

ANNUAL REPORT



2017 to 2018

Mayor's Report : 2017 to 2018

As I reflect back over the past year I am amazed at how much has been achieved. At the time it can often feel like one is swimming through treacle but, bit by bit, the jigsaw pieces come together and something is actually achieved!

We are soon to move into our new Town Hall offices in Market Place, allowing us to expand our services and we have recently recruited a Town Caretaker, Business Officer and an apprentice to join us. There are ambitious plans to get this town smartened up and the extra space provided by the new offices will be invaluable. It has been interesting and enjoyable using the building for many charitable and local groups during the time we were arranging for the building work to start and we look forward to more varied and interesting uses of the ground floor as the project unveils.

My promise to the people, as I accepted the role of Mayor, was summed up in Co-operation, Collaboration and Communication and I am pleased to say that I really do think it has worked! I believe the town is, by and large, harmonious and appreciative of the many people's efforts to make it so. I said that there would be no letters to the paper stirring up unrest, and that more could be done over a quiet coffee. Well, I've drunk a heck of a lot of coffee here there and everywhere, but look at the outcomes! We haven't got our bridge yet, but the process is still alive and kicking, we haven't got our Umbrella Centre reopened yet, but again that process is still alive and kicking and the building has been taken off the market. Other Councillors have also been busy moving projects forward, there is a lot happening, believe me.

I also set out to bring together the issues surrounding local development in a public meeting that later became a regular public group with the aim of seeking a community wide view about development around Faversham. I take my hat off to the few that made it through the whole two years; unfortunately many came along, found that it was not all



about their issue and then left us to it. It is a shame that much campaigning effort has been made locally in specific areas with no town wide agreement, each area fighting their own corner. What we might have achieved together remains a moot point as it is fair to say we were well behind the curve of having much impact, but I do truly believe we have scored an own goal in losing the ability to put a Western Link to J6 road through to take the pressure off the A2 from the Western Link to Brenley Corner.

However, the group was powerful, as it was seen to represent public opinion in a positive “what can we achieve” way and it shaped the principles of the fortnightly Planning Committee when consulted on new developments and was able to meet with Planners and Developers to hear and be heard. I have been amazed at the persistence and commitment of those that have lasted the two years with me!

Cllr Mrs Shiel Campbell
The Mayor of Faversham 2016-2018

Council Staff





From Monday 2nd July Faversham Town Council's office will be located at 12 Market Place. You can contact a member of staff using the details below.

Town Clerk – Louise Bareham louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503288	Deputy Town Clerk - Adrienne Begent Adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503286
Business Officer – Claire Windridge claire.windridge@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503287	Town Caretaker – Adam Andrews adam.andrews@favershamtc.co.uk 07392 798419
Tourism Officer - Hannah Tilley Hannah.tilley@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503287	Finance Assistant – Emma Powell Emma.Powell@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503286
Office Apprentice - Brooke Williams brooke.williams@favershamtc.co.uk 01795 503286	





Town Councillors

The Town Council has 14 Councillors, who are elected to represent one of the four wards in the town. Councillors are elected to serve a period of four years.

*Also Swale Borough Councillor for the Ward

	Councillor	Ward	Party	Contact Details
	Trevor Abram 28 Lakeside Ave Faversham ME13 7FE	St Ann's	Cons	trevor_abram@yahoo.co.uk Home: 530379 Mob: 07712 594872
	Mike Cosgrove* 22 Ospringe Place Faversham ME13 8TB	St Ann's	Cons	mike_cos@hotmail.com Home: 591790
	Bryan Mulhern* 56 Park Rd Faversham ME13 8EU	Abbey	Cons	bryanmulhern@btinternet.com Mob: 07850 247810 Home: 538498/533985
	Ted Wilcox* 50 Lower Rd Faversham ME13 7NG	Watling	Cons	ted.wilcox@btinternet.com Home: 533004 Mob: 07711 476769

