

Faversham Town Council Newsletter

Winter 2020 Edition

Faversham Town Council Offices
12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AE
Tel: 01795 503286
www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor's Update

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

Can I start by wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Positive New Year.

It's been such a busy few months I feel I could fill the whole newsletter with the Mayor's memorable, informative and enjoyable activities. But I do know very clearly what has impressed me most in Faversham. It is the huge efforts made by volunteers across so many activities in our town. Not just on the day when things come to fruition, but the effort that so many people put in right through the year.

In just one weekend in September Dennis and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary; we were married 50 years ago at Faversham Baptist Church in St Mary's Road, a place and fellowship that is very dear to our hearts. But that wasn't all. We welcomed Faversham's sole commercial fishing boat to Standard Quay bringing fish and oysters to the Food Festival at the Town Quay. In the evening these were cooked and prepared and sold as part of an evening of celebration. Then in St. Mary of Charity Parish Church we had the 'puddings', and those who know me, will know how much I enjoy cake and puddings. The festival displayed so many delicious puddings and with so many visitors it made the church look like the living room for the whole Town. And to follow that a visit to the Abbey Physic Garden to make the Faversham in Bloom awards, which made the Town look just amazing. In every case it only happened through the hard work of several armies of volunteers putting in the hours right through the year. This was then followed by the presentation of the Faversham Horticultural Society's Awards with their impressive displays of vegetables, flowers, cakes, and produce - the culmination of months of growing, cultivation and hard work. One gentleman displayed peaches, which he had grown in his garden over a number of years, saving stones each time he moved house in order that he could keep growing them. The original peaches came from a damaged box imported to the East Kent Packers, which was based in Whitstable Road and is now the new housing development.

Sports, for both young and old, are one of my priorities at the Town Council. Visiting The Mount, again in September showed me what wonderful work is being done to introduce young people to football. From 5 year olds to teenagers there were over 300 members playing, with almost 100 volunteers making sure it all happened. They now need more pitches to accommodate that growing need and the Town Council is hoping to help with this need. Then I was off to the Abbey School for a very emotional session with disability sport through 'Power Chair Football'.

The Town Council is working hard to provide things that the young people in Faversham want to happen, one of which is now a Pilot Scheme Youth Café on Thursday afternoons at Faversham Umbrella which has proved very popular; the last week of November last year it attracted 49 young people, and we are working closely with the new C of E Community Priest to involve young people from every school in the Town. In November I attended both the Air Cadets Annual Inspection and the Scouts Presentation for their Weekend District Challenge 2019 entitled Hunted; these events showed the fantastic opportunities available to those taking part, made possible by the dedication of leaders and volunteers.

Faversham has so many jewels in the crown, not least of which are the Town's various allotments leased out by the Town Council, and a recent visit to Stonebridge Pond Allotments showed me what a haven this area is.

Of course I have seen the Faversham Carnival for many years, but getting a close look behind the scenes for the first time this year helped me to fully understand just how much volunteer effort goes into it. The carnival queen and court worked all day in Faversham entertaining visiting courts, but don't forget all the other town carnivals they visit during the year.

This year was the first 'Halloween Trail' which the Town Council organised; eighteen shops took part designing clues and quizzes and over 300 adults and children dressed up to make it a major event, and I saw first hand how much everyone enjoyed it.

Remembrance Sunday was such a moving day, made more poignant, by the poppies hung in the memorial gardens. The Royal British Legion makes sure each year that we do not forget the sacrifice our country and every individual made. And did you see how many young people were involved? There is no danger of history being forgotten.

I am writing this the day after the Christmas Lights were switched on, which is yet another event that Faversham can be proud of. So many volunteers work right through the year raising money and making the display bigger and better each year, I can't think of a better display anywhere else in Kent. During the day leading up to the grand 'switch on' several school choirs performed in the morning, an excellent rock band in the afternoon, with Faversham Brass rounding things off in the early evening.

