

Newsletter

Spring 2017



Faversham
TOWN COUNCIL

WELCOME

Among the many decisions I had to make upon becoming Mayor in May last year was the choice of Mayor's Charity. This was a difficult one, I have a broad range of interests and there are a great many deserving causes, how difficult to pick one over another.

Eventually, it came down to a matter of timing, would one good cause gain more benefit than another in being chosen this year? I chose the Creek Trust as the Mayor's Charity for this year because, now that the hard work has all been done on the Neighbourhood Plan, as a community we need to work together to ensure that the various pieces of the jigsaw eventually slide into place and an opening bridge is vital to keep the upper basin open.



A fundraising campaign was set up whereby significant contributions from Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Faversham Town Council were pledged towards the upgrade of a simple road bridge rebuild, which was within KCC's plan, to a full opening bridge enabling the upper basin of the Creek to be accessed by boats at high tide. This was a very important feature of the Creek Neighbourhood Plan agreement and once the pledges were in place members of the Faversham Creek Trust set to and raised the required £125,000 in the eye-wateringly short timescale of 5 months.

It is immensely satisfying for those who have worked towards the creation of the Creek Neighbourhood Plan to know that we are very nearly at the public referendum stage whereby our local residents get the final say. We all very much hope you will like the plan, which has been put together to allow a mix of residential and maritime/small business activity and helps to protect the town from inappropriate or unwelcome development. The Creek is very important to the town historically and we are wise to preserve its unique character into the future for the benefit of all the townspeople.

The Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell



Join Faversham Town Council for

The Great British Spring Clean

Saturday 4 March

10am to 12 noon

**Meet at the West Faversham
Community Centre**

The Worshipful, the Mayor, Cllr Shiel Campbell
Invites you to attend

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday 22 May, 7pm

The Assembly Rooms, Preston Street

All persons registered as local government electors may speak and vote at this meeting. Non registered members of the public may attend but have no statutory right to speak or vote.

Faversham Creek is on the move

Boating activity has increased on our creek more and more in recent years. Not since the 1960s have we seen so many boating movements – albeit leisure craft instead of commercial, though ship repair continues at Iron Wharf and Standard Quay and in the floating docks.

Town Quay and the TS Hazard is the venue to make for on **22nd and 23rd July for the 5th Annual Nautical Festival**. Dredging at Town Quay has made this a comfortable stopping off place for boats that are prepared to dry out alongside, and there is a good 6ft of water at high tide.

The flood protection bund on Front Brents has now been completed and home owners inside the bund can sleep more soundly. The bund has already been closed once, during last month's tidal surge. During the construction of the bund some trees had to be removed, but these have been replaced, and it does not compromise the use of the jetty and nor does it interfere with the view of the creek while sitting outside the Albion with a glass of Shepherd Neames finest. People are generally happy about the improved flood protection.

Cllr Peter Flower

12 MARKET PLACE

In recent years community engagement has been at the heart of Faversham Town Council's ethos and it continues to listen to, and build, closer relationships with its people to inform decision making and extend a wider sense of belonging. One of the things that was holding the Council back was the lack of an accessible Town Hall like most other Town Councils own.

For decades a major contribution has been made by enthusiastic volunteers who promoted the town's extensive heritage but a new generation of volunteers from harder to reach groups is now being targeted to sustain community spirit in the future. This project aims to be a catalyst to achieving the town's goal of closer community cohesion and integration.

It has long been an aim to create a permanent display in Faversham that will give everyone in the town, and wider, the opportunity of seeing our historic assets and, at the same time, provides suitable secure storage for them to be preserved. However, to be successful a broader, innovative vision is required, not just for Magna Carta. A resource that captures the imagination of people of all ages, uplifts and inspires all generations through the dynamics of its displays, exhibitions and audio visual presentations.

