



Mayor's Update

A most wonderful day spent welcoming back our market stalls, businesses, traders and hospitality establishments after lockdown, to what is a very new normal; social distancing, the wearing of masks, no handshaking or hugging, who would have foreseen this situation a year ago? Many have seen the Mayor's 'COVID-19 Thank You Awards' being presented, some received with much emotion, a 'thank you' when not expected is always much appreciated.

Mutual Aid and The Faversham Darts League provided instant help and support, among all the assistance given by voluntary organisations and individuals. I cannot fail to mention the magnificent undertaking organised by West Faversham Community Association immediately it became clear the Centre would cease their normal operations. Their CEO, James Browning, with the agreement of the Board of Trustees and in partnership with Swale Borough Council funding, began to set up a distribution centre for food and household essentials. Items began to be amassed and sorted into '7 day packages'. Many local supermarkets, independent shops and indeed individuals contributed stock or monetary donations. The packages were distributed to those forced to isolate or who were struggling due to loss of income. Up to the end of August they had supplied enough food items to provide over 50,000 meals. Well done to the staff and volunteers who worked long hours, seven days a week and huge congratulations to all our community volunteers who have worked so hard during lockdown.

Pedestrianisation of our town centre has allowed social distancing which continues to be vital. Many residents are reporting feeling safer due to the lack of vehicles. Congratulations to the businesses who have adapted, and worked with their suppliers to receive deliveries during restricted hours. We should aim to keep the best of the scheme and mitigate any problems, this is best achieved by reasonable discussion and not vicious personal attacks that are unfair and unacceptable. The Town Council recognise that reduced hours would



Faversham Darts League being presented with their 'Covid-19 Thank You Award' by Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

achieve a better balance for blue badge holders and a proposal has been forwarded to Swale Borough Council which will be reviewed mid September.

We are fully aware that shopping habits have changed before and during lockdown, with many shopping online through Amazon and other businesses offering low prices. I would encourage residents to support local businesses through Autumn and Winter.

By the time you read this article much could have changed, hopefully two valued Faversham assets, our Faversham Pools and the Royal Cinema should have re-opened(welcome back)!

A very exciting Youth Project is to be launched in September/October, BUS 72 and Trailer to provide youth activities. Acquired by the Rev. Simon Rowlands and supported by the Rev. Dan Cocoran, Faversham Town Council and others, the date for the official launch is yet to be announced.

With the uncertainty of the Coronavirus Pandemic, this Winter will be a strange and challenging time, we will need to be supportive and respectful to all.

Let's work together as the health and safety of all is paramount. As I walk around our Town I sense a great Community spirit, thank you for working together!

Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham

20MPH FAVERSHAM – HEALTH

20mph Faversham next steps

The town-wide 20 mph speed limit is now live. Kent County Council (KCC) has introduced the scheme using an experimental order. All the initial costs have been met from the government's Emergency Active Travel Fund, set up to support people to walk or cycle. Our scheme is part of 'the cycling and walking revolution' that the government is promoting in order to improve public health and tackle road congestion and pollution.

What happens next?

The experimental order will run for a minimum of 6 months, during which time the public can comment on whether they support it or not, through a formal KCC consultation. After this a decision will be taken on whether to confirm the order.



How will it be decided whether to make the order permanent?

Councillors on the Swale Joint Transportation Board (JTB) will be asked to vote on a report and recommendation from KCC officers. KCC officers' recommendation will be based on the results of the consultation and market research about attitudes to the scheme, including any valid objections to the order, evidence of increases in people cycling and walking and data on driving speeds, accidents and pollution levels. The JTB decision will be signed off by the KCC Cabinet member for Highways.

What happens if the order is made permanent?

KCC and the Town Council will consider whether further measures are needed to encourage cycling and walking and make the limit more effective, based on feedback received. These measures could include signage improvements, removing centre-lines from streets, using planters and build outs to narrow streets at places which are heavily used by pedestrians and changing street surfaces.

Why The Town Council Supports A 20mph Limit



Cllr Alison Reynolds, Mayor of Faversham, with Cllr Eddie Thomas and Cllr Julian Saunders, Chair and Vice Chair of the Town Council's 20s Plenty Committee

There is plenty of evidence from schemes elsewhere that 20mph speed limits:

- ✓ Reduce the volume of road casualties
- ✓ Reduce vehicle speeds
- ✓ Increase walking and cycling
- ✓ Reduce air pollution when motorists keep a slow, steady speed

There is also evidence that they are cost effective, saving far more public money than they cost and that active lifestyles encourage reductions in obesity, heart disease and other medical conditions.

20mph Faversham - We Need to Hear Your Views

The Town Council wants the 20mph town-wide limit to succeed and to put Faversham at the forefront of delivering the cycling and walking revolution that we need.

How you can help

Take part in the Kent County Council (KCC) consultation on the trial scheme.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/faversham20mph in order to register for the consultation. You will be invited to say whether you support or oppose the order and your reasons. You can also complete a short survey about how you travel currently and how you would like to see things improve. The consultation runs until February and you can amend your initial response up until then.

