

16 ELECTION SPECIAL

WELCOME TO FAVERSHAM EYE SIXTEEN

In this issue we concentrate on three main issues:

- The Town and Swale local elections on the 4th May.
- The emerging Faversham Plan and speculative housing applications.

- A long read on the environmental crisis.

Also we feature an article on the excellent work being undertaken by a group of volunteers from Faversham who are monitoring the water quality of the Creek and the Westbrook.

At twenty pages we have had to leave out some of our regular features but have managed to squeeze in a few lines on our hapless local MP Helen Whately.

We hope you find it an enjoyable, informative and interesting read.



As a reminder of how transitory and insignificant the human race is, we print this picture of the Whirlpool Galaxy discovered in 1773 and its (relatively) near neighbour.

It is about 31 million light years from Earth, slightly smaller than the Milky Way and has an estimated mass of 160 billion solar masses. It is observable from Faversham

between November and the end of May with an amateur telescope.

In 2020 within the Whirlpool Galaxy, an exoplanet was discovered. In the unlikely event that this candidate exoplanet supports life, we can only hope that the inhabitants there are not making the similar mess of their planet as we are here on Earth.

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I have been struck by how grubby, litter-strewn and rundown England seems to be



THOUGHTS OF A TRAVELLER

Having just returned from an extended visit to Australia and NZ, I have been struck by how grubby, litter-strewn and rundown England seems to be in comparison.



Recent reports have suggested that within 20 years, England, especially London and the Southeast will not have enough water to meet demand

This year Michael Gove has at last abandoned the absurdity that there is a national need of a fixed number of houses a year



oil developments. In stark contrast, no such generosity is extended to the development of new renewables. Our own Helen Whately voted with the government not to extend help to the renewable sector.

There is no coherent home insulation policy that would do much to improve what are the leakiest houses in western Europe. Instead, the government is supporting household energy bills, never mind that the heat they pay for pours straight through our walls and roofs.

Recent reports have suggested that within 20 years, England, especially London and the Southeast will not have enough water to meet demand.

The combined impact of climate change and population growth, means that the country is facing an existential threat. Hugely expensive infrastructure projects such as giant pipes transferring water from the north to the south, new reservoirs and desalination plants take decades to realise, therefore water consumption per capita needs to be significantly reduced. It has been suggested that it should be reduced from the average current 140 litres per day to nearer 100 litres.

What is extremely frustrating is that we can do so much immediately to both reduce carbon emissions and cut water consumption. An immediate switch to subsidy for renewables rather than oil and gas fields, reinstatement of grants and loans for home insulation and much more pressure on water companies to spend more of their huge profits on leakage reduction would all make a big difference.

The current developer-led provision of new houses, which as we have argued elsewhere in this and past issues, leads to the wrong type of houses being built in the wrong places solely in order to maximise the volume housebuilders profits.

Also, those being built today do not seriously address environmental issues. Higher levels of insulation, orientation of buildings, automatic installation of solar and hot water panels and heat pumps, rather than gas boilers could be included in beefed up building regulations. Further, it is

crazy that we still flush around 35% of our high quality drinking water directly down our lavatories. Houses designed to accommodate grey water systems should become mandatory.

It is believed that because the government has allowed the construction industry to save money, most new homes will need to be expensively retrofitted to meet the government's net zero obligations. According to a recent report from the Committee of Climate Change, if houses were built right, properly insulated, with heat pumps instead of gas boilers the initial extra cost per home would amount to an average of £4,800, whereas retrofitting costs around £26,300. In the meantime, those that buy them must also spend more on energy.

A small glimmer of hope lies in the recent pronouncements from the levelling up, housing and communities secretary, Michael Gove. This year he has at last abandoned the absurdity that there is a national need of a fixed number of houses a year.

He is telling councils that coating fields throughout England with ugly and substandard housing estates profits no one but builders. He has indicated that he wants to re-empower people to decide whether and how their communities to grow, change and appear. Rejecting what they regard as ugly or not fulfilling local needs.

Unfortunately, this is possibly nothing more than desperate pre-election rhetoric from a doomed government trying to hold on to its increasingly vulnerable seats.

Finally, it is important to emphasise that even if a vast new estate to the east of Faversham, developed by the Duchy of Cornwall, as one of the four main areas chosen for new housing in the emerging Faversham Neighbourhood Plan leaves you less than euphoric, then refusal to endorse it later on this year in the referendum could lead to much worse. If the Town is compelled to accommodate more houses, then a sensitive, phased, high quality development reflecting at least to some degree Faversham actual needs, certainly has to be better than the alternative of speculator sprawl.

MAY 4th LOCAL ELECTIONS

On May the 4th we have the chance to select who we want to represent us on both the Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council. The Faversham Eye has carefully read all the literature produced by the candidates and, with a varying degree of success, directly asked some of them for more details.

What is somewhat baffling is the fact that the vast proportion of the candidates have declared their political allegiances to a particular political party whilst at the same time producing manifestoes that exclusively concern themselves with promised actions that often seem unrelated to, or even in conflict with, their party's national agenda.

For instance, despite the damage being done to our quality of life, do our local Conservative hopefuls

endorse the national government's current actions and policies? Do they support a hard-line approach to dealing with Europe? What about the current National Planning Policy for housing? Are they happy the decade long reduction in local authority funding? If not, why stand under the Conservative banner?

Later in this issue, we list those standing, comment on their manifestoes and make our own selections.

One of the common misconceptions of a large proportion of the electorate seems to be about how much power our local council has in determining how we are governed. This often leads to Faversham Town Council being blamed for things over which they have no control.

Below we print a short article from John Irwin an outgoing member of the current Town Council.

ON BEING A TOWN COUNCILLOR

On rainy Tuesday evening in early April, I received a certificate from the Mayor in the Guildhall. It was for "...meritorious and distinguished service to the Town of Faversham" and the occasion was my last meeting as a Faversham Town councillor. It was indeed an honour to be elected and serve residents in Watling but even the most honourable endeavours can sometime leave one disenchanted. Was it worth it?

Firstly, the positives. Being a councillor has brought me into contact with the multitude of people in our Town who give freely of their time to make our home a better place. Those who volunteer in our charity shops and museums, our community centres, our Youth and Community groups. Those who pick litter, clear streams, make food for the elderly neighbours, lobby to save our green fields and our built heritage. They are too numerous to mention but you know who you are, and I thank you for your meritorious and distinguished service.

Secondly the negatives or more specifically, the frustrations. Town councils and therefore Town Councillors have few direct responsibilities. We are responsible

for neither housing, planning, waste collection nor roads, libraries, social services, and education. If you don't know this when you're elected, you learn very quickly that decisions around so hugely important issues are not yours. As an example, one of the huge frustrations from working on the neighbourhood plan was the requirement to design policies "in general conformity with" the Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework. Solar panels rather than gas boilers in every new build? Pretty obvious right? But could we demand it, No. Not in conformity with national (read current government) policy. But does this render the role (and by extension the council) irrelevant? No it doesn't, but to understand why not, we need to think about what the Town Council actually does.

Faversham Town council is an unusual animal. Each seat at the council table is vigorously contested by political parties for what is that quintessentially English invention, a Parish council. The first level (or lowest level depending on your perspective) of Local Government. It is officially responsible for bus shelters and allotments, but it has the luxury of being able to direct its budget (raised as a precept on council tax) to support



things that enrich our community but are unfunded. Events such as the Transport Festival, and actions such as tree planting and public realm improvements and grant support for local charities. Perhaps most important of all, it has the ability to influence, pester and cajole. It does its most important work communicating and representing the interests, needs and concerns of residents and hold other bodies to account for the actions and inactions.

In my experience, Town Councillors irrespective of the colour of their Rosette, are people who genuinely care about our Town and spend many unpaid hours trying to make it better. Although I have not always agreed with everyone, I have never doubted their sincerity or integrity. So why am I stepping down? Effecting change is slow and hard and requires new ideas and energy. Mine, for now, are spent and it's time for someone else to have a go. I wish all those newly elected in the coming election the best of luck.



On May the 4th we have the chance to select who we want to represent us on both the Faversham Town Council and Swale Borough Council

Being a councillor has brought me into contact with the multitude of people in our Town who give freely of their time to make our home a better place

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I wish all those newly elected in the coming election the best of luck.



PROGRESS ON FAVERSHAM'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



The sooner we can get the Plan to a referendum, the better.

If we collectively reject the Neighbourhood Plan at a referendum, Faversham will be vulnerable to further speculative large-scale development within the parish boundary



The response to the Reg 14 consultation, which concluded in February, was exceptional. The Town Council is still processing and considering the Reg 14 responses. Many of the comments are supportive of the plan, including suggestions about how it could be strengthened.

The natural environment, habitats and the protection of agricultural land have been strong themes in the consultation responses so far. The community have really emphasised infrastructure projects that are

important to the town, including the new bridge and sluice gates on Faversham Creek.

The Town Council will amend the Neighbourhood Plan once all the representations have been fully considered and prepare the submission documents to send to Swale. Once this is complete, the amended Plan and submission documents will be available to view on the Town Council website.

Swale Borough Council will then organise a Reg 16 consultation*, which will run for six weeks and publish the responses. An independent examiner will then review the Plan and consultation responses and prepare a report, including, if appropriate, recommendations for modification. It will be for the Town Council and Swale Borough Council to agree on any modifications before moving

to a referendum.

Once the emerging Neighbourhood Plan has been through Reg 16 consultation, it does begin to carry some legal weight in the decisions by planners about new developments and significant weight following examination. The sooner we can get the Plan to a referendum, the better.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives certainty to the growth strategy and future of Faversham. Future speculative developments will be tested against the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan as part of the Statutory Development Plan. If we collectively reject the Neighbourhood Plan at a referendum, Faversham will be vulnerable to further speculative large-scale development within the parish boundary.

WHATTELY WATCH



Minister of State (Minister for Social Care)

The Minister of State for Social Care is responsible for:

- adult social care
- winter planning for adult social care
- funding and markets (charging reform)
- quality (system reform)
- workforce
- integration, including discharge
- community health services
- major diseases:
 - cancer
 - diabetes
 - strokes
- rare diseases
- screening
- dementia
- end-of-life care
- COVID-19 vaccine licensing
- long-term conditions



Helen Whately has found time to be out on the stump with Conservative candidates in the local elections. We hear that they are focusing on the new estates where many electors will have no knowledge of why the Conservatives were wiped out at the last local elections in Faversham.

Our MP was the Minister of State, in the Department of Health and Social Care from 13 February 2020 to 16 September 2021, when she was moved to the post of Exchequer Secretary in the Treasury. She was out of ministerial office from 7 July 2022 until 26 October, when Rishi Sunak appointed her again to her old job as Minister of State, in the Department of Health and Social Care.

