

Mayor's Update

After just my first four months as Mayor I want to start by thanking all of the Faversham Town Councillors, and Town Council staff who are dealing with a whole range of challenging issues such as homelessness, climate change and biodiversity, the need for affordable housing, the future of 12 Market Place amongst many other topics. We have already created a strong forward direction and team spirit, working together to meet the objective – Faversham Deserves Better.

I have been overwhelmed by the huge number of groups, projects and individual volunteers working for the community of Faversham. The enthusiasm, passion and knowledge in the army of volunteers would need a whole book to mention. So can I simply say WELL DONE and thank you for your contribution. Do keep up the good work!

I do especially want to mention some highlights:

- The Blossom of Hope at Millfield allotments was my very first event as Mayor. This celebrated with a coffee morning the first full year of running the allotments as a group. This provides an opportunity for many people to enjoy growing things and being part of a welcoming group.
- The Physic Garden celebrated 25 years of operation. This provides a wonderful location especially for individuals with mental health issues and is doing great work on providing a focal point for creating biodiversity.
- The Umbrella Centre after some difficult times reopened in January 2019 and again is contributing in a major way to improving mental health for many in the Town who need our help.

I have made the Umbrella Centre, together with the project to build a modest Community Centre 'The Hub' on the green at

the top of Reedland Crescent my two Mayor's charities for the year and hope to tell you more about these two valuable projects as the year progresses. 'The Hub' project was launched to North Preston residents at the Optivo Fun Day on 30th August. People are excited about the project although there will need to be lots of hard work to bring it to fruition.



Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham with Consort, Dennis Reynolds and the Deputy Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Sam Blair

I can't resist mentioning just two more events and projects to bring us right up to date with the Civic Year so far:

- The Faversham Creek Trust showed me what has been achieved so far in the Purifier Building. It is now a hive of activity, being used for many Community events and is a centre for young people to understand the boat building history of Faversham and to develop the skills to build new boats using traditional skills. I was joined there by year 6 pupils from Ethelbert Road School to learn about boat building and the history of Faversham Creek and we all finished off with a brief tour of the Kent barge 'Repertor' by the boat's owner.
- And then most recently the whole Town has enjoyed the Hop Festival. Again this happened through the hard work of a group of organisers together with many of the local hostellers providing a wide variety of music to suit most tastes. This even included again our French friends 'Sur les Docks' who entertained the crowds. I was particularly delighted that four young musicians who came to public attention on the recent 'Mic Night' were able to play to the crowds at the car park stage. Visiting Mayors all said this was the best event they had seen.

So there we are, a whirlwind of activity in just four months. I am sure things will keep moving forward and meanwhile let me thank again all those who contribute to the life of our wonderful Town.

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

Wednesday 2nd October	7.30pm	Community Services Committee
Tuesday 8th October	7.30pm	Faversham & District LEF
Monday 14th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 14th October	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 28th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 28th October	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Emergency Committee
Tuesday 29th October	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Monday 4th November	7.30pm	Heritage Committee
Tuesday 5th November	7.30pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 11th November	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 11th November	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 25th November	6pm	Planning Committee
Wednesday 27th November	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Thursday 28th November	9.30am	Public Spaces Committee
Wednesday 4th December	7.30pm	Community Services Committee
Saturday 7th December	10am	Council Surgery
Monday 9th December	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 9th December	7pm	Town Council Meeting

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



COUNCIL SURGERY

Meet with Members of your Ward

Saturday 7th December
10am - 12pm at The Guildhall

INFORMATION

The Council Surgery is open to all Registered Electors of Faversham
Abbey, Priory, St. Ann's and Watling Wards

All information will be treated in strictest confidence & no appointment necessary

For further details contact the Town Clerk 01795 503288

Faversham Town Council Final Grant Allocations for 2019

Abbeyfield Residents Association	£460.00
Citizens Advice Swale	£5,000.00
FACE	£3,000.00
Faversham Carnival Parade	£2,908.99
Faversham Christmas Lights	£3,753.54
Faversham Literary Festival	£563.03
Faversham Mission Brass	£929.00
Faversham Nautical Festival	£2,064.45
Faversham Rugby Union Club Pirates (Youth Development)	£250.00
Faversham Umbrella	£2,821.00
SATEDA	£4,500.00

CHRISTMAS DATES

favershammarket.org

**Christmas Lights Switch-On
& Night Food Market**
23rd November from 5pm

**Faversham Christmas
Sunday Markets**
10am-4pm
8th, 15th & 22nd December

How to report incidents of Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour

Swale Community
Safety Partnership 

If you experience high levels of ASB or crime in your local area, you can make reports through the following methods:



**Kent
Police**

You can contact Kent Police by calling the non-emergency number, 101, or report online via the following link:
www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/
In the case of an emergency, please call 999.