	Councillor	Ward	Party	Contact Details
	Anita Walker* 124 St Mary's Road Faversham ME13 8EE	Abbey	Cons	anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk Home: 531192
	David Simmons* Whitehill House Brogdale Rd Faversham ME13 0DN	Watling	Cons	dhsimmons@btconnect.com Home: 532100 Mob: 07850 872342
	Nigel Kay* 13 Preston Park Faversham ME13 8LH	St Ann's	Cons	Nigel@kayna.plus.com Home: 531298 Mob: 07710 487129
	Shiel Campbell Samandra Upper St Ann's Rd Faversham ME13 8SY	Watling	Cons	shielcampbell@uwclub.net Home: 533297 Mob: 07791 567145
	Geoff Wade 5 Priory Rd, Faversham ME13 7EJ	Watling	Cons	geoff.wade@thedavington centre.com Home: 530646
	Ben Martin Orchard Cottage Canterbury Rd Faversham ME13 8LY	Priory	Indep	cllrbenmartin@gmail.com Mob: 07734 559089

	Councillor	Ward	Party	Contact Details
	Claire Belsom 1 Orchard Cottage 9 Ashford Rd Faversham ME13 8XJ	Priory	Indep	Clairebelsom@mail.com Mob: 07775 560359
	Peter Flower 6 New Creek Rd, Faversham ME13 7BU	Abbey	Cons	pecard@btconnect.com Home: 537030 Mob: 07743 695946
	Nick Green 18 Preston Street Faversham ME13 8NZ	St Ann's	Cons	nick@jittermugs.co.uk Home: 01795 533121
	Antony Hook 48 Hazebrouck Road Faversham ME13 7QZ	Abbey	Lib Dem	favershamfocus@gmail.com Tel: 03000 419916

Kent County Councillor	Ward	Party	Contact Details
 Antony Hook 48 Hazebrouck Road Faversham ME13 7QZ	Faversham	Lib Dem	favershamfocus@gmail.com 03000 419916
Swale Borough Councillor	Ward	Party	Contact Details
 Mike Henderson Bridge House Front Brents Faversham Kent ME13 7DH	Priory	Indep	mikeshenderson@outlook.com 07900 265337

Attendance Record

Councillor	Town Council Meeting /14	Councillor	Town Council Meeting /14
Cllr S C Campbell	14	Cllr M Cosgrove	13
Cllr T Abram	12	Cllr G Wade	13
Cllr B Mulhern	8	Cllr B Martin	8
Cllr E J Wilcox	14	Cllr C Belsom	12
Cllr A J Walker	14	Cllr P Flower	12
Cllr D H S Simmons	13	Cllr N Green	5
Cllr N Kay	13	Cllr A Hook	11

Finance Report 2017-2018

Faversham Town Council

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2018

31st March 2017		31st March 2018
	Operating Income	
323,029	Income	328,786
890	Civic	525
0	Office and Administration	10
15,966	The Guildhall	1,067
7,787	Front Brents Jetty	7,060
900	Grants	9,030
7,440	Tourism	6,003
0	Events	8,487
10	Special Provision	0
1,099,878	Heritage Hub	1,700
0	Memorial	(28)
1,455,900	Total Income	362,640
	Running Costs	
7,587	Civic	7,911
122,199	Staffing & Professional	116,302
24,913	Office and Administration	70,828
0	The Alexander Centre	9,846
47,804	The Guildhall	11,517
3,032	Front Brents Jetty	4,189
31,864	Grants	26,275
0	Business Support	2,650
19,875	Tourism	19,006
0	Events	2,075
(884)	Public Realm Group	8,622
21,099	Special Provision	27,452
626,560	Heritage Hub	140,609
4,625	Reserves	0
908,674	Total Expenditure	447,283
	General Fund Analysis	
105,186	Opening Balance	118,144
1,455,900	Plus : Income for Year	362,640
1,561,086		480,784
908,674	Less : Expenditure for Year	447,283
652,412		33,501
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	0
652,412	Closing Balance	33,501