After the bruising time she had during the pandemic when she had responsibility for Social Care, we were surprised that she took the job again. Remember the media coverage and anger over deaths from Covid, discharges from hospitals to care homes and the issues around visiting. In May 2020 the *Kent Messenger Group* online reported that "Care homes made up 40%

of Covid-19 deaths in Kent. The independent public inquiry to examine the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK has only just begun work. It is highly unlikely to have reported on before the next general election. However, our MP should expect to be questioned about her work as Care Minister, as well as other local issues. She needs to be held to account.

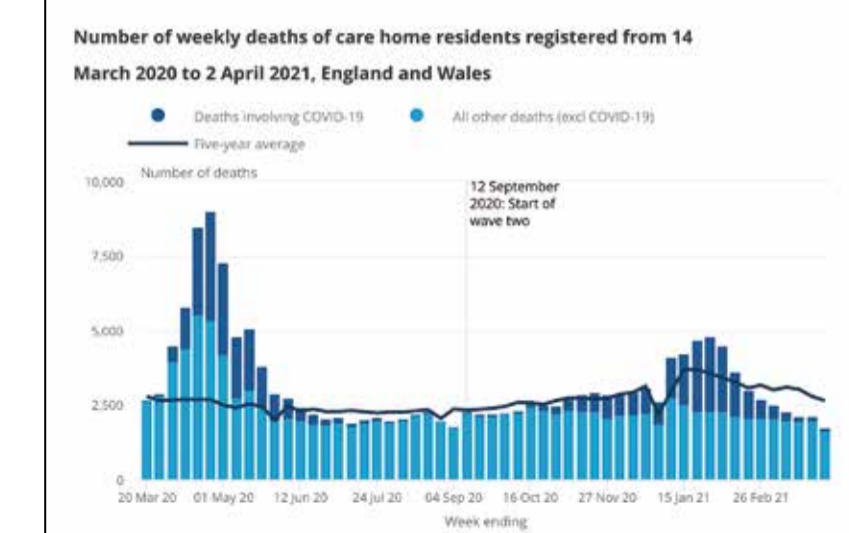
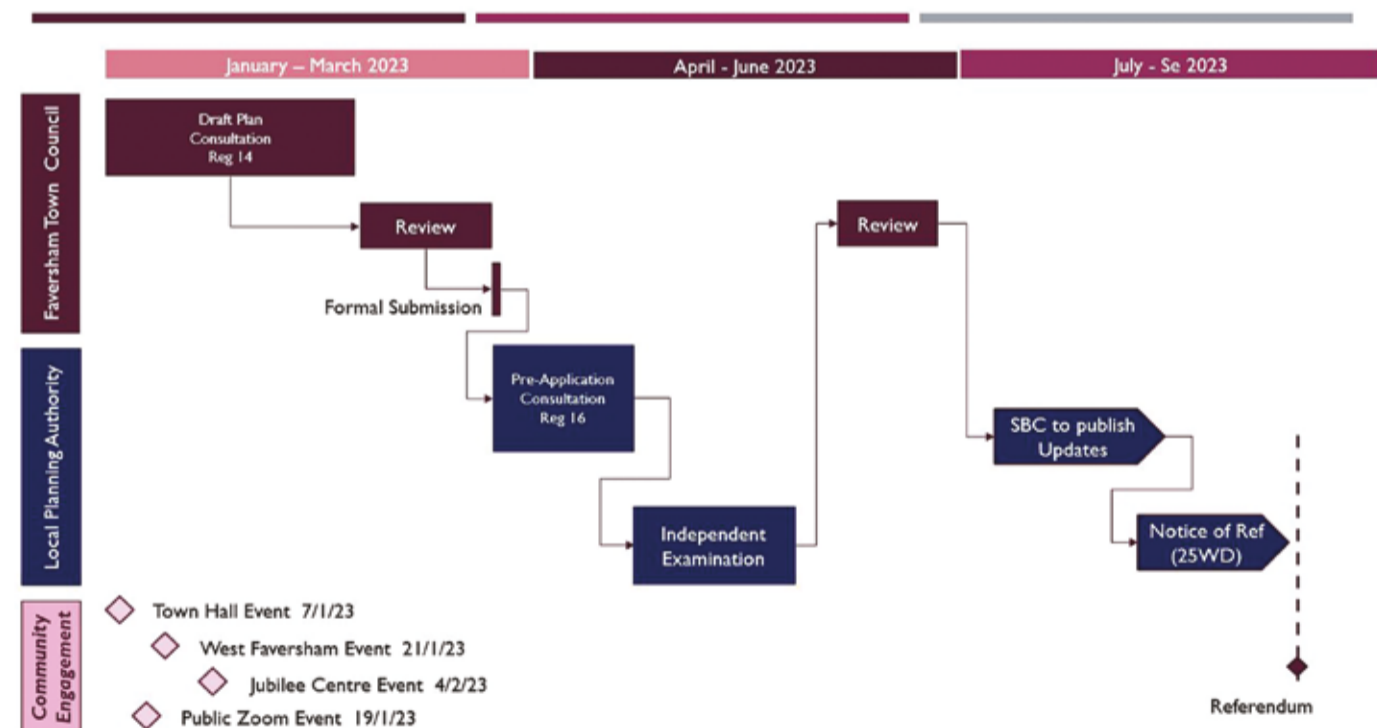
Our MP is currently responsible for adult social care, funding & markets, quality and workforce, community health services, "integration, including discharge", dementia, end-of-life care, long-term conditions, cancer, diabetes and strokes. If you have concerns about social care or any of the other areas of her responsibility, ask Helen Whately about them and if you are not content with the answer let us know.

In December 2021 ministers pledged to invest "at least £500m over the next three years to begin to transform the way we support the social care workforce." This has been cut to £250m. Sally Warren, director of policy at the health think tank The Kings Fund, is

quoted in the *The Telegraph* (04/04.2023) saying that the plans are "a dim shadow of the widescale reform to adult social care that the government came into office promising." Care homes are short 165,000 care workers, with staff turnover at 29%. Helen Whately is reported in *The Telegraph*, saying that the package "focuses on recognising care with the status it deserves." Really?

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TIMELINE

- REG 14 refers to the public consultation that took place between January and February 2023
- REG 16 refers to the public consultation which will take place after plan is amended as a result of feedback from the Ref 14. This is planned for May to June 2023.
- After the review process it is hoped that this will lead to a public referendum on the plan, probably in the Autumn this year.



Source: Office for National Statistics - Deaths involving COVID-19 in the care sector



If there is not an adopted local plan with a demonstrable five-year supply of new houses, Swale in general and Faversham, in particular, are vulnerable to opportunistic self-styled land promoters

At present Gladman is attempting to get permission for a vast housing development of 5000 housing units between the M2 and the currently discrete village of Sheldwich

Gladman have a history of repeatedly appealing adverse planning decisions costing local authorities extra expense and causing serious added workload to planners

Experienced land promoters that can afford expensive lawyers and multiple appeals, often win the fights against local authorities at appeal, leaving them confident in their ability to gain planning permission that goes against local wishes



HOW LAND SPECULATORS OPERATE AT OUR EXPENSE

On April 23rd this year, the Daily Mail ran with the headline:

DEVELOPERS RUINING OUR COUNTRYSIDE: THEY BANKROLL FARMERS SEEKING PERMISSION TO BUILD ON THEIR FIELDS

- Speculators are trying to exploit a loophole to build houses on open fields
- Gladman developments offers farmers a chance to increase the value of land
- ‘Predatory’ agent is pursuing 102 applications for housing developments
- Government wants to build 200,000 homes each year to meet demand
- Country Life said villages have been ‘stripped of their natural defences’

The Government’s chosen policy of using developer-led provision of new housing has meant that the wrong type of houses are being built in the wrong places.

LOCAL PLAN

As things currently stand, if there is not an adopted local plan with a demonstrable five-year supply of new houses, Swale in general and Faversham, in particular, are vulnerable to opportunistic self-styled land promoters making speculative planning applications for new housing estates on countryside alongside existing settlements.

Probably the most predatory is Gladman operating under the name of Gladman Developments Ltd.

At present Gladman is attempting to get permission for a vast housing development of 5000 housing units between the M2 and the currently discrete village of Sheldwich, swallowing North Street along the way. Also, they have started the process of seeking planning permission for a further 250 houses at Ham Road. This is a very sensitive

area encroaching onto the marshy farmland bordering Faversham Creek and the historic Saxon Shore Way and is much used and enjoyed by many walkers and ramblers.

Elsewhere in Kent the company is seeking planning permission for 300 houses adjacent to Howletts animal park in Littlebourne, 360 houses at near Newington, 450 on farmland at Margate and 840 at Aylesford amongst others, to say nothing of the very many opportunistic applications they are currently making nationally.

Gladman and other “land promoters” make lucrative profits for themselves and massive ones for the landowners by exploiting the planning system and working against local wishes.

Gladman persuade landowners to pursue planning permission on their land for a 20-25% share in the profits when it is sold on for development without having to bear any risk of investing in land or building themselves. As a result of the lack of risk and the high potential profits, they can afford to operate on a ‘no win no fee’ basis, which is obviously highly attractive to landowners.

In September 2018 the website www.parliament.uk stated that the average in value of greenfield sites granted planning permission for housing in 2015 went from £21,000 per hectare to £1.95 MILLION, a near 100 fold increase. In fact, this is likely to be an underestimate in the South east of the UK. It also went on to state that successful applications on brownfield sites are less profitable.

The only regard land promoters pay to planning constraints, such as protected landscapes and settlement boundaries, is how to get round them. Usually by targeting areas that are unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. In these circumstances, the National Planning Policy Framework prescribes a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This loophole

combined with the incredibly vague definition of ‘sustainable development’ allows Gladman and other promoters to argue that the demand for housing overrides factors such as environmental and community concerns.

The unlovely and sprawling development between the Ashford Road and Brogdale Road including the Barratts development called Perry Court came about because of the failure of Swale to meet the government’s housing targets.

This loophole encourages land promoters to focus their speculative planning applications on councils that they see as having a weak planning policy framework because of not having a local plan or not being able to demonstrate a five-year supply of housing land. In such situations they know that they have an extremely good chance of winning planning appeals.

Gladman have a history of repeatedly appealing adverse planning decisions costing local authorities extra expense and causing serious added workload to planners.

This delays the planning departments preparation of obligatory future local plans weakens the application of existing plans and increases the potential for further predatory actions by the promoters. It also increases anxiety for those living in the communities affected.

