

Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 23rd May 2012

6.30pm - 9.30 pm

The Guildhall, Faversham

The group met at the BMM Weston creekside car park to discuss ideas for the future use of the car park area.

1/ Apologies and agreement of April minutes - Review of actions in the March minutes

Those Present:

Nigel Kay, Faversham Town Councillor (FTC) – Chairman
Anne Salmon, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group Member
Trevor Payne, Faversham Town Councillor
Andrew Osborne, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group Member
John Sell, Faversham Town Council Planning Agent
Tony Fullwood, Independent Planning Consultant
Natalie Earl, Swale Borough Council Senior Planner

Tony Ambrose – Structures Manager, KCC Highways
David Brenton – Structures Team Leader, KCC Highways

1/ Apologies and agreement of March minutes

Mike Cosgrove, Swale Borough Councillor (SBC) – Vice Chairman
Mike Henderson, Swale Borough Councillor

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed.

2/ Brent Swing Bridge Feasibility Report

David Brenton and Tony Ambrose took the group through the recently completed Feasibility Report. It looked at the current state of the deck and then outlined a list of options for repairing and/or replacing the bridge.

The group reiterated to KCC that it was vital for the bridge to be opened.

KCC believe that they are only liable for the highway element of the bridge and do not need an opening bridge.

KCC could fund a fixed crossing in the next 5-10 years and are happy for someone else to fund the difference for an opening bridge. This KCC money is not yet in a budget stream.

ACTION: David Brenton agreed to investigate how to get it into their work programme.

KCC agreed to obtain a legal opinion on their obligations regarding the bridge in terms of highways and navigation.

Andrew Osborne informed the group that Medway Ports had agreed that they would operate and maintain a new bridge.

KCC stated that even if the bridge is patched up it will only last 10-12 years.

ACTION: Mike Cosgrove to arrange a meeting between Medway Ports and KCC Highways.

ACTION: KCC will investigate how repair to the bridge would be funded (probably from the structural capital budget) and what their procedures and timescales would be. They will also liaise with their traffic colleagues to see if there would be any impact on the road network when the bridge was opened.

ACTION: The report does not contain estimates for the opening mechanism and costs for this are required from Medway Ports to fully understand the cost implications of the bridge.

The group thanked Mr Ambrose and Mr Brenton for coming to the meeting.

It was agreed that the public need to know that the figures in the report excluded the costs of repairing the opening mechanism.

3/ BMM Weston and SECOS - Reaction to Site Visits

BMM Weston

It was agreed that the creekside footpath around the car park should be widened and moorings provided.

It was noted that due to the nature of the site, care needs to be taken in regard to the scale of buildings so as not to obstruct site lines into the town.

ACTION: John Sell to draw up a plan.

The car park needs better landscaping

SECOS

The group discussed what would work on this site as it is land locked by residential development on two sides.

It was agreed that residential units with moorings and a creekside walkway would work well on this site.

4/ Reaction and feedback on the 5th May Exhibition

It was agreed that the turnout of almost 1,000 people to the event was fantastic.

Once all of the comments forms have been received they will be analysed and will be presented to the Steering Group and will be made public.

5/ Update on the Streetscape Strategy

Tony Fullwood informed the group that it was currently being finalised by the graphic designer and would be ready by the end of the month. It will be reported to the Town Council on the 6th June and then on to the Joint Transport Board (which KCC and SBC sit on).

ACTION: Nigel Kay to draft a report to the Town Council; Mike Cosgrove will look into how a report is taken to the JTB.

6/ Update from Faversham Creek Consortium

The group had meet with both Medway Ports and the KCC Bridge engineers to discuss ways forward.

They had discussed the public exhibition that was held and the comments which they had heard from the public.

They confirmed that they never comment on planning applications.

They are continuing to take forward their HLF lottery bid.

7/ Update on Medway Ports meetings

Medway Ports had confirmed that the sluices would be operating and the gates open by the end of the month.

The group needs to do a paper on why access to the basin (gates opening and sluices working) is needed.

ACTION: Andrew Osborne to finalise a set of potential opening times for the bridge through consultation.

8/ Budget

Natalie Earl informed the group that the budget was not yet ready but that James Freeman, Head of Planning at SBC, would attend the next meeting to discuss it.

9/ Landowner Meetings

It was agreed that Medway Ports would be invited to a future meeting (probably the 25th July meeting) when they have answers to the questions posed by the group.

10/ Draft Neighbourhood Plan Viability Study Brief

Tony Fullwood presented the draft viability brief so that Swale can commission consultants to undertake the necessary viability work for the Neighbourhood Plan.

11/ Communications Strategy

It was agreed that a communications strategy was needed to keep the public informed and to create a momentum behind the project. Newsletters, press releases and an improved website were all ideas put forward.

It was suggested that John Coulter be approached to lead on this element.

ACTION: Nigel Kay to approach John Coulter.

12/ Updated Programme (To be tabled)

| The meeting was running late so this item was deferred until a future meeting

13/ Faversham 2020 - a report on this new project and its relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan (FTC)

Faversham Town Council is developing a wide-ranging Town Action Plan – Faversham 2020 – which will set out key priorities for the town's future.

The idea of creating the plan comes from the elected members of Faversham Town Council. The project is being funded by Faversham Town Council, Action for Market Towns and the Faversham Enterprise Partnership have been commissioned to help get the work underway. However, the emerging Town Action Plan will be a community plan and not 'owned' by any one organisation.

A Faversham Town Action Plan will be published later this year, but the project will be ongoing and can easily be updated as needed.

ACTION: Alison Eardly from Action for Market Towns will be invited to the July or August meeting.

14/ Future Meeting Dates

The next meetings will be 28th June, 25th July and 22nd August.

15/ AOB

The Group asked Natalie Earl to confirm who owned the TS Hazard building.

Post meeting note – Natalie has spoken to SBC Property Services and can confirm that SBC own the building and currently lease it to the Sea Cadets. The current lease ran out in January 2011 and despite repeated attempts by SBC the Sea Cadets have yet to sign another 5 year lease.