

# Faversham Town Council

## Newsletter Summer 2016



### Welcome

What a great pleasure and a privilege it is to become Town Mayor in the place where you have put down your roots, where you have brought up your children, made lifelong friends and blended into the local community. I would recommend it to anyone!

Mayor Making on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May was like a huge wedding reception – speeches, flowers, hugs and handshakes, everyone wishing me well for the future. The Civic



Service in St Mary's Church was like the wedding ceremony, you make your vows in the house of God and in front of your community. Indeed, I do feel wedded to the role for the next 12 months when virtually everything I do is in service of the town. A few months in and I still feel as if I am in my honeymoon period, many wonderful experiences and much goodwill from the people of Faversham have contributed to that, long may it all last, thank you all.

At Mayor Making I announced an initiative that I wanted to facilitate to see whether we can collectively and positively influence the growth of Faversham as a Town. Under pressure from national government, The Swale Local Plan has allocated over 1,000 new houses to be built in the Faversham area over the next few years, and there is talk of more already. Much has been done by our Borough Councillors to try to mitigate this, but the whole of the South East is under the same pressures. We could rant and rave against it or we could do nothing and hope that it never happens, or we could get together and drive through some improvements to the town and standards of development to ensure we are proud of the new growth coming and can welcome our new residents as we were welcomed into the town when we arrived. Faversham Town Council often acts as a catalyst bringing together interested parties and supporting them in facilitating change, perhaps with some funding, perhaps with providing meeting rooms and sometimes with some admin support. This means that the progress we make as a town is driven by and "owned" by those concerned residents who have the interests, skills and desire to move mountains, should they so wish.

We have had a couple of meetings already of what we have called Faversham Future Forum and would welcome more input from residents with skills or spare time to help us keep this ball rolling. We have discussed what we like about the town and what the growth issues might be, it broadly falls into two areas of concern which can be moved forward separately but in full knowledge of one another: one is the developments themselves and the impacts that will have upon the infrastructure and vision and feel of the town, the other is of course the impact on traffic, travel, transport etc. Do these issues concern you? Can you come along and join in to help us to maximise the opportunity this presents? Next meeting on 26 September in the Guildhall will see the two areas of concern split into working parties to investigate and develop the themes, assisted along the way and where necessary by Councillors and Council Officers from Town, Borough and County and Independent Consultants as the need arises.

I hope to see you there, or at one of our Council Meetings sooner rather than later, because I look forward to hearing from you the issues that concern you, perhaps taking the time to explain sometimes why things are the way they are, perhaps being able to signpost you towards what might be done to ensure some positive outcomes. I am, as I said at Mayor Making, a believer that we can get much more done constructively over a cup of coffee than we ever do by cross correspondences in the paper. Please come and see me.

*The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell*

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#### Town Council Meetings

Monday 22 August, 7pm  
Assembly Rooms

Monday 19 September, 7pm  
The Guildhall

Monday 17 October, 7pm  
The Guildhall

Monday 14 November, 7pm  
The Guildhall

Dates of other committee meetings can be found on our website  
[www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Proms in the Market Place 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016



Proms in the Market Place  
Friday 10 June



Faversham Town Council organised Proms in the Market Place to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were joined by the Gunpowder WI who served tea and cake under the Guildhall in aid of FACE and the Pilgrims Hospice.

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### 12 Market Place

Faversham has a unique medieval history. As well as owning an original 1300 version of Magna Carta and an unrivalled set of medieval Charters, Faversham is a limb member of the Confederation of Cinque Ports and was home to King Stephen for 30 years. Following the outstanding success of the Magna Carta 800 Rediscovered, which was visited by far more people than were ever expected, Faversham Town Council agreed to take action and provide a permanent home for the display, particularly to ensure the collection is appropriately stored to safeguard its future.

Faversham Town Council's vision is to increase the benefit and prosperity of the Community through Culture and Tourism. Following a consultation process, Faversham Town Council purchased 12 Market Place at the cost of £580,000. A total sum of £750,000 has been borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board for a period of 50 years, at the preferential fixed rate of 3.24%. This property is now a freehold asset of the community, providing a permanent and secure home for the town council's offices. It is a well-appointed location within the town to house a museum; with its distinct frontage it is ideal for a town hall/museum.