Gladman claims that it achieves planning permission for more than 10,000 houses a year.

Gladman Development Director, David Gladman, in a recent High Court case said:

“We normally only target local authorities whose planning is in relative disarray and vulnerable to a quick planning application for a suitable site. Gladman comes into its own where local authorities are in a state of flux, whilst they either have no up-to-date local plan, or, temporarily they do not have a five-year supply of consented building plots.”

Experienced land promoters, such as Gladman, that can afford expensive lawyers and multiple appeals, often win the fights against local authorities at appeal, leaving them confident in their ability to gain planning permission that goes against local wishes.

Gladman’s own website states: “Whilst we try to achieve planning permission locally, sometimes for a variety of reasons this is not possible, and the site is refused permission at planning committee. This is nothing to worry about; on average around



two thirds of our sites go through during the appeal process.”

Meanwhile, councils are retreating from contesting the appeals due to high costs and perceived low chance of success, thereby failing to stand up for their own policies.

A study undertaken by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)* in 2019 showed that 60% of approval for appeals from land promoters were granted when local authorities did not have a 5-year housing supply as against 30% when they did.

THE PLAYBOOK

The playbook of these speculators usually follows the same pattern:

1. Identify a parcel of green field land in proximity to an attractive local town or village such as Faversham. (An added advantage of a green field site is that there is zero VAT payable on the development costs).
2. Persuade the landowner, commonly a farmer, to allow them to make a planning application for housing on their behalf with the prospect of potentially millions of pounds of unearned profit if permission is granted.
3. The application is made with the promise of a wonderful new and ‘sustainable’ development of environmentally sensitive new houses in a parkland setting, with an element of ‘affordable’ housing and where, given they then can claim, given the relative proximity to an existing settlement, the new occupants will obviously want to walk into the existing town rather than use cars.

4. A glossy brochure is produced for a pre-application consultation with the local community stressing the green open space being ‘created’. This is particularly cynical given the fact that the site is usually open countryside in the first place.
5. If at first the application is refused, appeal again and, if necessary, again until the local council concedes. Gladman will often continue this process for years as the cost to them is dwarfed by the potential profits to be made by gaining planning permission.

THE PLOT THICKENS

Earlier in 2022, the volume housebuilder Barratt bought Gladman Developments for £250m thereby enabling Gladman to remove the need to market the sites after winning housing permission, and Barratt’s housebuilding companies direct access to many more lucrative places to destroy the countryside and irreplaceable agricultural land in order to construct environmentally substandard dreary housing estates.

In order to reduce the potential for harmful speculative development proposals, the CPRE has made the following recommendations

- Follow through on commitments in the Housing White Paper to reduce the potential for speculative development. Where, as a result of the failure of the developers to build-out existing sites or seek permission in sites identified in development plans or brown field registers, the five-year housing supply for an area dips below the expected level, councils should be

given time to remedy the situation. For example, councils need time to kick-start stalled developments or bring in new operators to promote existing sites before the presumption in favour of sustainable development creates the need to grant planning permission for new sites. If the councils’ actions are not successful, then sites for new development should be identified strategically through an accelerated local plan process, and not on a first-come-first-served basis by speculators.

• Cap local housing targets at a level that is actually deliverable in terms of the housebuilding industry. This would make it feasible for housebuilding targets to be met.

• Instruct the Planning Inspectorate that, where a local plan is up to date and a 5-year housing land supply is reasonably demonstrated, that the decision on whether to approve or refuse planning permission should lie solely with the local planning authority. The only exception should be if the proposal in question unequivocally accords with all the relevant policies of the development plan.

• Reform the way in which the market works so that the uplift in value of land as a result of planning consent is not so significant as to be irresistible to speculators. This should be done while still retaining a reasonable expectation of return for landowners, compatible with providing homes that are affordable to local people, mitigating the impacts of development and providing the infrastructure necessary to support it.



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If at first the application is refused, appeal again and, if necessary, again until the local council concedes





In 2019 UK bathing water quality ranked 25th out of 31 European countries

In 2020, DEFRA (the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) found that every single water body assessed in England was polluted beyond legal limits

Across Swale as a whole, the duration of legally-sanctioned raw sewage discharges from storm tank overflows increased more than four-fold from 2019 to 2021

Several local groups in Faversham – the Green Party, Faversham Creek Trust and the Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond – have taken matters into their own hands and formed a local coalition called FavWat to start monitoring water quality for themselves



THE BIG STINK: WATER QUALITY ON FAVERSHAM CREEK AND THE WESTBROOK

Faversham and the rest of north Kent are no exceptions to the national crisis that had emerged in recent years around water quality and pollution caused by raw or partially treated wastewater. While many other European countries have steadily cleaned up their acts, in 2019 UK bathing water quality ranked 25th out of 31 European countries and thousands of tonnes raw sewage were released in over 20,000 incidents into our rivers and coastal waters. In 2020, DEFRA (the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) found that every single water body assessed in England was polluted beyond legal limits, and that only 16 percent of rivers and lakes met the criteria of 'good ecological status'.

In Faversham, recent incidents include releases of raw sewage by Southern Water into Cooksditch and Thorne Creek following heavy rain in August 2021, discharges of untreated wastewater from houseboats moored along the Creek, and the ongoing problem of partially treated effluent from the Faversham sewage works being carried up into the town twice daily on rising tides. Across Swale as a whole, the duration of legally-sanctioned raw sewage discharges from storm tank overflows increased more than four-fold from 2019 to 2021.

While Southern Water bears some responsibility for the problem – and indeed was famously fined £90m in 2019 for serious failings in the operation of its sewage treatment sites – the water quality standards to which the company is held are astonishingly low. Those standards are set by the UK government and enforced by the Environment Agency, whose budget was slashed from £120m to £40m in the decade from 2010 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2020, while EA staff collected detailed evidence on 495 serious incidents involving the

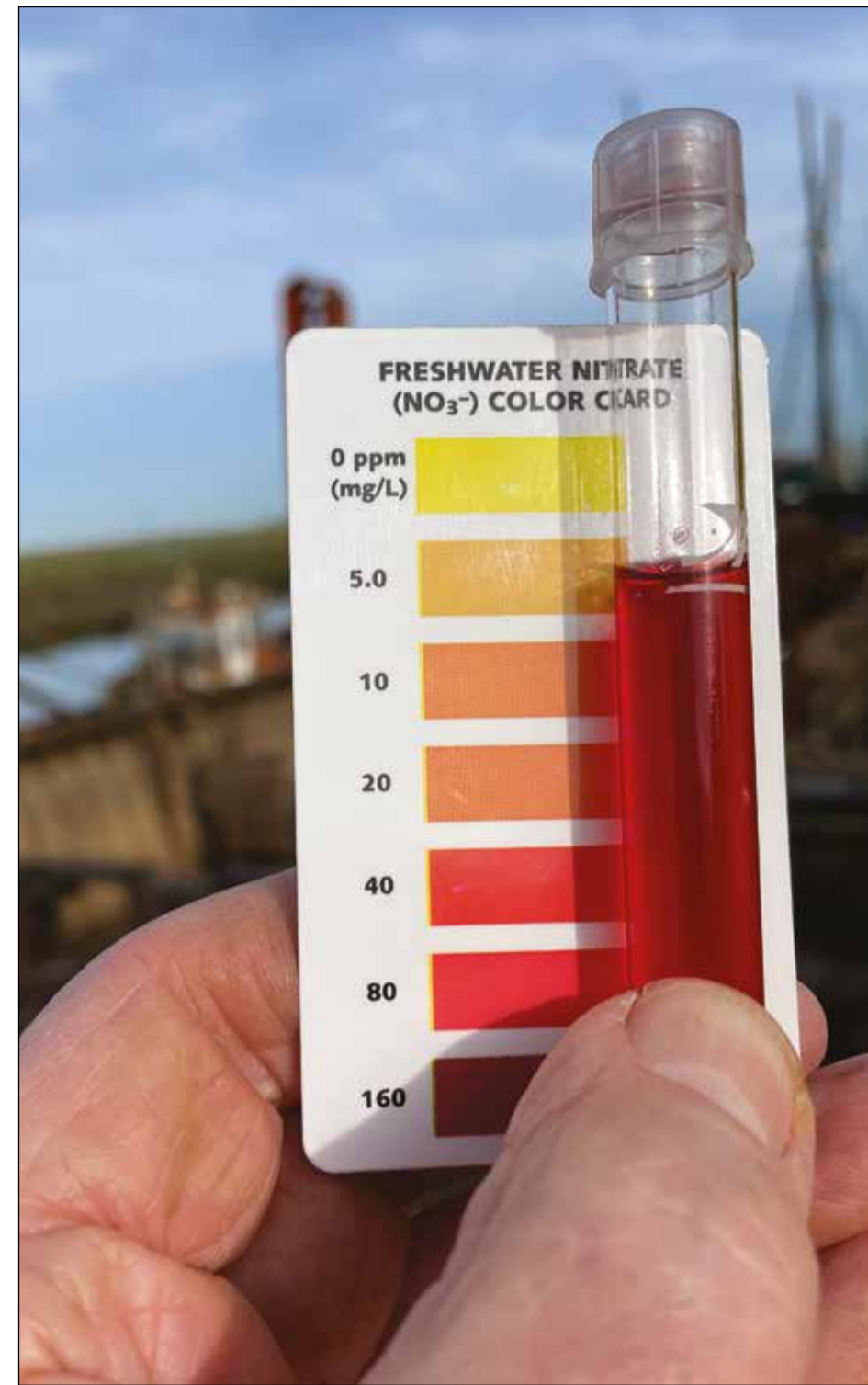


Above: Water samples being collected from Faversham Creek.

worst levels of pollution of rivers and coastal waters across the UK, the Agency only had the resources to take 35 cases forward to prosecution. The rest were punished with lesser sanctions or dropped altogether.