All the Festivals bring us a good quality of entertainment at no cost; we should never take this for granted and I know from the organisers that any additional volunteers would be always welcome.

Our town is changing and evolving with so many additional issues to address, climate change, homelessness and many more. I am convinced we can make positive strides with all the new topics.

Thank you so much to everyone who makes such a huge contribution to the town, I wish I could mention you all by name but there are so many, I would need a whole book, not just one article. I know all of what you do comes from a real passion and desire, so please keep up all the excellent work you do to make this town so special.

Faversham Festival of Transport

Faversham Festival of Transport will take place next year on the weekend of 16th-17th May.

2020 will be the 26th year of this exciting and hugely successful event within the town centre of Faversham - so make a date in your diary to attend this FREE event to avoid disappointment. Keep an eye on the event website for full details nearer the time.

www.favershamfestivaloftransport.org

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

Monday 6th January	7.30pm	Heritage Committee
Monday 13th January	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 13th January	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th January	7.30pm	Faversham & District Engagement Forum
Monday 20th January	7pm	Annual Finance Meeting
Thursday 23rd January	9.30am	Public Realm Group
Monday 27th January	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 27th January	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Emergency Committee
Wednesday 5th February	7.30pm	Community Services Committee
Monday 10th February	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 10th February	7pm	Town Council Meeting

Monday 24th February	6pm	Planning Committee
Saturday 7th March	10am	Council Surgery
Monday 9th March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 9th March	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 23rd March	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 23rd March	7pm	Annual Town Meeting
Thursday 26th March	9.30am	Public Spaces Committee

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings. Those highlighted are specifically for public participation.

Faversham Youth Cafe

Since October half term the Council has been running a Youth Café for our Town's secondary school age children at Faversham Umbrella. The Café has been running every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 6pm, designed to coincide with the early afternoon closure at both the Abbey School and Queen Elizabeth's. The café serving hot and cold drinks and snacks has been staffed by volunteers from the Council including our own Mayor. In the 4 weeks the café has been running, over 130 young people have visited to chat with friends or enjoy the many board games on offer. The Café will run until 12th December and continue after the Christmas break. Please spread the word ... all children 11-16 welcome!

On yer bike!

Cllr Julian Saunders

Reducing carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion in the next decade will need all of us to make more journeys on bike and foot, rather than by car.

The Town Council is keen to encourage local people and visitors to cycle more and wants to make Faversham as cycle friendly as possible. We recently passed a motion committing the Council to join a Cycle to Work scheme and in the last few months the town caretaker has been fitting more cycle racks around town.

Over the next twelve months we hope to:

- improve the signage and visibility of racks, so they are better used.
- persuade more private landowners to provide cycle racks at locations which attract customers and visitors like Jubilee Way and Standard Quay.
- identify a number of local pathways which are wide enough to be safely shared by pedestrians and cyclists.

We also want to support Swale Borough Council in implementing the proposals in its last to two cycling plans for more shared pathways and better signage of cycling routes and to encourage safe and responsible cycling which respects pedestrians.

People are put off cycling currently because of fears about other road users and concerns about fitness. In the coming decade we expect that the introduction of a 20 mile an hour speed limit across Faversham, supported by cycle lanes and dedicated cycle paths will give people more confidence to cycle and the availability of electric bikes, which are becoming cheaper and more efficient all the time, will allow far more of us to cycle regardless of age or health.

If you have suggestions about road or paths in Faversham that could become more cycle friendly please contact the Town Clerk at:

louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency

Cllr Chris Williams

In June 2019, Faversham Town Council declared an Environmental, Climate and Biodiversity Emergency putting the environment as one of the current priorities, specifically looking at making the Town Council carbon neutral, engaging with Faversham residents on a range of topics such as energy saving, biodiversity in the town, tree planting and active transport.

Following the very successful Climate Surgery in September, other great engagement events have taken place in the autumn such as a Seed Gathering and planting event at Oare Gunpowder Works which saw 30 children collect and plant tree seeds, for future planting in their gardens or parks around Faversham. We have supported National Tree Week which is a community led event including tree and bulb planting projects on both Faversham Recreation Ground and North Preston.