The project will house office accommodation for the Faversham Town Council staff on the first floor and the ground floor will provide an exhibition space, with a number of aims including:

- Displaying the existing Charter Exhibition and refreshed Magna Carta Exhibition
- Providing other temporary exhibitions in partnership with key stakeholders
- Providing formal and informal learning opportunities
- Providing community learning space
- Enhancing cultural access and understanding of local heritage
- Providing volunteering and work experience to members of the community

Grant funding applications will be developed to provide a first class international standard exhibition with security and protection for the artefacts. This will include the facility to rotate part of the exhibition area every six months with other "mini" exhibitions giving details of the other unique aspects of Faversham's Heritage.

We know that Faversham has a wealth of expertise and knowledge and are now inviting members of the community to join us on this journey. Perhaps you already have the skills and knowledge to assist in taking this project forward; you may wish to learn and gain valuable work experience or you have an idea for a future exhibition. Wherever you sit, please do get in touch with the Town Clerk now at the start of this very exciting project.

*Louise Bareham, Town Clerk*

## Shaping Faversham's Future

Many Faversham residents are worried about the scale of development that is being approved around much of Faversham. Some 2000 new dwellings are proposed in the Local Plan. Where will they all go, where will the newcomers work, have we enough schools and doctors and how will our already cramped roads cope? All of these reasonable questions need an answer. Over the last few months the Mayor and Town Councillors have been working with some interested residents on ideas to help solve some of these questions.

At the July meeting of The Town Council a presentation was given by Design South East as specialist architectural and planning organisation that works across the South and East of England to help and advise a range of councils and other bodies about the pressures that new homes and estates might bring. To start the process off, a two day workshop will be arranged in the autumn for around 50 people, councillors, planners, interested residents, highway engineers and local organisations.

Building on the work of the town forum meetings it will first set out the 'wish list' for Faversham's future. For example slower traffic, better cycle ways, environmentally friendly green streets and very high quality design for all types of housing. Then there will be a series of 'walk-about's to test out what is thought to be good and bad in existing examples of roads, footpaths, house design. Then these examples will be drawn together and some of Design South East's specialist advisers will run workshop sessions taking examples from elsewhere and putting together an 'identity kit' of how best to join up the new Faversham with the existing Faversham.

With agreement from those participants, the draft proposals will be published for local consultation. Once everyone in Faversham has had an opportunity to contribute a report will be drawn up and submitted to Swale's planners to be used as 'evidence' when talking to developers and housebuilders. In this way agreed standards can be set that reflect the very special nature of Faversham and give better joined up thinking and practical proposals to ensure that the new build will look and feel good. So newcomers whether older or young, can feel part of Faversham because where they live and how they will get to into the town and use the surgeries, schools and shops, will have been planned out in advance and a 'Template' agreed.

This need not be a one-off event because as we get used to doing it, we may well use it again over the years when other problems occur. Across England there are other places where this approach has been used well. One of the useful outcomes is that residents feel they have had their say and their expertise has been listened to. So in shaping The Future of Faversham, the town we all love, we need to make sure that in the years to come those newcomers become well-established residents, and feel they have a real stake in a town they like also.

*Cllr Mike Cosgrove*

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### The Mayor's Principal Charity 2016-2017

Faversham Creek Trust is delighted to have been chosen by the Mayor Cllr Shiel Campbell as her principal charity this year. As a community-based charity, the Trust has been working for the last four years to champion the regeneration of the Creek as a working waterway, to boost the town's economy through tourism and employment, and particularly to make sure the local pool of skills and expertise in maritime trades – boatbuilding and repair, block-making, rigging and sailmaking, as well as sailing and navigation – are passed on to the next generation. With widespread support from volunteers and fundraisers, we have to date repaired and restored the old gasworks Purifier Building beside the Basin as workshops and community space, and are now fundraising for hands-on training courses to get more people involved. We look forward to working with Faversham Town Council for future projects and we all await the installation of a new swing-bridge to get vessels right up into the heart of the town.