In the face of such limited capacity, several local groups in Faversham – the Green Party, Faversham Creek Trust and the Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond

– have taken matters into their own hands and formed a local coalition called FavWat to start monitoring water quality for themselves. Since December 2022, FavWat volunteers have collected four months of data from weekly testing for the untreated pollutants that pour from the sewage works into Faversham Creek. The Friends of the Westbrook have also been testing the chalk stream. Volunteers have tested so far for ammonia, phosphates and nitrates (which are indicators of human and



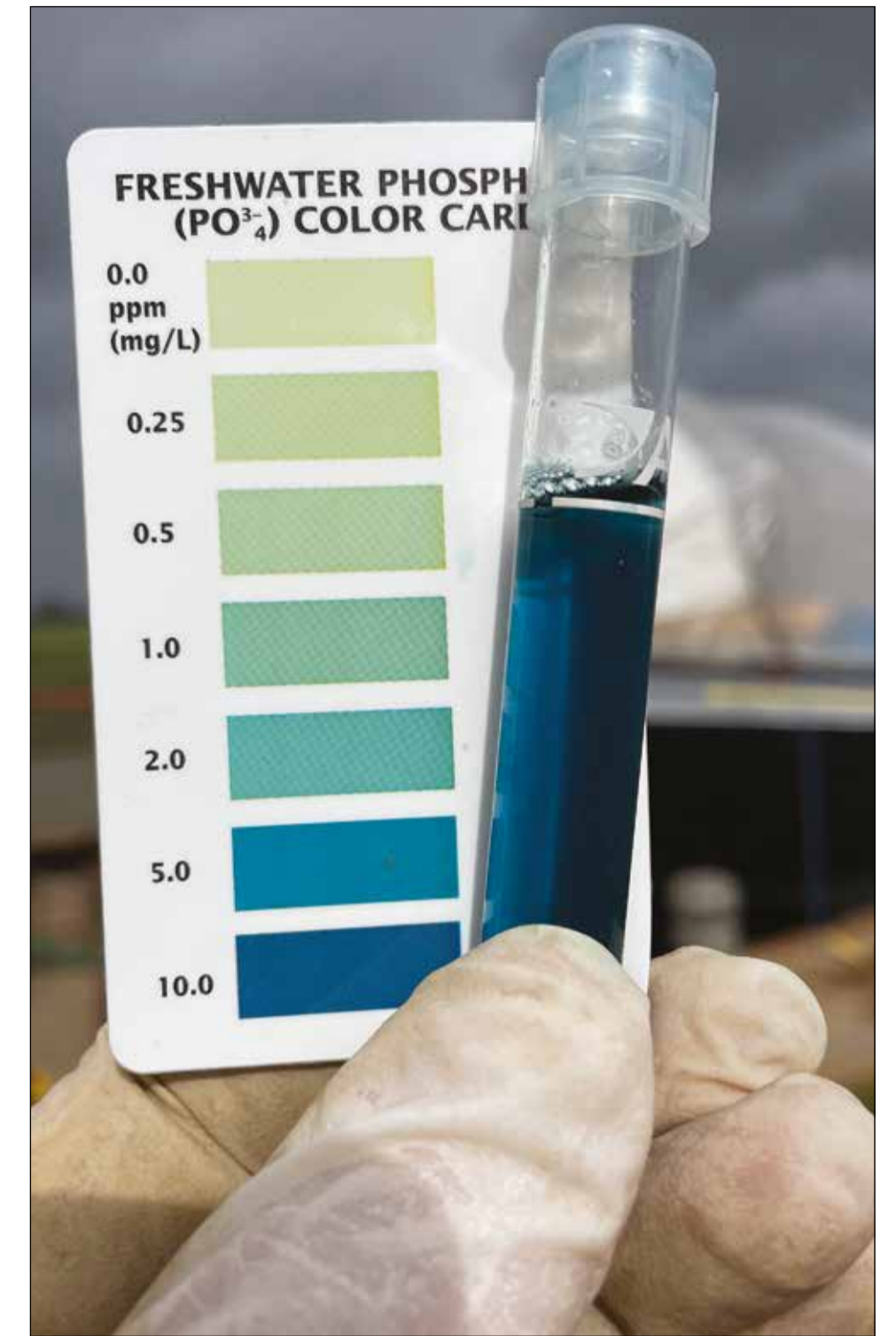
animal waste, incompletely-treated domestic wastewater and industrial effluents, and fertilizer runoff) and found high levels of phosphates from the sewage works and nitrates at both sites, even in the upper reaches of the Westbrook. In that case, the Environment Agency and Southern Water have been alerted and we can only hope that the source of pollution will be identified and stopped before more damage is done.

High phosphate and nitrate levels at the outfall from the Faversham sewage works are not surprising as the works does not treat for them, but are important to monitor nonetheless since Faversham Creek flows into a nationally- and internationally-designated protected area: the Swale. Excessive nutrients (including nitrates and phosphates) carried into the Swale from Faversham Creek or other sources could have negative impacts on the ecology of the Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest as well as on nearby shellfish fisheries and bathing waters, thereby triggering nutrient neutrality rules that would

freeze the level of pollutants that could be discharged into the local environment.

It is hoped that the water quality monitoring being undertaken by FavWat will feed into a wider citizen science project planned by the Zoological Society of London and the Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership to map pollution in the Swale and Medway estuaries. This will inform efforts to reduce pollution at source, to help limit its impact and so improve habitats. A long-term aim of the project is to regenerate sea grass beds in north Kent. These enhance biodiversity (including seahorses), help manage flood risk and absorb significant amounts of carbon at up to 30 times the rate of tropical rainforests.

For Faversham Creek specifically, the long-term goal should be to improve the quality of wastewater treatment to the point where water can be recycled into the local water supply, thereby reducing both the demand for water from the nearby chalk aquifer and discharges of raw



Above: Comparison test results in parts per million for nitrates and phosphates taken from samples of the water in Faversham Creek.

or partially treated sewage into the Creek. Another, nature-based solution proposed by Faversham Creek Trust would be to create an area of reed beds north of the sewage works where partially-treated effluent would be filtered naturally before flowing into the Creek. Wider implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems for housing would both reduce the likelihood of sewage overflows and channel rainwater out of the sewage system into streams. The new Broad Oak reservoir proposed by South East Water near Canterbury may also reduce abstraction in the area and thereby contribute to the restoration of valuable chalk streams and rivers. Current plans to supplement existing water supplies in the southeast with expensive and carbon-intensive desalination plants should be dropped.



Excessive nutrients carried into the Swale from Faversham Creek or other sources could have negative impacts on the ecology of the Swale Site of Special Scientific Interest

For Faversham Creek the long-term goal should be to improve the quality of wastewater treatment



LOCAL ELECTIONS



The one serious criticism we have concerns the lamentable progress they have made in rescuing the Creek from its continuing decline

Whoever is elected for the next four years MUST do much more to save the Town's greatest and unique asset



Below: The Town Jetty on the Brents side of the creek was fully restored two years ago - why is it still condemned?



FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL & SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

GENERAL COMMENTARY
Given the limitations to the power a town councillor can exert and the huge disruption caused by Covid, the current Liberal Democrat majority has generally made some positive improvements in Faversham since 2019, in contrast to the previous disastrous Conservative administration. (see Faversham Eyes 1, 2 & 3 available on-line).

However, the one serious criticism we have concerns the lamentable progress they have made in rescuing the Creek from its continuing decline. Their Creek Working Group isn't working.

Councillor Antony Hook led the attempt to reinstate a working swing/lifting bridge but given that he is now stepping down, there is concern

that the latest attempt to revitalise Faversham's waterway will peter out, especially with Helen (photo opportunity) Whately involved.

The Town Jetty was repaired at no cost to the council over two years ago but remains unused and still with a sign on it declaring it to be condemned and unsafe.

Whoever is elected for the next four years MUST do much more to save the Town's greatest and unique asset. The claims on the election leaflets distributed by the Conservative are generally unambitious, lack vision and, in one particular case, display a breath-taking Trumpian-like rewriting of recent history.

Claiming that the Lib Dems have wasted money on vanity projects such as 12 Market Place when it was the previous conservative-led council

that actually bought the disused shoe shop in the first place (after a secret meeting) and in the process committed the Town to a staggering debt of £2.6 million repayable over the following 50 years, is frankly at best nonsense or, much more likely, dishonest.

The Labour pledges of action on the climate emergency, improvements in community and health services, infrastructure and greater access to affordable housing are all laudable but largely only achievable by national government.

It is hard to imagine any potential councillor disagreeing with any of these aspirations.

It is a shame that the resources of the Green Party do not stretch to being able to put up any candidates in the Town elections.

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THERE ARE FOUR WARDS

ST ANNES (4 SEATS)

CANDIDATES:

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Ben Fisher. Frankie O'Brien	Rob Crayford Kieran Golding Carole Jackson Julian Saunders	Charles Gibson Nick Mengham Monroe Palmer Susette Palmer

Reform UK

Seb Arrowsmith-Brown

Social Democratic Party

Graeme Burrows

Carole Jackson (Labour) does not appear on the Statement of Persons Nominated but does appear on the Labour election flyers.

2019 ELECTION RESULTS

Kris Barker (Lib Dem)
Carole Jackson (Lab)
Trevor Martin (Lib Dem)
Julian Saunders (Lab)

EYE VIEW

With so many new candidates and some with credible previous experience, we imagine that the electorate will tend to vote tribally.

The two Conservatives are generally seen to be cannon fodder. Julian Saunders still seems to want to spend tens of thousands of pounds of public money on pushing through the proposal to construct a footpath along the creek side frontage of Faversham Reach which we have criticised in previous issues of Faversham Eye. This makes us question his financial probity. The new Labour candidates look quite promising.

EYE VOTE

Rob Crayford, Kieran Golding (Labour)
Any two Liberal Democrats

ABBEY (4 SEATS)

CANDIDATES:

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Jay Brown Mel Regan-Brown	Trevor Payne Anne Salmon Francis Rehal	Laura Coniam Hannah Perkin Josh Rowlands Chris Williams

2019 ELECTION RESULTS:

Antony Hook (LibDem)
Denise Knights (Lib Dem)
Hannah Perkin (Lib Dem)
Chris Williams (Lib Dem)

EYE VIEW

In this ward, Lib Dems Hannah Perkins, Josh Rowlands and Chris Williams have proved to be hard working and genuinely committed.

The Abbey Ward Labour candidates are not inspiring and are probably in the best interests of the Labour Party due for replacement. However, commendably, they do not appear to be over-concerned with slick presentation.

The Conservative hopefuls state an interest in stopping the destruction of local farmland for expensive housing, perhaps they are in the wrong party.

EYE VOTE

Laura Coniam, Hannah Perkin, Josh Rowlands and Chris Williams (Lib Dem)

WATLING (4 SEATS)

CANDIDATES:

Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Piers Baker Jack Goodenough David Simmons Jess Valentine	Andrew Birkin James Scott Robert Newman	Ben J Martin Claire Martin Trevor Martin Eddie Thomas

2019 ELECTION RESULTS

Sam Blair (Lib Dem)
John Irwin (Lib Dem)
Ben J Martin (Lib Dem)
Eddie Thomas (Lib Dem)

EYE VIEW

David Simmons is a long-standing member of the Conservative old guard and currently a Swale Borough councillor. He was somewhat mired in scandal in 2019 when as Chairman of the Friends of the Faversham Cottage Hospital donated on their behalf £5,000 to the controversial Preston Street War Memorial, a pet vanity project of the unlamented Tory Mike Cosgrove (see Eyes issues 2 and 3). This was more that the entire Friends fundraising income for that year and after X-ray costs was the hospital's biggest capital expenditure. Perhaps he should concentrate on selling fruit and veg in the Market Place.

