	11	
Active Travel Committee (1 st Thursday)	7:30pm	7	4	
Community Committee (3 rd Monday)	7:30pm	19	16	
Heritage Buildings and Creek Committee (4 th Monday)	7:30pm	26	23	

ABBEY WARD

Cllr Josh Rowlands
Cllr Laura Coniam
Cllr Charles Gibson*
Cllr Hannah 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* (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Claire Martin* (Mayor of Faversham)
Cllr Trevor Martin

* Swale Borough Council Member

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 details of their email addresses

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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