KCC community wardens are out between 7.30am and 10pm every day in 128 Kent communities. They can tackle low-level crime and ASB such as graffiti, littering, fly tipping and vandalism and work closely with Kent Police and other professional authorities.

To find details of your local KCC Community Warden, please visit the website: www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-safety/community-wardens/canterbury-and-swale-wardens



To report incidents of environmental ASB such as fly tipping and litter, please call Customer Services on 01795 417850, or report online via the following link:
www.swale.gov.uk/do-it-online/

You can report a noise issue online via the following link: www.swale.gov.uk/noise/ or by phoning 01795 417575 after 5pm. Please leave a message and the team will respond the following day. Calls placed at the weekend during the following hours will be responded to at the time, by the 'out of hours' noise team:

- Friday night into Saturday morning 9pm - 1am
- Saturday night into Sunday morning 9pm - 1am

You can make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or fill in our anonymous online form found on the following link: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Crimestoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



The Future of Number Twelve

Written by Cllrs Kris Barker, John Irwin & Julian Saunders

Faversham Town Hall at 12 Market Place was purchased by Faversham Town Council in June 2016 for the sum of £580,000 + VAT. The purchase, and subsequent building refurbishment, was made possible by a Public Works Loan of £1.1 million which is repayable by the council over 50 years on a fixed rate equating to £42,000 per annum. Public meetings and a consultation were held at the time but public interest in the decision to make the purchase remains.

Following the May 2019 Elections, the new Council have worked with the Town Clerk to consider options for either the sale or re-purpose of the Town Hall. The most obvious solution to the 'problem' of 12 Market Place would, of course, be to sell the building for retail and office space. To explore the feasibility of this option the Town Council has sought market valuations. These valuations suggest that the council could achieve a price ranging from £520K to £860K for the building. The higher figure assumes the Council remain as a sitting tenant on a fully repairing and insuring lease of £40K per annum. As a reminder, the original Public Works Loan secured to purchase the building 'to house the Town Council offices and a museum' was £1 million with a current redemption cost of £1,518,522. Subsequently sale was ruled out as an option. Four options, described below, have been short listed for further consideration. The council will be conducting further consultation on these options in September and October 2019.

Option 1

Ground Floor:
First Floor:

**Rental for Retail
FTC offices**

To support the evaluation of this option the Council has sought two estimates of rental value from specialist agents. The more conservative of the two was £23,500 and the more optimistic, £25,546 per annum. In addition, the Council would make a saving of around £5,000 on business rates. This is not an inconsiderable sum which would go some way in off setting the Council's loan repayments. There is of course, no guarantee that the space would readily let, given there are already a number of vacant retail spaces in the Town. That said, the space is sufficiently large to be of interest to national scale retailers, but perhaps to the detriment of local independents. All the potential positive and negative consequences of this option will be weighed and ultimately considered against the other three options.

Option 2

Ground Floor:

Visitor Information
Heritage Hub
Magna Carta Museum

First Floor:

FTC offices

Under this proposal the Town Council would seek to use the space as a combination of a visitor information centre, 'Heritage Hub' and a permanent Magna Carta exhibition. The centrepiece to this option would be the creation of a **Geographic Information System Mapping** facility. This would be a system that projects a map of the Town on to a large table screen, enabling the presentation of a series of maps covering a specific theme over a period of time. These maps would be shown in layers, covering the topic and its evolution in time. Topics covered could include geology, religion, the Faversham creek, brewing and gunpowder production.

According to Harold Goodwin of the Faversham Museums Together Group, the interactive three-dimensional map could:

- Provide a three-dimensional map of Faversham showing

- the main heritage features and attractions in its 'rest-state'.
- Project the development of the Town from pre-history to today.
- Be used to focus on a particular period of history, such as Roman, Medieval or Georgian, supported by additional material on the walls of the Centre.
- Provide an educational resource to be used by pupils of all ages to learn about local geography and history and to develop computing skills.

The Magna Carta exhibition would provide a dedicated section of the ground floor, and cover the following themes:

- **The Importance of Medieval Faversham** – Faversham Abbey and founding member of the Cinque Ports.
- **The Faversham Magna Carta** – what is a Magna Carta? The history of Edward I issue of the Magna Carta to Faversham in 1300. Clauses of interest relating to Faversham.
- **Faversham's Royal Charters** – what is a Royal Charter? Henry IV Charter. Timeline of Charters.
- **Faversham's Regalia** – how the Town was governed. The ceremonial treasures.