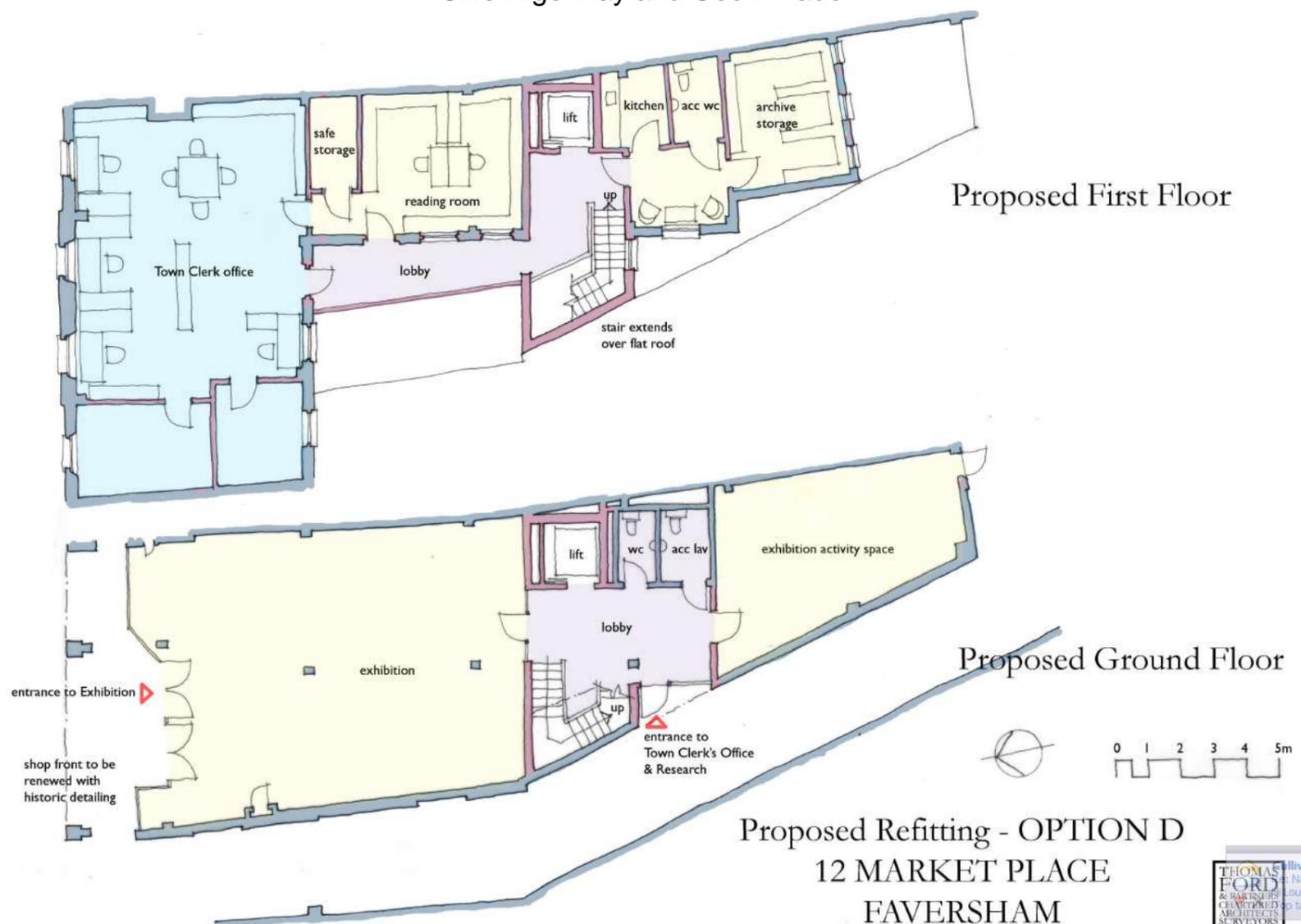
A range of community groups, facility managers and custodians have come together to develop, raise funds and implement this project. The heritage area of the Town Hall will be led by a curator supported by the tourism/marketing staff of the Town Council, with its public service and commercial partners. Exhibitions will be staffed principally by volunteers and an apprenticeships programme will provide the skills to sustain future knowledge going forward.

We foresee many other strands of the Medieval Faversham Project including:

- Research students will be given the opportunity of researching and studying Faversham's Medieval history and the result of their research will be displayed in the exhibition area
- Town walks in collaboration with the Faversham Society specifically covering the Medieval buildings in the Town
- A Medieval Fayre and other events will continue to be held annually to highlight Faversham heritage
- All local schools will be invited to have an annual visit to the exhibition and there will be a programme of activities for school age children.
- The Town's Tourism Officer will provide leaflets to encourage visitors to Faversham from the whole of the UK and this will be supported by an advertising campaign.

The cost of such an ambitious project would normally be prohibitive. However, the opportunity to buy the freehold of 12 Market Place, by way of a 50 years loan, with record low interest rates gave an opportunity to "invest" in the future of the Town that might never occur again. The Town Council will no longer pay any rent for its offices, but will be paying repayments on the loan, the amount of which is fixed for the 50 year period. In addition, owning the freehold enables the Council to apply for grants to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A very useful meeting has already been held with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss the Council's Project and it is hoped that there will be a continuing dialogue in the coming months.

Cllrs Nigel Kay and Geoff Wade



FAVERSHAM TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Members of the re-launched Faversham Town Twinning Association (FTTA) met their French counterparts in Hazebrouck on Friday 27 January. Ten founder members of the independent association travelled to Hazebrouck, 40 miles from Calais, to meet representatives of Hazebrouck Town Council. The purpose of the meeting was to extend existing links beyond the two Councils to include cultural, recreational, sports and business organisations.

“The meeting was an excellent start to developing a new relationship”, said Sheila Maister, FTTA Secretary, “We want to extend Faversham’s existing twinning links to a wider range of organisations. We also want to promote tourism and business links between both towns and their districts.