Visit the Town Council's 20mph Faversham community engagement web site at <https://20mphfaversham.commonplace.is>.

How does it work?

The Town Council is using Commonplace, a popular consultation platform used by local authorities. The [20mphfaversham](https://20mphfaversham.commonplace.is) site allows you to click on a map of the town and give your views about the safety problems at particular locations and the improvements that can be made to encourage more walking and bike use. You can endorse other comments and use the site as often as you want. We will also ask you to fill out a brief survey about walking and cycling.

Why are we gathering this information?

We want to build up a picture of where enhancements are needed to make the 20mph scheme more effective, what they should be and what will have the most impact on encouraging people to walk and cycle.

We will also use top level information from Commonplace, as evidence to back up the Town Council's submission to the formal KCC consultation. If the order is made permanent we will use the information to design further measures to make the scheme more effective and to support applications for further funding to make it easier to walk and cycle locally.

As well as using the web site you can also email your views to commonplace@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk or call a member of our team on 01795 503 286.



Join the Cycling & Walking Revolution

Cycling increased 300% during the lockdown earlier this year. Many journeys that are made by car currently could be made on foot or bike. The Government is encouraging cycling and walking in order to tackle obesity and other health issues. There has never been a better time to start walking or to get on a bike.

Over the next six months the Town Council will be doing as much as it can to promote walking and bike use. We hope to organise cycle training for children and adults, promote places where you can get your bike repaired and find out about E bikes, provide suggestions for walking tours of the town and short bike rides for beginners, share information on people's experiences of cycling and look at ways of improving signage for pedestrians.

If you want more information on what we are doing please visit the [Latest News](#) page on [20mphfaversham](https://20mphfaversham.commonplace.is) or contact us via commonplace@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk or ring 01795 503 286.

Photo courtesy of Cyclechic

ENJOY A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AT THE REC.

We have been living through exceptional times when we have been largely confined to our houses. This has made us all so much more aware of the importance of getting out of doors and taking part in simple pleasures such as greeting neighbours, getting a bit of exercise and enjoying nature. Now is a great time to rediscover our local parks and open spaces including the twenty acres of mature woodland and grassland at Faversham Rec.

The recreation ground has recently been refurbished with the support of Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund. Construction work has now largely finished, and the final sections of railings are being fitted, along with the beautifully refurbished gates on Whitstable Road. As part of this Parks for People project, a Friends of the Rec. meeting was organised earlier this year and was attended by over 50 residents. Community involvement is also being promoted by two part-time members of staff; Lewis Monger, Ranger, and Ben Simon, Project Co-ordinator, who have been employed by Swale Borough Council.

Social distancing rules have unfortunately prevented meetings and activities from being held at the site this year, though hopefully this situation will change in the not too distant future. In the meantime, please do contact Lewis or Ben if you would like more information about the renewal of the Rec., or if you can help with our current heritage projects.

Throughout the last few weeks, Lewis has given the Rec. a really good clean and is checking maintenance schedules to ensure we are making the most of the time spent by our contractors when attending maintenance visits.

With the main building work completed, Lewis is beginning to work towards organising events, and is hopeful that throughout the Autumn/Winter months he can begin volunteering days within the Rec. These will include the belated Spring Clean which will hopefully take place in September, possible bulb planting in October and tree planting in November. For further information about these events, please contact Lewis at lewismonger@swale.gov.uk or on 07756 500073.



Kent Wildlife Trust are still going ahead with the sensory garden project. This is planned to be a bumblebee friendly garden featuring edible plants, and will link to the nearby kiosk that will be opened at the Lodge, illustrating how even small container gardens can grow food and also be a beneficial habitat for wildlife. It is hoped that the kiosk will be able to use herbs, fruit, vegetables and edible flowers from the garden to supplement its supplies. The garden will feature miniature and trained fruit trees, perennial vegetables, shrubby herbs and self-seeding edible flowers, and will be designed to have low maintenance and care requirements. There will be options to introduce annual flowers and vegetables and opportunities for volunteer teams to help with management. Originally planned for completion in Autumn, KWT have applied for an extension to April 2021 so that planting can take place in spring.

Ben has been researching the heritage of the Rec. and is keen to contact anyone who can recall the area in days gone by and who he can chat to about their memories. For example, do you remember the drinking fountain and the lovely stone statue that used to stand by it? Can you recall any of the park keepers who lived in the Lodge, or the huge BBQs held at the Rec. in the 1950s? Or do you know anything about the First World War tank that stood on the corner of Park Road and Whitstable Road, and when you were a child were there air raid shelters in the park? Or maybe you have memories of taking part in sports activities at the site, or of concerts held at the old bandstand?