*Sue Akhurst, Chairman, Faversham Creek Trust*

## Cllr Nigel Kay Reflects on his Time as Mayor

As I reflect on my time as Mayor of Faversham I recall many memorable moments. The Magna Carta Exhibition in the Town was wonderful, and being at the opening ceremony at Rochester Cathedral where there was a large sign saying "Faversham's Magna Carta" It has been a pleasure to visit Hazebrouck and also welcome the Mayor of Hazebrouck to Faversham. There have been many other events in the Town that it has been a privilege to be involved with. The Carnival, the switching on of the wonderful Christmas lights, the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Shrine of St Jude, the Hop Festival, the Transport Weekend the launching of the Faversham Choral Society 50th Anniversary, and the Waterloo Dispatch re-enactment.

One of the real strengths of Faversham is the number of dedicated volunteers who spend a huge amount of time working to improve the Town and helping other people. Anne and I particularly enjoyed meeting many of these people, who run the Town's charities and voluntary organisations during the year. This is a fantastic effort and it shows why Faversham, with its huge amount of community spirit, can be as successful in the future, as it was in the past.

It was a great honour to be the host for the ceremonies to mark the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the award of the Victoria Cross to Sir Phillip Neame and the Centenary of the Great Explosion on 2nd April 1916. It has also been an honour to represent the Town at the events around Kent where an official representative from Faversham has been invited especially when this has been in connection with the Town's very historic membership of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. The Town's association with the other members of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports remains strong and, as the Towns have so much shared history and similarities, there remains a strong bond between all the members of the Confederation. I have visited events in Folkestone, Hythe, Margate, Deal, Sandwich, New Romney, Rye and Ramsgate.

I am pleased that we were able to make progress on a number of things during my time as a Councillor and during my time as Mayor. In particular, being able to find a team of volunteers to work on the reconstruction of the West Faversham Community Centre. H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester officially opened the centre in July 2012, which was a very special moment. It has been a tough job getting the project completed but I hope that many people from the time will be able to take advantage of the Centre's facilities and the activities on offer. Every week between 2,500 and 3,800 people use the facilities and the vast majority are from the actual Town.

The Town Council will be contributing £175,000 towards the new swing bridge at The Creek and Swale Borough Council will match this with £200,000. This greatly reduced the amount needed to be raised by the public to £125,000, which was achieved in record time thanks to the support of the local community.

Being a Councillor is a humbling experience, as people choose you to represent them. Being Mayor of Faversham is a unique privilege and honour, especially for someone who has lived in the Faversham area all their life. I would like to thank everyone whose hard work and support helped the Town Council and me during my time as Mayor.

*Cllr Nigel Kay (Mayor 2014-2016)*



## Faversham Local Engagement Forum

Faversham Town Council is taking over the baton from Swale Borough Council and will take the lead role in the Local Engagement Forum. The first of these meetings is taking place at the Guildhall on Wednesday 12 October at 7pm. **Everyone** is welcome. If you have any items for the agenda, please forward to the Town Clerk by Friday 30 September.



**Faversham Local  
Engagement Forum  
12 October 2016  
7pm  
The Guildhall**

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## The Faversham War Memorial

After the carnage of The First World War that killed 260 Faversham men, and a further 108 in The Great Explosion; a number of sites were explored for a permanent memorial. Finally the trustees of the cottage hospital donated a corner site at the edge of the then gravelled Stone Street, and a dedication ceremony was held in 1922.

Unlike the memorials in Ospringe, Boughton, Doddington and Sittingbourne it was too small to have those 260 names inscribed on it. At the end of World War Two an additional phrase "1939-1945" was inscribed, but the names of those 140 service men killed in that conflict were not able to be publically remembered.

On each Remembrance Sunday, as the numbers attending the ceremony increase, you will see how difficult it is for those with disabilities to lay wreathes and place small crosses around the War Memorial. For those Faversham residents whose relatives were killed, the War Memorial and Memorial Garden is a place of pilgrimage and for quiet reflection. The beautiful memorial garden gate was donated in 1922 by a young woman whose fiancé had been killed. Whilst many enjoy the quiet of this small unique memorial garden, at sad times some come to be still and reflect.

Now the war memorial is in a poor state of repair and traffic pollution and vibration have taken their toll. It is difficult and dangerous to step off the pavement, and more difficult to step up to the memorial itself.

The project to restore The Memorial and place it in the middle and back of the memorial garden so that on either side a semi-circle of stone plinths allowing public recognition of those 400 men killed would be a fitting tribute to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War 1 in 2018. For the sons of Faversham who marched away and gave their lives on battlefields, oceans and in the air so we can freely go about our lives is a debt we owe. As in 1922 contributions from the public and businesses are needed. Already many have pledged support, and wish this project well.

