

Welcome from Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that our Mayor for the past two years, Councillor Mrs. Shiel Campbell has achieved. She has accomplished so much during her mayoral years. She has represented you admirably both in our town and further afield bringing new initiatives to the role. I sincerely trust that I will be able to follow her example after my being her Deputy and hopefully learning much from her during that time. One of her great achievements was her initiative in forming the Faversham Future Forum which has provided much useful input to development in the town and which will continue under the chairmanship of Cllr Geoff Wade, who brings much experience to the role.

Your Mayor has many callings on their time during their year of office. I pledge to use my time wisely and prioritise visits to events within the town, and to events hosted by Mayors of the Confederation of Cinque Ports, an Association to which Faversham has a long historic tie. Lastly I will respond to any invitations from outside these organisations when I feel there would be a benefit to our town.

I am very happy that I will be working with the new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mike Cosgrove, who I know will do a great job in supporting me by representing the Town when I am unavailable.

Onto the long association with our twin Town of Hazebrouck in Northern France. This is now in its fifty-seventh year and is strongly encouraged to continue by their mayor and deputies, who visit Faversham several times a year. I have visited their town on many occasions over the years and can assure you that we are always made very welcome. I encourage any of you who are considering visiting that area to make the effort to call in on Hazebrouck.

During the last year we have introduced three-monthly Council Surgeries, held on Saturday mornings in the Guildhall. At these sessions there will be at least one councillor from each of the four wards in the town, to receive questions from you and investigate any issues raised. Please see our website or notice boards for the dates.

There have been some beneficial changes to the way that the council committees operate and some of the previous committees have been disbanded and incorporated into the Policy and Finance Committee, as it has been felt that this was a better place for these discussions and decisions.



Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham at the Mayor Making Ceremony, with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mike Cosgrove, and the past Mayor Cllr Shiel Campbell

We now have a Town Caretaker, Adam Andrews, who brings with him excellent skills. His role is to gradually improve the image of the town for residents and visitors alike, being guided by findings of the Public Realm Group in removing graffiti promptly, carrying out small maintenance works, weeding areas not covered by Kent CC or Swale BC and reporting issues to those authorities as necessary. Keep eye out for Adam around the town and make him aware of any issues you may have.

The move of our office staff into the newly acquired and renovated Town Hall at No. 12 Market Place is imminent. After much hard work and a few unforeseen occurrences during the construction period this should be fully functioning by the end of June. Our thanks should go to the Heritage Committee led by Councillor Nigel Kay for all their hard work in making this happen and within budget.

This building now belongs to the town and currently we are preparing an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve the ground floor exhibition and meeting space to encourage visits to the town.

As always I expect this to be an exciting year and encourage all to become more involved in what is happening in YOUR town.

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- published quarterly

Contact Claire Windridge for details

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Progress on 20mph for Faversham

Work is continuing to secure 20mph speed limits across the town

The argument for 20mph limits is safety. A pedestrian hit by a car is five times more likely to be killed if the car is travelling at 30mph compared to 20mph. At a slower speed, accidents are less likely to happen at all and, if they do happen, are less likely to be fatal. Research also shows that slower speed limits lead to more people feeling safe to walk or cycle – meaning better health, and less congestion for those who really need to drive.

We know that not everyone respects a 30mph limit and not everyone will respect a 20mph limit. But the research shows that it causes enough people to drive slower that it saves lives.

More research about the way 20mph limits improve safety is evaluated in a memo by ROSPA, which can be read in full at www.antonyhook.cpom/rospa.

Kent Highways bosses have confirmed to us that they will sign the legal orders needed to lower the speed limits if so advised after analysis by their staff. We are talking with Kent Highways' new Schemes Manager for the Swale Area, Paul Brand. On two days in April and May members of the working group walked/drove every road in Faversham with Mr Brand.

Mr Brand has indicated that most of our roads can be changed subject to new signage. But he advises some will need traffic calming measures if they are to be included. These are, generally speaking, the straighter and wider roads.

Over the coming months we will make further representations to Mr Brand about which roads should and should not need calming. Traffic surveys we did last autumn have already helped make our case.

We must also look at the costs of these signs and calming measures. I expect there will be various options open to the town.

The views of everyone who lives in Faversham are vital. Before any speed limits are changed, or calming measures built, everyone must get their say. Once specific proposals are worked out, detailed public consultation can begin. A big change like this can only succeed with broad based public support.

I'll be doing all I can to persuade people that on most roads this will be a beneficial change.