Jess Valentine previously stood for UKIP in the Abbey Ward receiving the fewest number of votes of all the other candidates.

Labour hopefuls Andrew Birkin and James Scott have interesting past records and certainly worth considering.

The Lib Dems are fielding three current councillors all of whom have provided good service to the Town.

EYE VOTE

In the interest of balance:
Eddie Thomas, Ben J Martin (Lib Dem)
Andrew Birkin, James Scott (Labour)

PRIORY (2 SEATS)

CANDIDATES:

Conservative.	Labour	Liberal Democrats
Andy Culham	Mark Sayer	Peter Cook Alex Eyre

2019 ELECTION RESULTS

Claire Belsom (Independent)
Alison Reynolds (LibDem)

EYE VIEW

All candidates are standing for the first time apart from Andy Culham one of the few remaining Conservative dinosaurs from previous administrations. Andy hasn't been very successful in recent past elections and so has had plenty of time for his social life and also a chance to improve his literacy skills.



Andy
My self-summary
Frank Spencer

EYE VOTE

Anyone but Andy (See left)

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THERE ARE SIX WARDS

The Borough elections consist of many wards that are outside the wider boundaries of Faversham. Each of the wards of interest to the Town return only one or two successful candidates to Swale Borough Council.

In these elections those chosen have potentially more power to effect change than those in the Town. For this reason, a significant number of hopefuls are standing for both Town and Borough.

Also of note is the presence of a handful of Green Party Candidates.

ABBEY WARD (TWO SEATS) CANDIDATES

Jay Brown (Con) Trevor Payne (Lab) Hannah Perkin (Lib)
Melanie Reagan-Brown (Con) Francis Rehal (Lab)
Chris Williams (Lib)

EYE VOTE

Hannah Perkin Chris Williams

ST ANN'S WARD (TWO SEATS) CANDIDATES

Ben Fisher (Con) Kieran Golding (Lab) Charles Gibson (Lib)
Frankie O'Brien (Con) Carole Jackson (Lab)
Josh Rowlands (Lib) Seb Arrowsmith (Reform)

EYE VOTE

Kieran Golding Josh Rowlands

BOUGHTON AND COURTENAY WARD (TWO SEATS) CANDIDATES

Piers Baker (Con) Alastair Gould (Green) Sonia Fox. (Lib)
Jeff Tutt (Ind) Oliver Lane (Con) Rich Lehmann (Green)
Ida Linfield (Lib)

EYE VOTE

Alastair Gould Rich Lehmann

WATLING WARD (TWO SEATS) CANDIDATES

Jack Goldsmith (Con) Oliver Heyen (Green)
Robert Newman (Lab) Jess Valentine. (Con)
James Scott. (Lab) Ben J Martin (Lib) Claire Martin (Lib)

EYE VOTE

Oliver Heyen Ben J Martin

EAST DOWNS WARD (ONE SEAT) CANDIDATES

David Simmons (Con) Terry Thompson (Green)
Stephen Fisher (Lib)

EYE VOTE

Terry Thompson

PRIORY WARD (ONE SEAT) CANDIDATES

Andy Culham (Con) Sonia Jackson (Green)
Rob Crayford (Lab) Michael Henderson (Lib)

EYE VOTE

Ideally, Sonia Jackson, but otherwise anyone other than Andy Culham.



THE FAVERSHAM HEALTHY FUTURES PROJECT



By: Gill Wagstaff and
Laurie McMahon

In Issue 15 of the *Faversham Eye* we wrote about the trials and tribulations of our health and care services. Towards the end of the piece, we talked about the possibility of setting up a citizen-based project to understand how best Faversham's future needs might be met. Well, we can report good progress!

WHY BOTHER?

No matter how the current crises get resolved, we need a clear view of the future health and care needs of the town and surrounding villages to guide decisions of planners and politicians. Unfortunately, the NHS, though getting better, has not been that good at planning for small, relatively self-contained (but growing!) communities like ours.

THE BEGINNINGS...

With this in mind, patient representatives from our two

GP practices talked about the problem and contacted a health research group at the University of Kent. They were really helpful and an outline project design emerged. We then talked to the Community Committee of Faversham Town Council and as a result the Faversham Healthy Futures (FHF) project was born.

THE PROCESS...

At the time of writing we are about to begin Stage 1. This is a 'pop-in' exhibition in the town hall which runs from the 25th to 29th of April – but it may be open longer if there is sufficient interest. There are guides to talk people through things and to listen to people's views. We hope you managed to pop-in!

THE QUESTIONNAIRE...

If you couldn't make it to the exhibition your views need not be lost. This is because the team have developed a questionnaire that

is being sent out by Faversham Town Council. If you prefer you can access the questionnaire online – see details below. All the information you give will be in confidence and will help us understand how people feel about health and health care and what developments they would like to see in the future.

REPORTING

The team will then prepare a report that we will present initially to the Faversham Town Council. We can also present the findings to Councils in the neighbouring villages where people that use Faversham's primary care services live. We will prepare a piece for the *Faversham Eye* and then publish the report online for all participants and the wider public to see.

DESIGNING PHASE 2

We can then move on to Stage 2 where we intend to form a



To access the Faversham Healthy Futures questionnaire use this internet address
<https://qrco.de/fh>

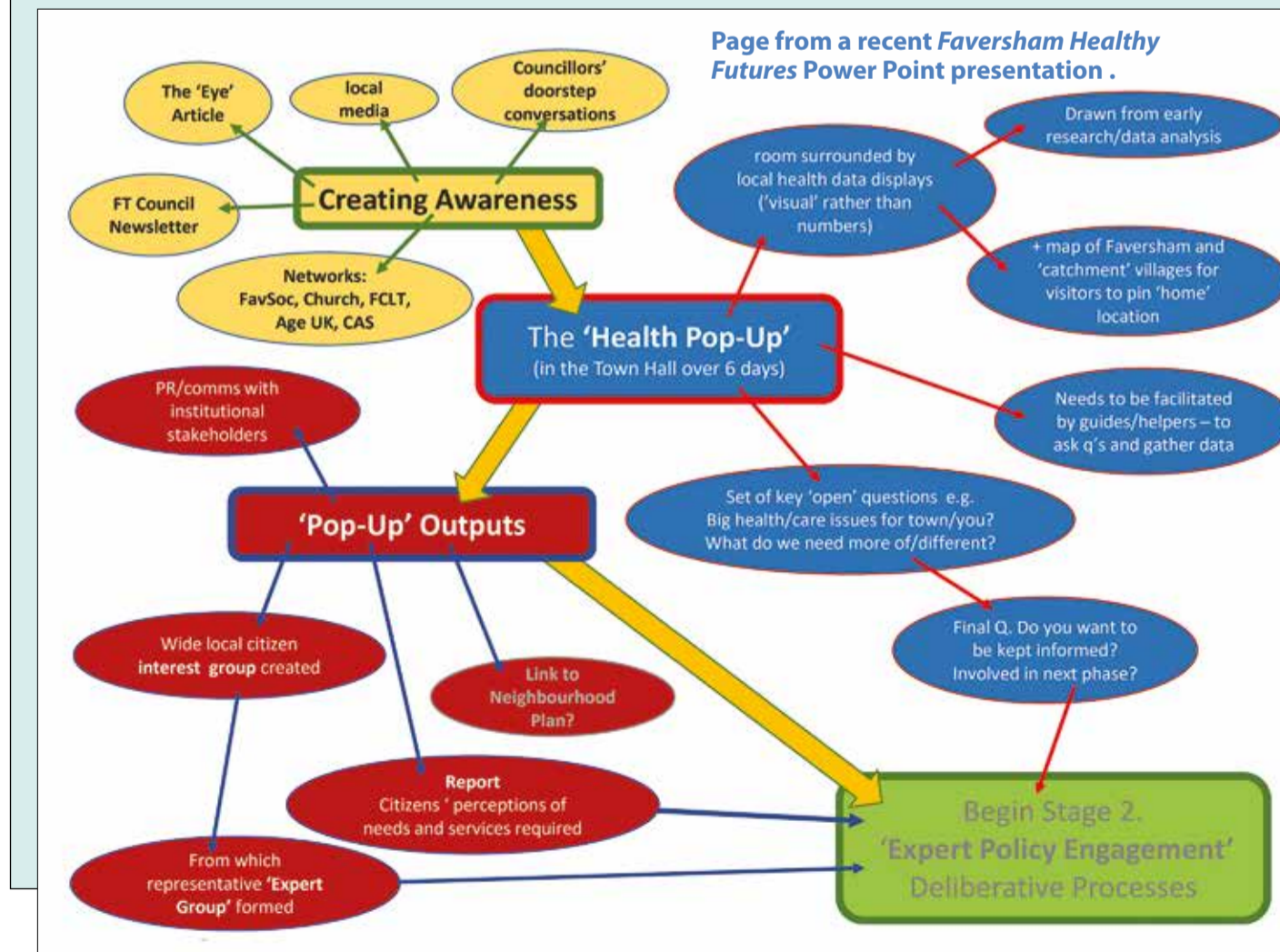
Citizen Panel that can work with researchers, planners and providers to develop a picture of the services Faversham residents will need in the future and what resources – staff, technology and buildings – will be required to deliver them. (See more on this below.)

ENGAGING OUR 'FRIENDS'

We hope a large number of local people will say that they want to stay informed about the progress of their Faversham Healthy Futures project. We will provide them regular updates on the development of the next phase. We will also be able to respond to any ideas or concerns they may have.

DEVELOPING 'CITIZEN-EXPERTS'

For those of you that might want to stay more directly involved, we hope to gather together a representative group of local people and develop their understanding of the complexities and trade-offs involved in planning health and care services. Then, though a facilitated process, we hope that this group will go on to engage directly with planners, providers and policy makers to help understand how we can all make Faversham a healthier place.



DEALING WITH THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE... OR NOT...

THE LONG READ By: Sue Cooper

AN EXAMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD ON MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

"We are facing a global catastrophe. Climate change is happening. And happening fast". David Attenborough "Climate Change – The Facts" (2019) BBC iPlayer
What progress is the UK government making to help us avert or adapt to this well documented catastrophe? – which they have an obligation to do under the Climate Change Act of 2008.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PRODUCED THREE CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENTS – HAVE THEY ACTED ON THEM?

