

Faversham Local Engagement Forum – 1 July 2014

You Said	We Did
Kent Fire and Rescue	
Peter Campbell from Kent Fire and Rescue attended the meeting to provide an update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Campbell discussed that there was nothing significant to report in Faversham. Continuing support with the community, working with partners to focus on helping vulnerable people. • Kent Fire and Rescue are supporting the Nautical Festival in Faversham, 12th July- 13th July. • Continuing to target hot spot areas for crime, specifically fires. Targeting on the main causes and offenders.
Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, was pleased with the support towards the Creek Weekend from KFRS. Cllr Mike Cosgrove asked whether Kent Fire and Rescue has specific water units to serve events such as the weekend in Faversham?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There aren't units which are solely focused and trained in water activities. In terms of water risks, all full time firefighters are trained in water units.
Peter Campbell, KFRS, asked for an update on the new junction - A251.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Planner stated that the plans went to the Transportation Board and a roundabout at the junction was the recommended option which is to go to Kent Highways, KCC. BP to liaise with an engineer for full update. • Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council, discussed that the decision made from the Joint Transportation Board Meeting is finalised by Cllr David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport.
Chris Oswald-Jones, resident, asked if the recommendation was made, what the time period would be before any action was taken?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council, said that he hasn't spoken to Cabinet Member and so no update on timescales has been received.
Cllr Cindy Davis, Faversham Town Council, said that the roundabout was	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Andrew Bowles stated that the first 2 recommendations were not approved and the 3rd, a roundabout, was the approved option.

<p>a strange choice as many wished for traffic lights.</p> <p>A resident suggested that a traffic light system would be more appropriate as a roundabout means cars have to give way to the right, resulting in a large volume of traffic travelling from Sittingbourne to be continuously passing through the roundabout, potentially causing long delays.</p>	
Parking Enforcement	
<p>Jeff Kitson and Brian Planner provided a presentation on parking enforcement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Kitson explained that Parking is an emotive issue. • Civil parking enforcement is necessary as it encourages the free flow of traffic on the highway, ensuring that all drivers have equal opportunity to park on and off street, to protect the Councils P&D income (£1.5m), to ensure that access to property is maintained and to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians. • There was an explanation of when a penalty notice would be given and at what severity the contravention is. • Jeff Kitson discussed that introducing a 'pay as you leave' procedure is not an effective option as it is too expensive and tariffs would have to increase to cover the costs which is not appropriate. He informed residents of alternative solutions, such as the introduction of a system that enables the purchase of parking tickets on a mobile phone. This will not mean parking ticket machines will be removed, it is just an additional way of reducing the number of people receiving penalty notices. • Civil Enforcement Officer error levels are less than ½%. • Brian informed the group that more bioelectric cars are due to be produced and charging points will be installed in many car parks. 2 have already been installed in Sittingbourne car parks and people will continue paying for parking, and electric will be free. Government funding has been received for the 2 that have been installed in Sittingbourne. Promotion will occur when these points are live.

<p>Chris Oswald-Jones, resident, stated that there are many occasions, especially at larger events, where emergency vehicles are unable to get through due to parking obstructions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Kitson stated that there are civil enforcement officers working at large events. If yellow lines are present, a penalty notice will be given. Due to not having the power to deal with cars where there aren't yellow lines, it was suggested that a leaflet produced by KFRS relating to the issue could be placed on the car to make them think about their actions and the consequences it could cause.
<p>Cllr Mike Cosgrove said that Civil Enforcement Officers work extremely hard as it isn't an easy job. Is anybody allowed to stop their vehicle and unload or is it specifically only contractors that are allowed?</p> <p>In Faversham, in terms of car parking signs, can interpretation be provided?</p> <p>Parking bays at Faversham Train Station are virtually all for taxis and on the other side of the road, it is for personal use only. There isn't a specified drop off point for disabled access etc.?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is a public car unloading, 5 minutes will be allowed on double yellow lines. If it is a commercial vehicle on double yellow lines, 10 minutes is allowed. However, civil enforcement officers have to physically see unloading occurring, not just the doors left open. • Signs on the street can not be put in different languages. However, in car parks this is an option. • There is pressure on the small space outside the train station which has been previously notified. A drop off/pick up point is a possibility that will be looked into.
<p>Cllr Mike Henderson asked if it is against regulations for cars to be stationary in the town centre with their engines running? Are enforcement officers able to act?</p> <p>Are enforcement officers able to assist in enforcing no vehicles from 10:00am-4:00pm on a Friday and Saturday?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, civil enforcement officers aren't able to issue a fine. It is a Police matter. • Brian responded stating that cars are currently restricted 6:00am-6:00pm Monday to Saturday. This restriction is now changing to 10:00am-4:00pm Monday to Saturday with no access on a Friday and Saturday. Our enforcement officers have now powers to be able to control this and the police are responsible for ensuring the restriction is effective.
<p>Cllr Lloyd Bowen asked if the tracking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some areas, it is much safer for two officers to be working together for safety

<p>system compares to where other officers are at that point. There are often 2 officers together in one place?</p> <p>More presence from civil enforcement officers in rural areas?</p> <p>Cllr Andrew Bowles followed on from lack of enforcement in rural areas and identified that there are major parking issues along A2 Teynham, Lynsted Lane, Oare and Boughton.</p>	<p>reasons. Also, on a Sunday/evening there is no back up support so officers can only work in pairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff asked Cllr Bowen to inform him of these areas in order to make sure they are resourced.
<p>Cllr Richard Barnicott identified that a lot of pollution will be caused by car engines left running. If the law is being broken in our own car parks, are SBC officers able to act?</p> <p>What evidence would be needed to report taxis not obliging to the set legislations?</p> <p>Cllr Richard Barnicott asked if there was a suggestion to reduce hold up in the layby at Teynham?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a set of national legislation contraventions and unfortunately there are no contraventions for this so SBC are unable to enforce. In relation to taxis, officers to have more power as we set local conditions. • No further enforcement can be taken. Specific drivers would have to be reported. • No solution has been resolved. Convenient stores (Co-op by the layby) have had an impact on the hold up and all areas that have a road-side convenient store are hard to enforce.
<p>Grass Cutting</p>	
<p>A resident said that the grass in green areas is cut 8/9 times a year by people on community payback. Why not use their time in other community benefits?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract for grass cutting is formal. They are involved in clear-up operations.
<p>Breastfeeding</p>	

<p>Hannah Perkin attended the meeting to provide an update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS Breastfeeding CIC has a contract with KCC for public health. In Swale, there is a culture change to instigate. There is an aim to have one specialist clinic children centre in each district across Kent. • Peer supporters, who are all volunteers, have come together to provide support and advice for those looking to breastfeed. • Hannah Perkin spoke about the legalities with breastfeeding in public and informed all that it is against equality legislation to ask a woman to stop breastfeeding in a public area. • Swale owns 4 of the 10 lowest wards in the Country for breastfeeding rates.
<p>Cllr Mike Cosgrove suggested passing on the information to Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This point was taken on board and it was also identified that KCC work with Health Boards in relation to breastfeeding.