Cllr Antony Hook



Community Litter Pick

Saturday 14th July, 10am - 12 noon

As part of Love Parks Week, we are holding a community litter pick at The Recreation Ground, Park Road, Faversham.

Everyone is welcome, so come along and join in the fun. Please wear sensible footwear, all equipment and refreshments will be provided.

Faversham Umbrella Centre proposed relaunch



FAVERSHAM UMBRELLA CENTRE

Good news is on the horizon, there is a move to relaunch the Umbrella Centre which sadly had to be closed three years ago. The Umbrella Charity provides a safe and secure place for the vulnerable in our community and especially for those tackling mental health issues, a matter of growing concern in present times.

It won't be easy, there is a lot to be done, but we have a date for an AGM from which we can move forward. We are looking for expressions of interest from those who may wish to use the centre, volunteer or join the management committee/trustees, also for any complementary groups that may wish to hire rooms.

The AGM is on Thursday 28 June, 6.30pm for 7pm start, at the Umbrella Centre in Court Street. It would be great if you could come along. We are particularly looking for skilled people prepared to help in all areas, so please do get in touch.

If you wish to express an interest please email Miranda at: umbrellafaversham@gmail.com.

Cllr Shiel Campbell



6th Annual Faversham Nautical Festival

Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th July 2018, 10am - 6pm

See barges, smacks & other traditional boats at the head of the creek. Also nautical displays, stalls, children's entertainments, art exhibition, food & drink.

Traditional live music on the Town Quay & Front Bents.

Organised by the Faversham Creek Trust, assisted by Faversham Rotary Club.



The allotments

The first inspection of the year took place on Saturday 19th May 2018. The first stop was at the Stonebridge Pond allotment site where we were met by Sally, the Chairman of the Stonebridge Allotment Society.

I love the way that when you step through the black wooden gate in Flood Lane, it's like stepping into a place of absolute tranquillity, a calmness descends upon you and you become intoxicated by the beauty within this site.

We spent nearly two hours looking around at the different plots, the water way, the weir and we even saw the swan and her signets. We also met and had a chat with some plot holders.

Sally and her team of volunteers have worked extremely hard over the Winter making improvements to the site, fruit trees have been planted and an area has been sown with wild flowers to attract insects, birds and other wildlife. Plots that were surrendered were also cleared with some work done on them before they were re-let.



After leaving Sally at the gate we walked up through the North Preston Estate to the North Preston Allotments, which are tucked away in Broomfield Road; there we were met by Kenny, the Chairman of the North Preston Allotment Association. This site is completely different to Stonebridge, it is very contained as on all sides it is surrounded by houses but even here the birdsong was prevalent. This site is neatly laid out with walkways down each side and a communal area near one end. Here there is a communal polytunnel where plot holders can rent an area to bring on their crops, this is a good way of raising more funds for the site. Again, we met and had a chat with some plot holders. On the whole, the site is well looked after and the plots are well kept.

On leaving Kenny, we walked back into town and had a well-earned pit stop at one of our lovely tea shops, after being refuelled with sandwiches, tea and cake we took a leisurely stroll across town to our last stop of the day, Millfield Allotments.

At Millfield, we were met by Sandra, Chairman of the Millfield Allotment Association and her team. The first stop was the very impressive community shed, which is a great example of the teams' ability to raise and access funding. Although the shed needs finishing inside with a floor and insulation, it is

already being used. This is a real asset to the site and will no doubt be well used in the future, adding to the sense of community.

I love the way that this site is laid out, with a great wide track that runs down the centre of it, you don't know where to look first, there is such a feeling of openness and so much sky with a few poplar trees standing to attention as it backs on to the Abbey Farm land. The majority of the plots are well cared for and maintained, with runner bean wigwams in place and some very impressive rhubarb and strawberry plants, this could be a good Summer!

Lastly, I would like to thank all the chairmen and their committees and the working groups for all the hard work and many hours that they put in. This town council is incredibly lucky to have you on board. Before I close, I will give a quick update on the St. Nicholas site. A working group has been formed and the first meeting is on Wednesday 13th June 2018.

Cllr Claire Belsom

Cllr Trevor Abram, Mayor of Faversham and his Mayoress Mrs Margaret Abram, with the Town Clerk, Louise Bareham, Cllr Claire Belsom and the Town Caretaker, Adam Andrews standing on the bridge financed by The Town Council



12 Market Place Heritage Hub and Town Hall Update

We are delighted to announce that the new Town Council Offices at 12 Market Place will open for business on Monday 2nd July. From that date the Town Council staff will be based at 12 Market Place, and all correspondence should be delivered there, the telephone numbers will remain unchanged.