The Climate Change Act obliges the Government to produce five-yearly Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRA). These are used by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) in their regular reports to Parliament to assess progress.

The first CCRA was produced in 2012, the second in 2017 and the third in 2022. Three of the key messages of the most recent CCC progress report are pretty scathing and include the following: "The UK Government now has a solid Net Zero strategy in place, but important policy gaps remain"; (...) "Tangible progress is lagging the policy ambition"; (...) "The Net Zero Strategy contained warm words on many of the cross-cutting enablers of the transition, but there has been little concrete progress."

Lord Deben, Chair of the CCC, in his Foreword to the full June 2022 Report to Parliament is somewhat blunt: "In targets, the UK is indeed a world leader."

IS THE GOVERNMENT TACKLING THE BIGGEST RISKS?

For most of us at this stage, what we really need to know is how prepared are we to adapt to

policies or implementation activities – over and above those already planned in the following five years to reduce long-term vulnerability to climate change.

The top six broad areas where more action was needed were identified as risks: of flooding and coastal change; to health from high temperatures; of shortages in public water supply; to ecosystems, soils and biodiversity; to food production and trade; and of new and emerging pests and diseases and invasive species affecting people, plants and animals.

These six areas are shown in the table below from the 2017 CCRA.

THE COVID CONNECTION

Incidentally, had that final risk been addressed properly after this report of six years ago, perhaps we would have been better prepared for Covid 19. Especially given that apparently back in 2017: "The UK has a proven system in place for monitoring international disease threats to human and animal health." Very reassuring.

THE MOST PRESSING RISKS FOR FAVERSHAM? IT'S ALL IN THE WATER

There were further subcategories and 20 more specific points highlighted for 'More Action Needed' in the 2017 report. Perhaps the most painful read of these for those of us who live near creeks and seas is the 'Risk of sewer flooding due to heavy rainfall'. According to Surfers against Sewage, in 2022 alone sewage was discharged into rivers and seas 389,000 times.

In Faversham, given the ongoing decades-old inadequacies of the local sewage treatment works, and the explosion of new housing which is presumably feeding into it, this may lead you to question your political representative. (Helen Whately voted against a 2021 Amendment that would have demanded water companies reduce dumping into rivers)

Indeed, according to theyworkforyou.com, Helen Whately has consistently voted against measures to prevent climate change.

WATER WATER – BUT NOT EVERYWHERE

However, perhaps of even more concern in the arid South East are some of the other risks shown in the table below (remember, these were highlighted 6 years ago). Notably perhaps: **risks** to agriculture and wildlife from water scarcity and flooding; **risks**

of land management practices exacerbating flood risk; **risks** of cascading infrastructure failures across interdependent networks; **risks** to infrastructure from surface and groundwater flooding; risks to public water supplies from drought and low river flows; **Risks** to public health and well-being from high temperatures; **risks** to people communities and buildings from flooding; **risks** to business sites from flooding; Weather related shocks to global food production and trade; and – also of great relevance to the South East with the current tragedies on the coast: risks from climate related international human displacement.

Perhaps the most pressing issue in the South East is that of water security. It is an area very prone to drought and the CCC report includes the fact that new water supplies are needed particularly in the South East in addition to better repair and increased efficiency in the existing supply. Part of this should be strategies for reducing demand for water. Sadly, under this Government, according to the CCC demand for water has actually increased since 2017 having been falling up to that date, and attention to leakages has improved only very slightly since 2021 with little overall improvement over the past 10 years. In short, the projections for water use and supply are very far from aligned with the targets – which sounds complicated but actually means at least a section of the population in the South East could lose access to a reliable safe water supply in the foreseeable future.

WHAT ABOUT FOOD SHORTAGES AND PRICE HIKES?

It might be of current interest that in the introduction to the second CRA (2017) it is stated that: *In general, the UK Government and the Devolved Governments endorse the conclusions of the Evidence Report prepared by the Adaptation Sub-Committee, with the exception of some of the conclusions on food security.* (my bold)

It might be worth another

question to your MP and others if the Govt now regrets the now rather complacent-looking statement on page 16: "The resilience of food supply chains is regularly tested by severe weather and other events, and consistently performs well. The Evidence Report's recommendation that new policy is needed to manage risks to UK food prices therefore does not align with the findings from our own research, including that carried out for the UK Food Security Assessment in 2009 and reviewed in 2012. The Government takes a more optimistic view of the levels of resilience that are achieved through functioning markets and diverse sources of supply"

While the Govt currently, some might say rather distastefully, points to the war in Ukraine and/or Covid, as a main reason for current problems including food shortages and price spikes, it has been pointed out by many sources including a recent article in the Guardian of 20th April 2023, that in fact bad weather in places as widely spread as Brazil, India, Spain and Morocco has been a significant factor. Also, of course, Covid may have been at least partly one of the 'new and emerging diseases this report warns of. In addition, there are some who raise the idea that the attempts by Russia to annex Ukraine are at least in part driven by the need for greater food security for their population in a climate-uncertain future and thus due at least in part to climate change.

In any event, apparently the government was prepared for the impact of fuel prices on food availability since as is also stated on p 16 *The Government has already carried out research into the risks to food supply from extreme weather events, including the potential impacts of tidal flooding on supply chains through seaports and the energy dependency of food chains. ...*

Perhaps they might go back and pay more attention to both the warning of the scientists who were warning them about the dangers to food security and also to their own introduction to the first of these risk assessments: "More than ever we live in a world

where changes to the economy, society, and to the environment are so fundamental that the past is no longer a reliable guide to the future."

WHAT ABOUT THE BUILDINGS WE LIVE IN?

2022 was the warmest year on record ever and came as part of the ten hottest years since records began which have all been this century. There were 3000 recorded additional deaths in 2022 that were attributed to temperatures which topped 40degrees in several recording sites. Remember when Faversham was known to have had the highest ever recorded temperature at 38.5 degrees Celsius in 2003? That is now regularly being topped and should be causing great alarm. The human body cannot survive for long if there is high humidity at temperatures over a mere 35 degrees celsius. These high temperature events may not last more than a few days, but for those who succumb,

the restoration of 'normal' temperatures after those few days is somewhat irrelevant. This makes the well documented lack of any real policies for the heat-proofing of care homes particularly irresponsible.

In the UK, an important aspect of reducing emissions and also helping with the rocketing cost of heating homes is that of household energy and retrofitting homes. In 2020 there was briefly a Green Homes Grant. Widely touted as the answer to mass retrofitting of the UK housing stock (which has been estimated by the Energy Saving Trust (8) to be responsible for 21% of the UKs emissions. Of these 30 million homes, around 85% are on the gas network or using other fossil fuels) the scheme lasted less than a year and closed to new applicants in summer 2021.

Of all the new homes being built around Faversham, how many are truly ready for Climate Change?

Climate Change? After all, the three Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRAs) from 2012, 2017 and 2022 all say that climate change is not in the future, it is now. Indeed as the first of these stressed in 2012: "We know that our climate has changed and will continue to change, and that the pace of change this century could be unprecedented ..."

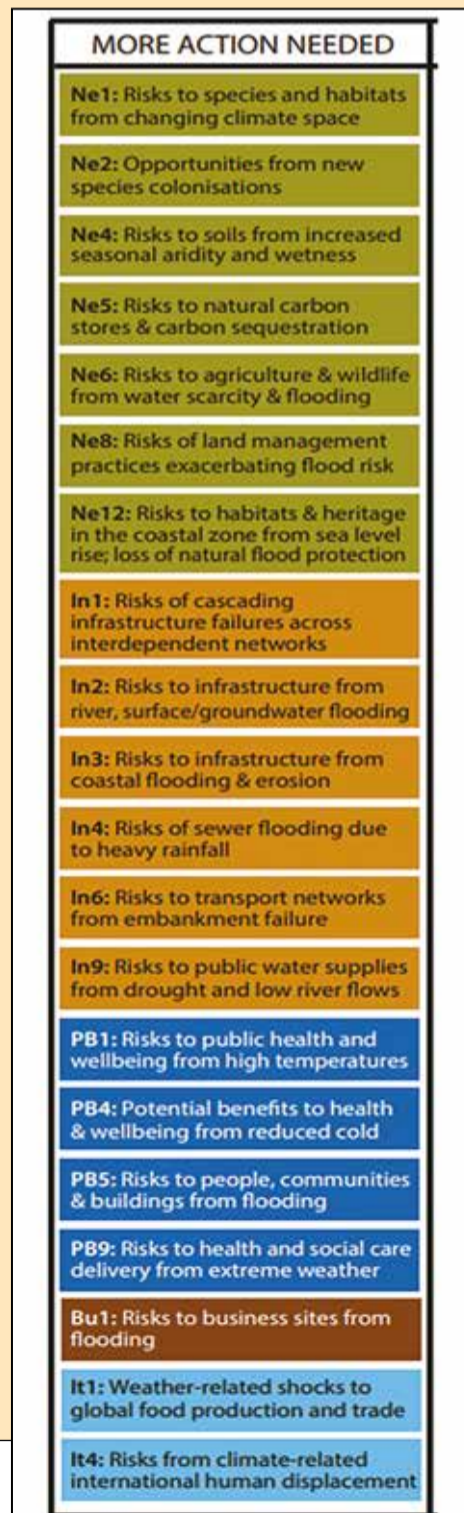
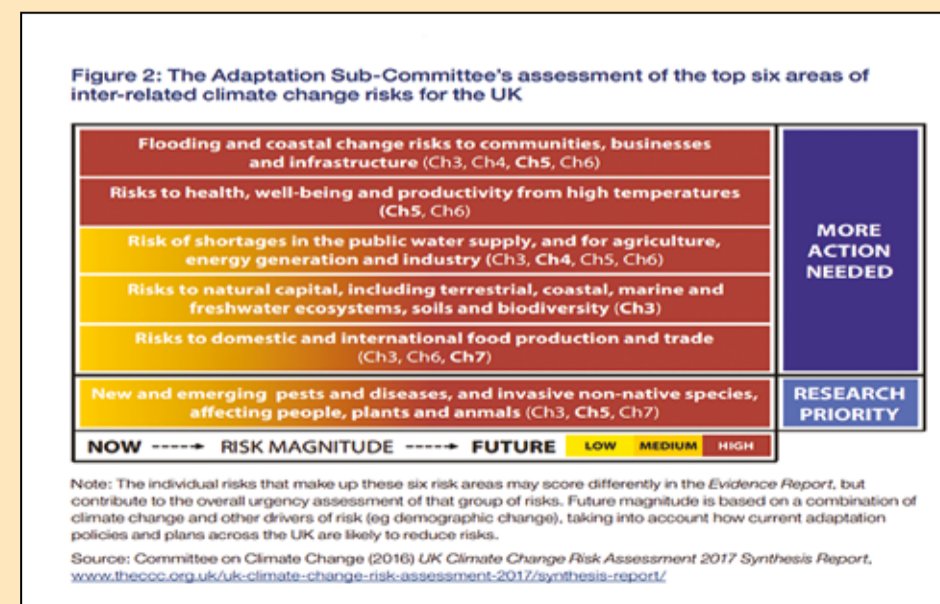
And further that: "... Climate change is where the real world meets the real economy – building effective climate resilience using a combination of the best evidence available alongside risk-based approaches is a pre-requisite for long-term economic, societal, and environmental sustainability."