*Cllr Mike Cosgrove*

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**Town Twinning  
Meeting  
Wednesday 28  
September  
7pm  
The Guildhall  
Everyone Welcome!**

## 20s Plenty Faversham

20s Plenty means just what it says. It proposes that the maximum speed for vehicles in a chosen area should be 20 mph rather than the present limit of 30 mph. It is an idea whose time has come. Central government is encouraging the concept and many towns and cities have already installed it or are well on the road.

A group of residents in Faversham has taken the idea on board and already made good progress in developing the potential for the whole town. Led by Amanda Russell they have set up a web site ([www.20splentyforfaversham.moonfruit.com](http://www.20splentyforfaversham.moonfruit.com)) and a very active Facebook page and gained widespread support for the idea.

**The aim** – for Faversham to have a town wide, 20mph default speed limit without the need for traffic calming.

They explain **why**...

- Everyone benefits
- Child pedestrian accidents decreased by up to 70%
- 20mph is elderly, disabled and dementia friendly reducing casualties by up to 20%
- Walking and cycling become safer and more attractive
- Toxic diesel fumes are reduced
- Traffic flow improves and congestion is eased
- Journey times by car are only increased by a few seconds

Most towns which have already introduced 20s Plenty have chosen wide or whole town limits. These seem to work best. For example in Bristol residents support for their scheme grew to 88% after its introduction. It is really clear that if you want to live in a more pleasant town 20mph limits can help to make this happen.

Over a hundred cities, towns and villages have either introduced 20s Plenty or are well on the way towards an introduction. Examples are Brighton, Cardiff, Portsmouth, Bristol, Chester, York, Bath and Bury. It is also working in smaller locations including Otley (Population 14000) and even Limpley Stoke (population 900). Scotland is perhaps the furthest ahead with its programme and is consulting on a 20mph default limit for the whole country to replace all 30mph limits.

20s Plenty for Faversham has already gained support for the project from both Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council as well as hundreds of local residents. To push things forward a working group has been set up including Amanda Russell, Town Councillor Claire Belsom, Borough Councillors David Simmons and Mike Henderson and County Councillor Tom Gates. We are also scheduled to receive help from a senior KCC Highways officer but her available time appears to be very restricted.

The 20s Plenty team has already heard from many local people to identify locations in town which are considered especially dangerous. As you might expect these include the A2, South Road, the Creek Bridge, Oare Road, Whitstable Road, Ospringe Street, Bysingwood Road, and close to all the local primary schools. But dangerous locations exist widely across town which is why a town wide plan is being considered. The next step is to get things really moving by providing KCC with a detailed proposal and looking for the money to implement it. Fortunately it should not be too expensive.

Most towns so far have spent around £2.50 per resident, which would mean £50,000-60,000 for the whole of Faversham. We will expect to gain a serious contribution from KCC as the highway authority, something from SBC and FTC, maybe something from the health authority and if needed some locally raised contributions.

We just need a can do attitude and some hard work to succeed. If you want to support the idea please e-mail [faversham@20splentyforus.org.uk](mailto:faversham@20splentyforus.org.uk). Another step towards a better town for us all to live in.

*Mike Henderson, Swale Borough Councillor Priory Ward*

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## Contacts

The office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

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[www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



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@favershamtc



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**Faversham Voice is your chance to have a 'say' on local issues and topics.** The Town Council is putting together a database of email addresses for residents registered to vote in Faversham. Once we have a significant number of people on this database we intend to send out electronic surveys up to 4 times a year. The surveys will not take long to complete, but the Town Council



thought this would be an excellent way of judging public opinion on matters concerning the town. So, if you want to have your say on what happens in the town please complete the short sign-up form or sign up online via the Town Council's website [www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



### Faversham Voice

I wish to sign up to Faversham Voice. I confirm I am a registered elector of Faversham.

Full Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email Address:

Tick here if you prefer to receive surveys in paper format

Please return to Faversham Town Council, Alexander Centre, Preston Street or email to [Louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk](mailto:Louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk)

If you would like the Mayor to attend your event, please contact the Deputy Town Clerk at [Adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk](mailto:Adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk) or 01795 503286