The whole of 12 Market Place will be opening as part of the Faversham Society Open House Scheme, when guided tours will be available. 12 Market Place and 43 other properties, many of which are not normally open to the public, will be taking part in the Scheme on the 7th July, 14 July and 21st July 2018. Handbooks at £9 each will be on sale in the Visitor Information Centre in Preston Street, Faversham ME13 8NS, or can be ordered by phone on 01795 534542 or by post (£11 inc. P&P). For groups of 2 to 5 people, admission to properties will be £9 for the first member of the group (to include one handbook) and then £5 for any additional member of the group (programme only, no handbook). Each handbook and programme allows entry to all properties on all 3 Saturdays. There will be no charge for anyone only wanting to visit 12 Market Place.

On the ground floor of 12 Market Place, Christ Church University have provided an exhibition that will be available during 2018 giving details of fascinating key points of Faversham's history. Initially this will only be open on the days of the Open House Scheme, but it is hoped to open it as much as possible during the summer months. **Volunteers are needed to steward the exhibition and if you are interested in getting involved in this new venture, please contact the Town Council on 01795 503286.**

The longer term plan for 12 Market Place is, in addition to providing the Town Council with Offices, for it to provide a Heritage Hub for the Town that will act as an introduction to the Town's history, and support the other Museums and Heritage Groups in the Town. An initial application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted to develop this concept, with these groups working together as 'Faversham Heritage Together' Chaired by Professor Harold Goodwin. HLF funds are now very limited and competition for grants is now more intense than it has ever been before.

The Town Council was able to take advantage of its ability to borrow from the Public Loans Board at an interest rate of less than 3% fixed for 50 years, to purchase 12 Market Place, which means that the amount paid out remains the same over the whole of the 50 year period. Overall this means that the cost of purchasing 12 Market Place compares very favourably with renting just an office, and it is therefore an extremely cost effective way of gaining a great, and very valuable, asset for the town. Acquiring the freehold property also gives the Council the opportunity of applying to the Heritage Lottery Funds for very substantial grants towards creating the exciting vision of the Heritage Hub, which has been put together by the Faversham Heritage Together group. This should attract additional visitors to Faversham, with the associated economic benefit therein, and provide an insight into Faversham's unique heritage to the people in the Town.

Cllr Nigel Kay





Watching the lorries go by . . .

There is a saying that “Faversham was not built for cars.” This is also true for lorries and especially HGVs, when we are increasingly conscious of increases in road traffic and air pollution.

The very recent planning application concerning East Kent Recycling that The Town Council's Planning Committee strongly objected to, shows the overwhelming concern by Faversham residents about large and consistent HGVs thundering along our streets.

Whilst accepting that we need commercial vehicles for all our activities, there is a dilemma about how they are regulated, policed and monitored to ensure speed, weight and contents are legal. The majority of HGVs are owned and driven by responsible drivers and organisations, but because HGVs proportionally create more pollution than other vehicles, and in built up areas the risk of accidents and damage to property is higher, is there a way in which Faversham can take a lead in supporting responsible lorry activity?

KCC supports a scheme called 'Lorry Watch', as do the police and other organisations.

A visible presence by the roadside of a few volunteers with authority to monitor the speed and state of the vehicle, can act as a timely reminder to drive responsibly and slow the speed of every lorry and van. Along Bysingwood Road, West Street and the A2 through Ospringe amongst others, The Town Council is hearing increasing residents' concerns about problem lorries. Elsewhere there are also incidents of foreign lorries with strange sat navs driving down unsuitable streets. A number of residents, including Chris Oswald Jones, are keen to set up a 'Lorry Watch' Scheme; Faversham Town Council would be happy to support such an initiative given its backing for 20's Plenty and Speed Watch. So can you help, and would you be prepared to be a Lorry Watch Volunteer?

Cllr Mike Cosgrove

Developments in the Planning System- Housing Numbers Re-opened

In 2012 the position on Planning changed fundamentally with an announcement from the Government of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF had 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', which is commonly regarded as Whitehall Code for housing, where there is no demonstrable 5 year housing land supply. Local Authorities such as Swale Borough Council ('Swale') which is the Planning Authority for Faversham retained the ability to influence what happened in their area by coming up with a Local Plan that cover site allocations for housing. Swale was required to establish in its Local Plan a five-year land supply of sites for housing that were part of a sustainable development strategy for the Borough in accordance with the NPPF.