Caroline Spelman, Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

THE RISKS

So what risks have the CCRAs identified as being most pressing?

Sadly, in the second CCRA there are than twice as many items in the 'More Action Needed' category than in the 'Sustain Current Action' That is, far more items were judged to need new, stronger or different government



HAVE THE RISKS BEEN ADDRESSED?

Does the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment paint a positive picture of Government action?

So what about the third of these CCRA? To me, perhaps the most alarming inclusion, is the quiet and understated mention, and seeming acceptance, of the possibility of 4°C above pre-industrial levels. Lets be clear: there is little doubt that this would result in a world which would be incapable of sustaining life as we now know it.

Indeed, this figure gave me immediate cause to go looking for research I did four years ago when I first became aware of the 'five emissions scenarios'.

These emissions scenarios from were used the UK Met Office in 2018 to make projections for the Government about the world depending on whether we reduced our reliance on fossil fuels or not. They used the idea of Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs).

In a nutshell, if I remember correctly, these were predicted outcomes of various scenarios combining how much Greenhouse Gas etc humanity contributed to the atmosphere combined with sociological and

political actions to mitigate this. The most optimistic, and indeed the one that we needed to be following to limit warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, was RCP 2.6. This required emissions globally to have peaked in 2020. At that date, global emissions would have reached the maximum that the planet could tolerate to be able to support life as we knew it and we needed at that point to start both reducing and reversing emissions.

As we all know, global emissions have not only not peaked, they have been accelerating. So, it is no surprise to me that we are quietly ditching RCP 2.6. The inescapable conclusion is that the only way we can now limit the rise to 1.5, and thus have some hope of maintaining life on earth as it exists now, is if we stop all emissions immediately AND increase the planet's ability to reabsorb the carbon that is in our atmosphere.

As you can see, the Government, while mentioning the possibility of 4°C of warming, does not actually include the RCP 8.5 projections – as in the Met office chart below. We can only speculate as to why. As can be seen from the stratospheric

trajectory of the emissions shown in the chart, we are heading towards far, far higher temperature rises in the UK than are shown in the rather benign looking soft green colours of the Progress Chart (Left) for RCP 4.5 if

the emissions trajectory is correct in the chart.

PROGRESS?

Well, below is a selection from the table of 'More Action Needed' risks from 2022. There are far too

Risk or opportunity	2050s, 2/4°C	2080s, 2°C	2080s, 4°C
N1 Risks to terrestrial species and habitats from changing climatic conditions and extreme events, including temperature change, water scarcity, wildfire, flooding, wind, and altered hydrology	Not known	Not known	Not known
N2 Risks to terrestrial species and habitats from pests, pathogens and invasive species	Not known	Not known	Not known
N4 Risk to soils from changing climatic conditions, including seasonal aridity and wetness	- H	- H	- H
N5 Risks and opportunities for natural carbon stores, carbon sequestration and GHG emissions from changing climatic conditions, including temperature change and water scarcity	- VH	- VH	- VH
N6a Risks to and opportunities for forestry productivity from extreme events and changing climatic conditions (including temperature change, water scarcity, wildfire, flooding, coastal erosion, wind and saline intrusion).	- L to - H	- L to - H	- L to - H
N6b Risks to and opportunities for agricultural productivity from extreme events and changing climatic conditions (including temperature change, water scarcity, wildfire, flooding, coastal erosion, wind and saline intrusion).	- H + H	- VH + VH	- VH + VH
N7 Risks to agriculture from pests, pathogens and invasive species	- M	- H	- H
N8 Risks to forestry from pests, pathogens and invasive species	- M	- M	- H
I1 Risks to infrastructure networks (water, energy, transport, ICT) from cascading failures	- VH	- VH	- VH
I2 Risks to infrastructure services from river, surface water and groundwater flooding	- H to - VH	- H to - VH	- VH
I5 Risks to transport networks from slope and embankment failure	- M to - H	- M to - H	- H
I8 Risks to public water supplies from reduced water availability	- H	- H	- H
I12 Risks to transport from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	- M to - H	- M to - H	- M to - H
H1 Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	- VH	- VH	- VH
H3a Risks to people, communities and buildings from river and surface flooding	- VH	- VH	- VH
H3b Risks to people, communities and buildings from coastal flooding	- H	- H	- H
H4 Risks to people, communities and buildings from sea level rise	- L	- L	- M
H6a Risks and opportunities from winter household energy demand	+ VH	+ VH	+ VH
H6b Risks and opportunities from summer household energy demand	- H	- VH	- VH
H8 Risks to health from vector-borne diseases	- L to - M	- M	- M
H11 Risks to cultural heritage	Not known	Not known	Not known
H12 Risks to health and social care delivery	Not known	Not known	Not known
H13 Risks to education and prison services	Not known	Not known	Not known
B1 Risks to business sites from flooding	- VH	- VH	- VH
B2 Risks to business locations and infrastructure from coastal change from erosion, flooding and extreme weather events	- M	- M	- M
B6 Risks to business from disruption to supply chains and distribution networks	Not known	Not known	Not known
ID1 Risks to UK food availability, safety, and quality from climate change overseas	- VH + VH	- VH + VH	- VH + VH
ID4 Risks to the UK from international violent conflict resulting from climate change on the UK	- M	- M	- H
ID5 Risks to international law and governance from climate change overseas that will impact the UK	Not known	Not known	Not known
ID7 Risks from climate change on international trade routes	- M	- H	- VH
ID9 Risk to UK public health from climate change overseas	- L	- M	- M
ID10 Risk multiplication from the interactions and cascades of named risks across systems and geographies	Not known	Not known	Not known

many to reproduce them all (34) but see if you can spot some familiar friends (you may also be baffled by the positive sign in front of the winter heating risk... yes, the Government assesses winter warming as being positive, maybe that explains the somewhat baffling lack of prioritising of the poorest during

start sloshing); Employment? No that's not it either (but there are going to be some good jobs going in the new coal mines and gas fields); Education? Nope (although we need to educate more scientists we can ignore – and as we now know, everyone needs A level Maths); One more!! Come on you've got one more ...

Risk or opportunity	2050s, 2/4°C	2080s, 2°C	2080s, 4°C
H2 Opportunities for health and wellbeing from higher temperatures	+ VH	+ VH	+ VH
H5 Risks to building fabric	- H	- VH	- VH
H7a Risks to health and wellbeing from changes in air pollution	- L	- L	- L
H7b Risks to health and wellbeing from changes in aeroallergens	Not known	Not known	Not known
H9 Risks to food safety and food security	- L	- L	- L
H10a Risks to health from water quality	- H	- H	- H
H10b Risks to health from household water supply	Not known	Not known	Not known

the current fuel crisis... you are supposed to be experiencing a warm spell in January so don't need your heating): ...

In the tables potential costs and damages are denoted with a negative sign e.g. - VH while possible opportunities are denoted with a positive sign e.g., +VH. Where uncertainty exists over the category, the range has been indicated e.g. – L to – VH. For some of the risks and opportunities, there are both potential costs and benefits.

Interestingly, this most recent CCRA also specifies a few surprising areas as being in need of further research. This is surprising because they had already been highlighted for action in previous reports - (note that still, in 2022, research into risks affecting food security seems to be given a low priority see chart above.

THE FOUR ES

Maybe, just speculating here – if you decided to make your 2023 Spring Budget Statement about things beginning with the fifth letter of the alphabet and you were a member of a Government that had declared a climate emergency, the first word to spring to mind in your E list might be Um ... let me think ... Enterprise? No that's not it ... (but good thinking guys, we all need a Star Ship to get away on once the tsunamis

Ummm... Everywhere?

Good grief!

And we all thought the Environment would be on the tippy tip of the Government's tongue given the Climate Emergency declaration and the CCRA and the CCC and all. Still, Everywhere is actually a good one since that is where global climate breakdown is.

So, if you want to tackle your damp, drafty home heating problems without simply turning up the gas, you are on your own there. Even though the Government is fully aware that helping you to do that would tackle one of the biggest emissions issues we face in the UK as well as help you slash those sky rocketing energy bills.

If you think I'm being a bit unfair springing this one on an unsuspecting Government, this is what the CCC report from last June recommended: "Create a public energy advice service to provide households with guidance on decarbonising and adapting their homes to climate change by this summer, as committed in the Energy Security Strategy. This should include an online platform including high-level trusted information and advice (including on Government schemes), a link to local providers who can undertake assessments of home energy performance, and bespoke support for households wishing to undertake more complex retrofits."

I didn't find anything up to date about this on the Government website but I did find the useful reminder about the emergency alerts going out on 23 April. These alerts are highly likely to be about issues that have been raised in the three Climate Change Risk Assessments and, as government action goes it strikes me as being a bit like an ambulance crew ringing you up just as you have a heart attack and shouting "YOU'RE HAVING A HEART ATTACK" down the phone before going home for tea.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Lets be scrupulously fair however. The issue of Greenhouse Gas Emissions is on the Government's mind. In the Spring statement, the emphasis for tackling these was put onto Carbon Capture Usage and Storage. Basically, this is the idea that we can carry on emitting dangerous gases because we can make magic cooker hood like mechanisms to suck them back out of the air again and sell them in a market that doesn't actually really exist yet either. This idea has attracted £20 billion in the Spring budget. Well, I guess that sounds like

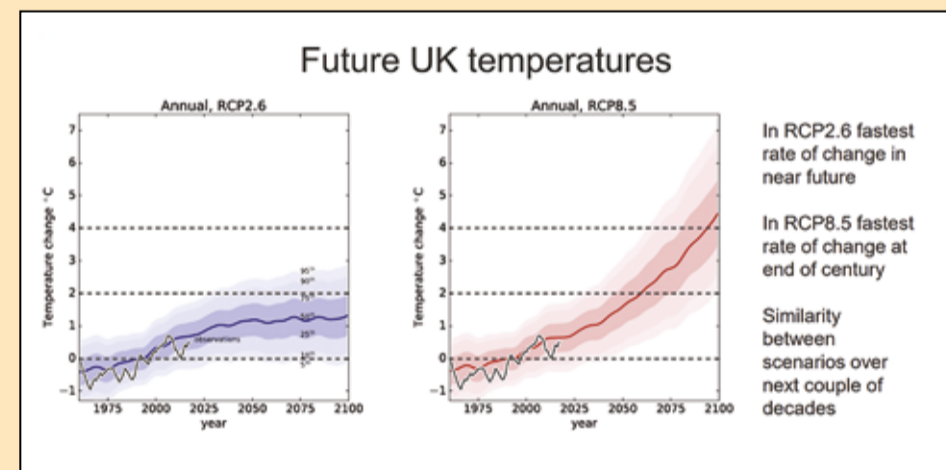
my intention to be scrupulously fair got a bit knocked of course there, but that is because these magic projects which perpetuate the myth that we don't have to cut our reliance on fossil fuels are being massively funded by a Government that is incapable of seeing anything but the money. The other fairytale that is getting top level attention and funding is bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) – which is most notably being undertaken by the highly controversial Drax power station which is, allegedly, responsible for huge areas of Canadian deforestation to feed its insatiable thirst for 'sustainable' biomass fuel.