“We are keen to encourage local groups and societies who would like to link up with similar groups in Hazebrouck, for example, music, art, gardening, football and tennis clubs. We hope that shared interests will lead to a deepened understanding of our respective shared cultures and values.”

Martine Dauchez, Hazebrouck councillor responsible for twinning matters, said “This meeting has allowed us to emphasise our common objectives and we intend to pursue this collaboration in order to develop twinning between our two towns.”

The meeting discussed the possibility of bringing Hazebrouck musicians to Faversham to take part in events in Faversham, and for Faversham’s football clubs to take part in a tournament in Hazebrouck later this year.

The association held a successful fundraising quiz last year and is planning a series of events at its quarterly meetings, to include French wine, beer and food tastings, French film shows and presentations.

Every Faversham resident is eligible for membership of the FTTA. The association plans to create an official website and Facebook page in the next few months.

For more information contact: favershamtowntwinning@gmail.com or telephone Councillor Nigel Kay on 01795 531298.



Representatives of the FTTA with Hazebrouck representatives in front of Hazebrouck Town Hall. From left: Fabrice Perlein, (Hazebrouck Deputy Mayor - Finance), Nigel Kay (Chairman FTTA), Adrienne Begent (Deputy Town Clerk), Martine Dauchez (Hazebrouck Councillor - Twinning), Tina Montzmir (FTTA), Sheila Maister (Secretary FTTA), Peter Flower (Faversham Town Council Representative, FTTA), Claire Flower (FTTA), Henri Burghelle (Hazebrouck Deputy Mayor – Events), Damien Nieuwjaer (Hazebrouck Council Events Officer)

CONTACT DETAILS

TOWN COUNCILLORS

ABBAY WARD

Peter Flower
pecard@btconnect.com
Mob: 07743 695946
Home: 537030

Antony Hook
Favershamfocus@gmail.com
Mob: 07732 161865

Bryan Mulhern*
bryanmulhern@btinternet.com
Mob: 07850 247810
Home: 538498/533985

Anita Walker*
anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk
Home: 531192

PRIORY WARD

Claire Belsom
clairebelsom@mail.com
Mob: 07775 560359

Ben Martin
cllrbenmartin@gmail.com
Mob: 07734 559089

ST ANN'S WARD

Trevor Abram
Trevor_abram@yahoo.co.uk
Mob: 07712 594872
Home: 530379

Mike Cosgrove*
Mike_cos@hotmail.com
Home: 591790

Nick Green
nick@jittermugs.co.uk
Home: 533121

Nigel Kay*
nigel@kayna.plus.com
Mob: 07710 487129
Home: 531298

WATLING WARD

Shiel Campbell
shielcampbell@uwclub.net
Mob: 07791 567145
Home: 533297

David Simmons*
dhsimmons@btconnect.com
Mob: 07850 872342
Home: 532100

Geoff Wade
Geoff.wade@thedavingtoncentre.com
Home: 530646

Ted Wilcox*
Ted.wilcox@btinternet.com
Mob: 07711 476769
Home: 533004

*Also Swale Borough Councillor

KCC Councillor

Tom Gates
Tom.gates@kent.gov.uk
Home: 538534

Swale Borough Councillor

Mike Henderson (Priory)
mikehenderson@outlook.com
Mob: 07900 265337

Faversham and Mid Kent MP

Helen Whately MP
020 7219 6472
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Louise Bareham
Town Clerk
Louise.bareham@favershamtc.co.uk
Tel: 503288

Adrienne Begent
Deputy Town Clerk
Adrienne.begent@favershamtc.co.uk
Tel: 503286

Hannah Tilley
Tourism Officer
Hannah.tilley@favershamtc.co.uk
Tel: 503287

Katie Stringer
Finance Assistant
Katie.stringer@favershamtc.co.uk
Tel: 503287



Volunteers Needed

for Faversham!

If you want to get
involved contact
the Town Clerk
01795 503288

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday 6 March, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Monday 6 March, 7pm **Full Council Meeting**
Monday 20 March, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Thursday 23 March, 9.30am **Public Realm Group**
Friday 24 March, 6.30pm **The Mayor's Ball***
Monday 27 March, 7pm, **Faversham Future Forum**
Monday 3 April, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Monday 3 April, 7pm **Full Council Meeting**
Tuesday 11 April, 7pm **Faversham & District LEF**
Wednesday 12 April, 6pm **Community Services Comm.**
Monday 17 April, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Wednesday 26 April, 7pm **Policy & Finance Committee**
Tuesday 2 May, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Tuesday 2 May, 7pm **Full Council Meeting**
Thursday 4 May, **Kent County Council Elections**
Monday 8 May, 7pm **Mayor Making***
Monday 22 May, 7pm **Annual Town Meeting****
Thursday 25 May, 9.30am **Public Realm Group**
Tuesday 30 May, 6pm **Planning Committee**
Tuesday 30 May, 6pm **Full Council Meeting**

*The Alexander Centre

** Assembly Rooms

All other meetings take place in the Guildhall