Option 3

Ground Floor:

Information Gateway -
providing a wide range of
public, voluntary &
community services

First Floor:

FTC offices

Public services for Faversham residents are provided by three councils and a range of other organisations. At the moment obtaining information and advice in person about these services involves visiting a range of locations in the Town and further afield which can be expensive and time consuming, particularly for those who are most reliant on public transport and public services and who find it difficult to access services online or by phone.

Drawing services that provide information, advice and support to the public together in one location should save

residents time and energy in accessing services and improve the quality of the service they receive, as siting services in one location can lead to better coordination between agencies. The Gateway Centre in Sheerness is a good example of how this approach might work, residents are able to access Citizens Advice, Swale Borough Council and specialist advice services under one roof.

The central location of 12 Market Place makes the ground floor an obvious premises to consider for a 'one stop shop' drawing a range of advice and information services together. We now need to have discussions with KCC, Swale Borough Council and government funded agencies like Job Centre Plus and the voluntary sector to explore whether it is viable to use 12 Market Place for this function. A deliverable model that provides real cost benefits to local residents will deserve serious consideration by councillors.

Option 4

Ground Floor:

Continued use as an Exhibition
Centre

First Floor:

FTC offices

The ground floor of 12 Market Place has been in near constant use as an exhibition centre over the last couple of years. The events monitoring visitor numbers recorded in excess of sixteen thousand people across the last year. There were many occasions where attendees were not counted. The space has been used to present a wide variety of things:

- Open House
- Medieval Faversham

- Faversham 365
- WW1 Commemorative Bunting Project
- Kent After the Armistice
- Photography exhibitions

Drawing people into the Town Centre has several benefits besides the obvious cultural and educational benefits. Firstly, it contributes to a sense of community, providing a place where people can engage with others, often outside their usual circles. Secondly, increasing footfall helps support the independent shops and market traders. Finally, there have been exhibitions, such as 'Cleve Hill', which provides insight in to potential changes to our local environment; providing the community a chance to engage in our ever developing Town.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING FOR RESIDENTS OF FAVERSHAM
Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm at 12 Market Place
ALL WELCOME

What's On In Faversham 2019

Events galore

Faversham hosts a packed calendar of events throughout the year, the main headline events and regular annual festivals are shown here. For full details of the events taking place throughout the year visit our website at www.faversham.org

October 2019						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Faversham Carnival

Brogdale Apple Festival

November 2019						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Faversham Christmas Lights Switch On

December 2019						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A Christmas Pony Sunday Christmas Markets



Key

- Faversham Market
- Best of Faversham Market
- Faversham Antiques Market
- Festival/Event

Allotments Update . . .

It has been a very good year for the St. Nicholas Site, in particular with it coming back into operation. It is now fenced, it has a concrete pathway through half of the site, it has disabled access, it has storage and a composting toilet. All of this work has been achieved by the new association that has been formed by members of the community and the Town Council. Plots are being prepared and some are being planted with future produce. It really is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in this project as it just shows what can be achieved when you work together as a team and there are still allotments available at this site.

At the Millfield Allotment Open Day, I was asked to judge the Scarecrow Competition. I had a delightful couple of hours being shown around the site by Sheila admiring people's handy work and creativity and also having a chat and a catch-up with a few of the plot holders. The Open Day made over £300 for the association which I am sure will go towards finishing off their impressive community building.

Unfortunately, the Town Council is rather late this year doing its inspection and this will happen once this newsletter has gone to print, so there will be an update in the following newsletter on Stonebridge Pond and North Preston Allotments.

CLlr Claire Belsom

St. Nicholas site work in progress



Millfield Allotment Open Day raised £300 for the allotment association



Faversham youth - the future of Faversham

Supporting the youth of the area is a key priority for the Mayor and new Council, as announced at the full Town Council meeting in August.

We have already held an open 'Mic Night' event for young people at the Brewery Store that was well supported. The event was arranged by the Town Council's Apprentice, Brooke Williams. The Youth Council are already looking at arranging more events, so watch this space.

The Council held its inaugural Youth Council meeting in the Guildhall, which was well attended by both youth members and town councillors including the Mayor. There were some excellent ideas and enthusiasm shown by both the youth members and town councillors. The next meeting is to be arranged in the new school year, with new youth members welcome to join by contacting Brooke at the Council offices. The Policy and Finance Committee will be reviewing the budget to ensure the Youth Council receives sufficient resources.