Some aspects of the previous system were retained, in particular the ability of applicants for planning permission to appeal against refusal by Swale to grant planning permission for a site to a Government Planning Inspector based in Bristol. If the refusal to grant planning permission was not made on sound planning grounds, and as a result the applicant's appeal was successful, Swale is likely to have to pay not only their own costs is pursuing in defending the appeal but also all the costs of the applicants. One of the grounds for appeal by a developers was the lack of Swale having a sound Local Plan being in force with a valid 5 year land supply.

Swale reacted to the introduction of the NPPF and commenced work on a new Local Plan called 'Bearing Fruits'. To be valid it had to comply with the NPPF, to be examined by the Government Planning Inspector with hearings on any objections to it in public, and then approved as being 'sound' by the Inspector, subject to any modifications the Inspector recommended. The most contentious parts of the NPPF that affected the Plan, was the requirement for housing sites to be found over the life of the plan (2014 – 2031), to satisfy the 'objectively assessed needs' of Swale.

As Swale entered the Public Examination stage of developing the Plan in February 2016 it put forward a figure of 540 dwellings per annum as the objectively assessed needs of Swale reflecting the public consultation it undertook and actual delivery of housing over the past 30 years or so. However, developers called for figures in excess of 1,200 dwellings per annum to be allowed. After the first round of public hearings, the Inspector settled on a figures of 776 dwellings per annum. Swale then called for further sites to be proposed, to meet the new target. When proposals were received, Swale assessed them in accordance with their development strategy, availability, suitability and deliverability criteria agreed with the Inspector. The Council, taking all of these matters into account, selected additional sites to meet the new target of 776 dwellings per annum.

The Inspector's final report that found Swale's Plan was sound was issued in June 2017. The Plan was originally envisaged to last for 17 years unchanged but, as Kent Highways at the last moment of the EIP, raised concerns about the ability of the A2 from Newington to Teynham being able to cope with the additional development proposed beyond 2022. Therefore, an early review, to be adopted by April 2022 was required by the Inspector to be incorporated into the final Plan. In July 2017 the Local Plan was adopted by Swale Borough Council.

In September 2017 the Government published a White Paper 'Planning for Homes in the Right Places', heralding a standard methodology for calculating local plan housing targets set nationally to replace the locally calculated 'objectively assessed needs', that would increase the requirement for Swale from 776 dwellings per annum by 36% to 1,054 per annum. In April 2018 legislation was enacted to make it mandatory to review Plans every 5 years and details of the final position on centrally decided housing allocations for Swale is awaited. It is anticipated that the New National Planning Framework and supporting planning guidance will be adopted at the end of July 2018.

In February 2018, Swale embarked on a process of investigating the best options for Swale, if the mooted changes to the NPPF took place. It is this process that has brought forward for instance the proposal for the Duchy of Cornwall site just outside Faversham.

Cllr Nigel Kay

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*** Swale Borough Councillor for St. Ann's Ward
**** Swale Borough Councillor for Watling Ward

Faversham Town Council Schedule of Meetings at The Guildhall

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|--------------------------|---------|--|
| Monday 9th July | 6pm | Planning Committee Meeting |
| Monday 9th July | 7pm | Town Council Meeting |
| Tuesday 10th July | 7pm | Faversham & District Engagement Forum |
| Wednesday 18th July | 5pm | Policy & Finance |
| Monday 23rd July | 6pm | Planning Committee Meeting |
| Monday 23rd July | 7pm | Faversham Future Forum |
| Wednesday 25th July | 6pm | 20's Plenty Working Group |
| Thursday 26th July | 9.30am | Public Realm Group |
| Wednesday 8th August | 5pm | Community Services Committee |
| Monday 13th August | 6pm | Planning Committee Meeting |
| Monday 13th August | 7pm | Town Council Meeting |
| Monday 28th August | 6pm | Planning Committee |
| Saturday 8th September | 10-noon | Council Surgery |
| Monday 10th September | 6pm | Planning Committee Meeting |
| Monday 10th September | 7pm | Town Council Meeting |
| Wednesday 12th September | 5pm | Policy & Finance Committee |
| Thursday 20th September | 9.30am | Public Realm Group |
| Monday 24th September | 6pm | Planning Committee |
| Wednesday 26th September | 6pm | 20's Plenty Working Group |
| Monday 8th October | 6pm | Planning Committee Meeting |
| Monday 8th October | 7pm | Town Council Meeting |
| Wednesday 10th October | 5pm | Community Services Committee |
| Tuesday 16th October | 7pm | Faversham & District Engagement Forum |

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



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