Budget 2018-2019

	Year ended 31 March 2019	Year ended 31 March 2018
	£	£
Budgeted expenditure		
Civic	7,900	6,850
Staffing & professional (see note 1 below)	150,200	120,471
Office & administration	34,500	30,450
Alexander Centre -rent	10,100	10,100
The Guildhall	19,700	19,000
Front Brents Jetty	3,900	5,980
Community grants	26,000	26,000
Business support	-	10,000
Tourism	19,600	26,000
Community events	7,000	-
Public Realm Group	1,000	5,000
<u>Special provision</u>		
Town Council Regalia and Artefacts	2,000	1,000
Neighbourhood Planning	-	8,000
Transport Management Plan	-	8,000
Allotments	10,000	5,000
Swing Bridge loan interest	-	4,000
20's Plenty	5,000	5,000
Contingency	3,500	3,000
Youth Council	2,000	-
World War 1 Commemoration	20,000	-
Skate Park	15,000	-
Heritage Hub	21,900	7,387
Acquisition and adaption of 12 Market Place (see note 2 below)	43,500	43,500
Total budgeted expenditure	402,800	344,738
Budgeted income		
Civic	600	500
Office & administration	40	-
The Guildhall	4,500	-
Front Brents Jetty	9,000	8,100
Website income	10,000	-
Visit Faversham subscriptions	5,500	7,500
Community events	7,500	-
Heritage Hub.	1,500	-
Total budgeted income	38,640	16,100
Total budgeted expenditure net of budgeted income	£364,160	£328,638
The precept for Council Tax Band D properties	£57.99	£53.06

Note 1

The figures for Staffing & professional includes £24,000 (2017/18 £nil) for the costs of the Apprentice and the cost of the Business Support Officer.

Note 2

The purchase of the freehold and the adaption of 12 Market Place into a Town Hall and Heritage Hub was financed by a loan repayable over 50 years with interest fixed at 2.99%. The amount budgeted represents the repayments on that loan, which will remain constant over the 50 year period.

Grants Awarded 2017-2018

Recipient	Grant
Citizens Advice Swale	£5,000
Christmas Lights Committee	£4,000
Faversham Hop Festival	£2,000
Faversham & District Carnival Club	£2,000
Kent Creative - Faversham 365 Project	£1,920
The Alexander Centre Trust	£750
Faversham Hat Festival	£250
Faversham Creek FM	£1,000
Nautical Festival	£500
Faversham Youth Choir	£650
Stonebridge Allotment Association	£2,870
Millfield Allotment Association	£2,000
Faversham Football Club	£1,000
Hi Kent	£500
Pond and Tree Warden Donation	£50
Preston Street Starlings	£1,500

Faversham Hero 2017

Mrs Mary Caryer was the first person to be honoured with the Kent Association of Local Council's Community Award – Faversham Hero – by Faversham Town Council.

Mrs Caryer was nominated for her work with the Arden Theatre and accepted the 1st award at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2017.



Committee Reports

Policy and Finance Committee

Members: Cllr Campbell, Cllrs Abram, Wilcox, Kay, Cosgrove, Wade

The Policy & Finance Committee has continued to focus on the delivery of the Town Business Plan, coordinating the work of all the Council's service committees; working towards the goals of the Five Year Strategic Plan.

The No.12 Market Place project, to create new Council Offices and a Heritage Hub in the heart of the town is progressing as planned. When completed it will accommodate Council staff on the first floor and direct visitors to the town's museums and heritage centres, displaying the municipal regalia and charters. The aim is to widen resident interest in local history and attract more visitors to the town, plus bringing added economic benefits to the Faversham business community and local people.

A town caretaker has been appointed to improve the appearance of streets and public spaces to boost the town's attractiveness. A new business support manager has been recruited to assist the business community since the winding up of the Faversham Business Partnership.

To ensure the Town Council can monitor the performance of new projects, initiatives, festivals and events a comprehensive survey has been undertaken involving the town's business community to measure the strengths and challenges to doing business in the town and benchmarking current footfall in the town centre.

Looking forward, Faversham is facing serious challenges from new development of homes and employment sites and action has begun to build a more proactive approach involving the wider community to inform future house building and Swale Borough Council's Local Planning process.

Throughout the year the Council has revised policies and financial & legal requirements to support national and local demands overseeing

the management of council assets. The Policy & Finance Committee also continues to monitor day to day running costs such as salaries, office expenses together with the management and general administration of the Council's affairs.