Other engagement events are planned throughout 2020 including a Community Conference in February and Cycle Community event – promoting active transport, bicycle repairs and advice and recycling of old bicycles planned for late March.

Cllrs Williams and Perkin chair the Climate and Biodiversity committee which has put together an annual plan and programme of activities to make Faversham a cleaner, safer and healthier place to live, work and visit.

Faversham Literary Festival

19th – 23rd February 2020

- Five days of author talks & events
- A run-up weekend of writing workshops
- Local author events
- Writing competitions for adults & children

The third Faversham Literary Festival is taking place 19–23 February 2020, with a varied programme on offer for book lovers of all ages and persuasions, featuring author talks and events, creative workshops, and writing competitions for adults and children.

The festival will take place in various venues around the town: the Old Brewery Store, Alexander Centre, Arden Theatre, Shepherd Neame Goldings Room, Guildhall and The Limes. There will be lots of events to choose from over the main weekend of the festival, plus writing workshops and local author events in the lead-up.

The full programme and how to purchase tickets will be announced in December. For more information about the festival and to sign up for our newsletter visit: www.favershamliteraryfestival.org.

Faversham Community Speed Watch

Can you spare an hour every few weeks?

Creating awareness of speeding in Faversham is truly valuable and does make a difference.

Community Speed Watch is a community operated initiative designed to allow volunteers to officially monitor and report to the Police details of speeding vehicles in areas of concern to the Community. Volunteers operate in groups of two or three people.

The physical presence of volunteers, monitoring speeds on local roads plays a significant role in helping to change drivers' behaviour.

We do not enforce speed limits and always use the speed detection equipment from safe locations.

Our aim is NOT to catch as many speeding drivers as possible, but to raise awareness that excessive speeds are socially unacceptable.

For further information please contact:

Brooke Williams

E: brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 01795 503286

Faversham Town Council Annual Meeting

Will take place on Monday 23rd March at The Assembly Rooms, Preston Street.

The Meeting will start at 7pm - all welcome from 6pm onwards.

Faversham Town Council Staff

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Claire Windridge	Economic Development Officer	claire.windridge@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Emma Powell	Finance Assistant	emma.powell@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adam Andrews	Town Caretaker	adam.andrews@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Brooke Williams	Business Apprentice	brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

The entrance to Faversham Town Council offices is in Back Lane, please ring the call button to be admitted.

Town Council opening hours are Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

[Cllr Antony Hook**](#) (Abbey Ward)

E: [Antony.Hook@](mailto:Antony.Hook@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

[Cllr Denise Knights*](#) (Abbey Ward)

E: [Denise.Knights@](mailto:Denise.Knights@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

[Cllr Hannah Perkin*](#) (Abbey Ward)

E: [Hannah.Perkin@](mailto:Hannah.Perkin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

[Cllr Chris Williams](#) (Abbey Ward)

E: [Chris.Williams@](mailto:Chris.Williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

[Cllr Claire Belsom](#) (Priory Ward)

E: [Claire.Belsom@](mailto:Claire.Belsom@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mayor of Faversham Cllr Alison Reynolds BEM (Priory Ward)

E: Alison.Reynolds@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Kris Barker (St Ann's Ward)

E: Kris.Barker@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Carole Jackson* (St Ann's Ward)

E: Carole.Jackson@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Trevor Martin (St Ann's Ward)

E: Trevor.Martin@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Julian Saunders* (St Ann's Ward)

E: Julian.Saunders@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Mayor of Faversham Cllr Sam Blair (Watling Ward)

E: Sam.Blair@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr John Irwin (Watling Ward)

E: John.Irwin@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Ben J Martin* (Watling Ward)

E: Ben.J.Martin@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Eddie Thomas* (Watling Ward)

E: Eddie.Thomas@

favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

* Swale Borough Councillor

** Kent County Councillor