We're looking to develop relations with schools and businesses to give young people a variety of options when considering their futures and to ensure all young people are presented with non-biased advice and support as to the next steps to help them fulfill their potential. The Mayor and consort visited the Purifier Building where eight students are being provided with one week's work experience, so thanks to all the business who offer this to our youth.

It's early days but we have already been talking to a variety of groups about improving the youth offering within the Town.

Town councillors have supported the National Citizens Service events in the area, with Cllr Hannah Perkin and Cllr Ben J Martin taking part in Question Time style panel events for groups of young people from the Swale area. In addition the Mayor of Faversham met with an NCS Group as they began

their sponsored walk objecting to the development of the proposed solar power station and battery storage site at Cleve Hill. Over 150 15-17 year olds from across Swale have taken part in this Summer's NCS programme, which is a four week programme that includes a week of outdoor activities, a week's residential experience with input from charities and learning about social projects and political processes and a week of community activism, planning and raising funds for a chosen charity with commitment and enthusiasm.

The Town Council is keen to hear your ideas. Contact your Ward Councillor (details on the back page). If you wish to get involved in the Youth Council please contact Brooke Williams at the Council offices via email:

brooke.williams@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk or phone Brooke on 01795 503288.

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham
Cllr Carole Jackson



Cllr Hannah Perkin & Cllr Chris Williams

Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency

Important habitat and nectar rich planting have been declining significantly over a number of years due to urbanisation, overuse of chemicals, pollution and formal landscaping. This however is now changing with a new approach from Faversham Town Council and our priority on tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.

An Environmental, Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency was declared in June, to raise the profile of this vital issue and to help with making Faversham healthier, safer and cleaner for all. The Town Council has also established a Climate and Biodiversity Committee, chaired by Cllr Chris Williams and Cllr Hannah Perkin, to action initiatives such as tree planting, planting for wildlife and pressurizing developers to increase maximum uptake in renewable energy and assist in residents increasing wildlife in their own gardens.

Following the youth climate strikes, the Town Council is keen to work with young people in Faversham to understand their views and concerns and how we can work with each other. The Town Council will also be supporting the many amazing community activity groups that have been working in the Town to promote more eco friendly and healthy lifestyles.

There was an interactive event at 12 market place on September 21st where we invited members of the community to drop in and chat to councillors about their hopes for environmental improvement and to find out what they can do to protect the environment and improve biodiversity in their day to day lives.

Cllr Chris Williams & Cllr Hannah Perkin

Faversham Literary Festival

19–23 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.

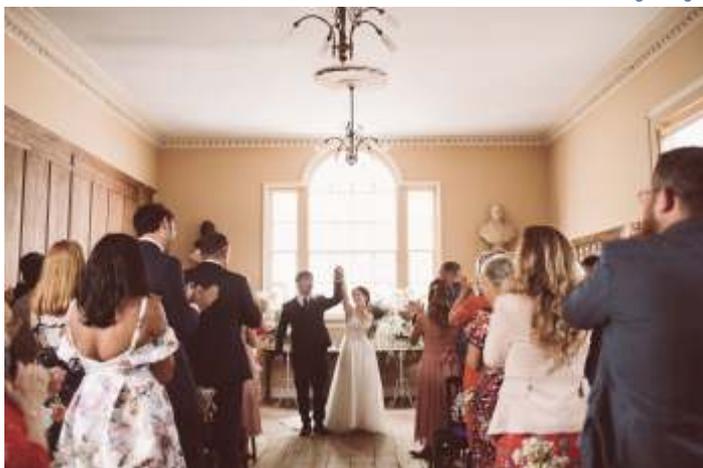
A first for the Guildhall

Friday 26th July saw the first wedding take place at the Guildhall in the Town Centre, a first for this much loved and iconic building in the heart of Faversham. After the ceremony the happy couple and guests took a stroll down to Shepherd Neame for the wedding breakfast.

A second wedding took place on Saturday 17th August and the Town Council has just taken its first booking for a 2020 wedding.

Anyone interested in booking this superb venue for their wedding or civil ceremony, please get in touch with Adrienne Begent at adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk or give her a call on 01795 503287.

Wedding images courtesy of Nichola@Lemonade Pictures



🚲 PEDAL POWER 🚲

The Town Council are currently looking for suitable places to install some new bike racks. Please get in touch with our Caretaker, Adam Andrews, if you have any suggestions regarding where we should install the next phase of bike racks.

Adam Andrews on 01795 503288 or email: adam.andrews@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Faversham Town Council - Staff List

Louise Bareham	Town Clerk	louise.bareham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Adrienne Begent	Deputy Town Clerk	adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
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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.



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Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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