Cllr Geoff Wade - Chair

Public Realm Group

Members: Cllr Wilcox (Chair), Cllrs Abram, Walker, Wade, Flower
Mr Mike Knowles (SBC), Mr Alan Blackburn (KCC)
Mr Chris Oswald-Jones (MoP), Mr Eddie Thomas (MoP)

The group had agreed to organise a walk around the town centre in the week before each meeting to check on problems in parts of the town. These have been very successful and on our recent walks the Town Clerk has taken a number of photographs which has improved our reports to both the Council and for reporting problems to authorities.

Long discussions had been held about parking around the Guildhall and finally the installation of double yellow heritage lines was agreed by JTB as the best option and recently they have been completed. A great improvement from having three lines of cars parked by the Guildhall door to just occasional disabled parking. Many yellow lines have been renewed around the town, although not always with the appropriate heritage style and the group has reported and had these changed.

The working group has tried to install a number of benches around the town and have discussed several places, but there has been substantial opposition to many of the suggested sites. Despite this we now have a new bench in the town centre and a perch bench by the bus-stop at the station, although we still wish to install more.

Concern had been expressed about overhanging of the hedge on Chase House which has now been reduced after discussions with the owner. Also KCC Highways and Blenwoods have undertaken work on verges, identified by the group, and the new owners of Delbridge house were thanked for the extensive work they have completed.

The working group has investigated the security of the town after vehicle attacks in other parts of the country and although the initial proposals are not affordable, we are looking at alternatives.

The working group walkabouts regularly note minor works, and graffiti removal around the town, currently reporting them to the authorities but many could easily be completed by a Town Caretaker and we are looking forward to working with Adam Andrews, a recently retired fireman, who has been appointed to the post.

Cllr Ted Wilcox – Chair

Community Services Committee

Members: Cllr Abram, Cllrs Walker, Kay, Belsom, Flower

This is the second year of the Community Services Committee and our objective was to engage with and explore the needs and wants of local people. The Local Engagement Forum is a good example of this, it's not just about Faversham but also the surrounding villages that look to the town as their centre, where they shop and use its amenities. There have been some interesting topics on the Local Engagement Forum agendas and engaging discussions concerning them.

With the Keep Faversham Clean campaign 3 litter picks were organised around the town and hopefully more will happen in the following year. 20's Plenty and Speedwatch are well supported.

The allotments fall under the umbrella of the Community Services Committee and have gone from strength to strength, they are a real asset to the town and a good working relationship has formed with the council and the allotment associations and Society. A meeting was held recently with residents of the town concerning St Nicholas Road Allotment site and a working group has now been formed.

A Youth Steering Group has recently been formed and I hope that in the coming years this will evolve into a Youth Council for the town as it is important to engage with the young people.

The quarterly Newsletter has been going for some time and is delivered to all the residents of the town, also the town council surgeries started this year these are held once a quarter at the Guildhall and the next is on Saturday 9th June 2018.

Cllr Claire Belsom - Chair

Heritage Committee

Members: Cllr N Kay (Chair), Cllrs Campbell, Simmons, Wade
Hannah Tilley (Tourism Officer),
Mr Ted Davis (Faversham Society), Mr Clive Foreman (MoP)

12 Market Place is in the process of being transformed. The Town Council Office, on the first floor, will be easily assessable with a lift to enable anyone to visit the Council offices.

Faversham Heritage Hub is an exciting new collaboration bringing Faversham museums together. Incorporating two exhibition areas, reading room and archive storage. At the heart of our town - a place for residents and visitors alike to discover our geography and history; enabling better orientation to the hidden treasures of Faversham. Phase 1, opening Summer 2018, will consist of a number of exhibitions; the first in partnership with Christ Church University.

During 2018 the Town Council will be working on grant applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund to get the Heritage Hub operational and fully equipped. As a result of a very significant fall in ticket sales for the National Lottery the funds available to all distributors of Lottery funds have fallen considerably. Accordingly the competition for funds is intense and the Town Council is working very hard with the Faversham Society and the Town's other Museums and places of interest to put together the best possible bid.

Cllr Nigel Kay - Chair