If you have stories you can share about the Rec., Ben would love to talk to you, he can do this over the phone or on Skype or WhatsApp. Ben is also looking for any old photographs of the Rec., family snaps, pictures of the buildings or of sports events. Please let him know if you have images he can borrow and copy, the originals will of course be returned to you. Ben can be contacted at:

bensimon@swale.gov.uk or on 07925 148303.



The Doddington Library Comes to Town

The Doddington Parochial Library has now taken up its new location in the Reading Room of the Town Hall at 12 Market Place. The collection has volumes dating from 1501 to the 1750s and was founded under the will of the Reverend Daniel Somerscales, who died in 1737, and was augmented by others in the 19th century.

It is one of the few ancient libraries of this kind to have survived and consists of around 400 volumes, with mainly theological works but including 17th- 18th Century additions of medical, natural history and geographical texts. One of the original wooden travelling cases has been incorporated into the shelving to house some of the books.

The move from the perilous attic space in The Fleur has taken over a year to arrange, with special permission finally being granted from the Bishop of Dover. The books are on loan from the Doddington Church Steering Group, who funded the relocation project, together with the Cromarty Trust.

The collection will be available for academics, students and residents to view by an appointment only basis. Please contact the Faversham Town Council's office for details.



The Deputy Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Trevor Martin, who is Chair of the Heritage Working Group said:

"The Doddington Library is significant not because of any one book, but because it contains such varied subjects. The housing of it in the Town Hall rather than an attic secures its long term future. It will complement the Town Council's own historic records once the project to display the Emolument of Magna Carta, and store the Town's other charters and documents is completed for both general viewing and academic study."

UPDATE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On 23rd September, Swale Borough Council Cabinet will consider the recommendation of the Swale Local Plan Panel to allocate an additional 3500 new houses to Faversham over the lifetime of the new Local Plan. Given the volume of housing we can expect to see, it is more vital than ever that we have a Neighbourhood Plan to ensure we can influence where this housing goes and the infrastructure and amenities that must be provided alongside it. The Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be holding two Public Exhibitions in the Town Hall, 12 Market Place.

Exhibition 1:
21st Sept – 4th Oct

Exhibition 2:
19th Oct-1st Nov

Make sure you have your say.



Faversham Youth Council is working very hard to produce activities and events for the young people of Faversham, and all the latest updates can be found on the Faversham Youth Council's website and Facebook Page.

Visit the website at www.favershamyouthcouncil.org to learn about our upcoming/past events, as well as all relevant information regarding future Youth Meetings.

While the future for Faversham Youth Council events is still unpredictable, we are always on the search for young people who would like to be a part of the Faversham Youth Council team. To learn more about Faversham Youth Council, please contact Youth Leader Brooke Williams!

Brooke.Williams@FavershamTownCouncil.gov.uk

FAVERSHAM JUNIOR COUNCIL

BOOK REVIEW



Calling out to the young people of Faversham under the ages of 10.

Have you read a book recently or in the past that you have enjoyed and want to recommend to others? Then why don't you share your views by writing a BOOK REVIEW.

We would love to feature your review on the new Faversham Youth Council Page!

If interested in this, please contact Brooke or pm us for further information.

Brooke.Williams@
FavershamTownCouncil.gov.uk

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY UPDATE



Plan to go 'Pesticide Free'

The Town Council are working towards Faversham becoming a Pesticide Free Town with a 3-year action plan which was agreed at July's Climate and Biodiversity Committee meeting.

Pesticides impact nearly all life on earth. Pesticides are designed to kill pests and they include a wide range of compounds including herbicides (designed to kill plants), insecticides and fungicides. They are mainly used in the growing of agricultural crops, but are also used in our towns, cities, homes and gardens.

Why are we doing this?

Glyphosate is a toxic weed killer which is the most commonly used in our towns and gardens. Recent research shows that glyphosate destroys the micro-organisms in healthy soil, affects earthworms and can be present in the soil for up to 3 years.

Pollution from these chemicals can affect water courses such as ponds and rivers and can have a significant negative effect on pollinating insects and biodiversity.

The Town Council will be actively working with Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council to look at how changes can be implemented, whilst also working with community groups, allotments and residents in ways to make simple, effective changes to become pesticide free. You can find the action plan on the Town Council's website at:

www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Chris Williams

Faversham Town Council - Staff List

Louise Bareham

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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.

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Virtual Meetings

Thursday 1st October	7.30pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 5th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 5th October	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 19th October	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 26th October	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Monday 2nd November	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 2nd November	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Thursday 5th November	7.30pm	20s Plenty Committee
Monday 9th November	7.30pm	Climate & Biodiversity Emergency Committee
Monday 16th November	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 23rd November	7.30pm	Policy & Finance Committee
Thursday 26th November	9.30am	Public Spaces Committee
Monday 7th December	6pm	Planning Committee
Monday 7th December	7pm	Town Council Meeting
Monday 21st December	6pm	Planning Committee

Please check details of all meetings and how to attend virtually on the Town Council website at www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings

Your Town Councillors & their Contact Details

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Mayor of Faversham

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