So, at least the Government is trying. I mean, this is an impossible problem isn't it? Well, yes, its pretty tricky but there are actual proven natural carbon capture solutions that are funded by a miserable and frankly suicidal fraction of that given to speculative, headline grabbing big business climate investment opportunities.

(They don't hide this fact by the way. All the way through the Governments response to the Independent Review of Net Zero Recommendations we are told how keen they are to meet their ambitious climate ambitions (sic) alongside maximising the economic opportunities (I guess Lord Deben will award them world leader status for ambition as well as target setting). Sadly, the climate ambitions seem to run alongside economic opportunities like a badly maintained footpath runs alongside a modern ten lane motorway with no speed limit.

DEPRESSED?

If you are now too depressed to read on, and who could blame you?, I suggest a therapeutic journey to 'Otherlands'. While you might want to find some actual other lands, this is a book written by a young palaeontologist by the name of Thomas Halliday, 'Otherlands' weaves his fascination with the fossil record into a series of exquisitely written tableaux of life immediately before the earlier five mass extinctions. (No one holding a British passport was harmed in these mass extinction events so you may not have read about them in the press before.). While reading or listening you can cheer yourself with the thought that of all the scary fates that loom over us, those of being incinerated in a storm of hot glass spherule bullets or being swept away and drowned in the subsequent globally sloshing 100 metre tsunamis - as was the fate of nearly all life on earth 66 million years ago - are unlikely. Although, to be fair, the sloshing tsunamis are a bit of a possibility. However, avoiding the molten glass bullets is a fair old plus to my mind. But where were we? Ah yes, a voyage through the most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment to see what progress has been made.



RCP	Increase in global mean surface temperature (°C) by 2081-2100	Most similar SRES scenario (in terms of temperature)
RCP2.6	1.6 (0.9-2.3)	None
RCP4.5	2.4 (1.7-3.2)	SRES B1 (low emissions scenario in UKCP09)
RCP6.0	2.8 (2.0-3.7)	SRES B2 (between the low and medium emission scenarios in UKCP09)
RCP8.5	4.3 (3.2-5.4)	SRES A1F1 (high emissions scenario in UKCP09)

But there has been some funding for so called natural solutions. Seagrass, for example, has been assessed by the Wildlife Trusts as being able to capture carbon at a rate 35 times that of carbon capture in tropical rainforest and in 2020 Natural England trumpeted £2.5 million for restoration of seagrass beds which are also known to act as coastal erosion and flooding mitigation. So a proven carbon capture and storage system with proven benefits to ecosystems and future climate resilience are funded to the tune of a disastrously tiny fraction of the funding given to speculative unreliable, expensive and untested engineering projects by a Government that sees only big business and has no understanding of how the real world (ie the actual planet) works. They would rather throw tens of billion upon tens of billions of pounds into unproven 'Big Business As Usual' fantasies than into supporting our evaporating, devastated natural systems where, in my opinion and that of many others, our real hope of solutions lies. Think what we could do if we invested billions rather than, at best, millions into restoring nature and genuinely recreating

the natural carbon cycle that we have so crippled over the past couple of centuries. And in so doing built truly community-centred, sustainable, low energy/low carbon homes in harmony with nature - which is the only real way I can see that in the time we have available (terrifyingly little) we have any remaining hope of perpetuating the Holocene.

THE CLIMATE WE NEED

The Holocene is the climate period from around 10,000 years ago in which the planet achieved a fine, delicate yet stable balance of planetary gases that created the conditions in which humanity and a vast beautiful array of other life could thrive. We are now tragically and increasingly unavoidably at the beginning of the Anthropocene, in which humanity has tipped that fine balance out of kilter by pumping various gases out of the rocks and into the atmosphere.

We now need to think seriously and urgently about how to adapt to a changing climate in all sorts of ways. Perhaps the most obviously pressing are food and water security.

Baroness Brown, Chair of the

CCC Adaptation Committee, has talked of a 'lost decade' for adaptation action. This she put down largely to a perception that it is "a problem for DEFRA" rather than an over-arching issue across Government. This has resulted in comments from the CCC in their 2022 report on adaptation progress which note that, while in some departments plans seem advanced, there is lack of evidence of effectiveness on the ground in areas from Forest and Fisheries, Food Security and Infrastructure. For this latter, the report concludes that there is no evidence of cross-government collaboration on understanding or adapting the interdependence of infrastructure to increase resilience. The planning system is failing to incorporate climate resilience for example with little being done about surface water flooding despite recent extreme rainfall events. New homes are still being built on floodplains and opportunities to incorporate trees and water into new designs are generally being missed. Overheating is actually now included in new domestic design but is lacking in healthcare or in existing housing. Local communities are not being engaged or even

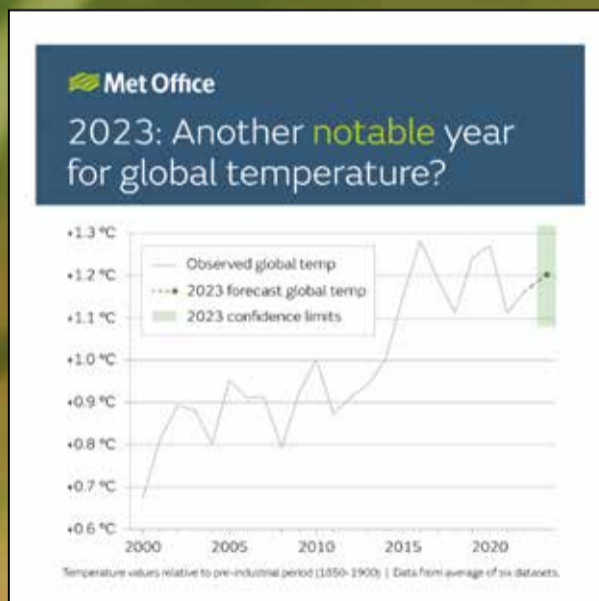
informed and the Government is only at the very early stages of working with businesses.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

It is even more urgent that extremely rapid action is taken without delay. Not least because it is widely predicted by meteorologists that this year will be an 'El Nino' year. This is a weather event that used to be confined to the tropics in its devastating conditions since it is probably prompted by equatorial ocean heating. But with climate change, El Nino events will be among the more predictable of the increasingly unpredictable climate events in what used to be the temperate regions. Last year was the hottest ever and it was not an El Nino year. This is likely to be hotter. We need our government to switch priorities onto plans for an El Nino summer this year.

In the very short meantime, please lobby for more urgency in the political agenda – and for far more local community involvement so that the agenda is actually fit for purpose but just in case:

- BUILD A COMPOST TOILET
- INVEST IN A REALLY BIG WATER BUTT
- LEARN HOW TO DISTILL SEA WATER



Above: Chart Met office source.

LOVELY WORLD JUNE 23-24, 2023

By: Chrissy Bowers



ideas, talks, technology, food, experts,
poetry, films, renewables, design,
practical solutions, installations, art.....

be inspired, enlightened and entertained



24 & 25 June 2023

The Alexander Centre, Faversham

sponsored by



DOES the news depress you: polluted rivers, plastic-ridden oceans, pesticide-soaked fields, seasons of droughts and floods?

Well, imagine instead a healthier, cleaner existence and being able to catch a glimpse of a bright future in which the 'right' environmental choices have been made.

This is the aim of Swale Friends of the Earth through the staging of a series of summer events culminating in a large-scale, Faversham-based exhibition on June 23/24 under the title Lovely World, which will feature a wide range of activities the public can get involved in.

Demonstrating that technologies and policies already in development have the potential to transform and improve the quality of the environment and people's lives, the scope of Lovely World will cover energy, transport, building, food, employment, leisure, and clothing and design.

It will feature films, music, art, installations, poetry, talks and much more. The event – to be staged at the Alexander Centre - will provide broad creative opportunities for numerous groups and projects which will be able to use every inch of the town-centre venue, its garden and the road in front.

Participants so far include the UK's largest manufacturer of grain source heat pumps, Severn Trent water services, the Low Carbon materials company, Kent School of Architecture and Planning, Cyclechic Community Cycling, Wasted Kitchen, Ripple Farm, the Library of Things, Trees for Farms, the Good Funeral Guide, Faversham and Villages Refugees Solidarity Group, Pop-Up Clothes Swap, Bumblebee Conservation, Langdon Garden and alternatives to plastic.

There will be some electric vehicles at the event and maybe a hydrogen-powered bus.

"Intelligent and imaginative investments made in these areas will change the world for the better," said spokesman Martin Collins. "Lovely World will provide an antidote to the dystopian outlook which tends to preoccupy us all, as if a better future has appeared in front of our eyes for just a short time.

"Hardly anybody now doubts that a climate crisis is upon us and yet still, globally and nationally, government of any kind has yet to demonstrate the leadership needed to avert changes catastrophic for life on Earth. Swale FoE have campaigned for years on the dangers of climate disruption; this summer we're taking a different approach and highlighting the benefits of technologies and actions which will conserve resources and improve our lives."

A world rescued from the climate crisis will be a better place to live in and raise children, Mr Collins said. "Through Lovely World we want to provide some reasons to be cheerful and give an insight to the future which can be ours;

something to find out about and very much worth working for. Visitors will see that a lovely world is possible and achievable, get a better understanding of how we can reach it and hopefully will be inspired to take action to help it come about."

The plan is for a 'walk-through experience', he added, "Where visitors see, feel and learn what a lovely world there could be when the right choices are made. We hope you'll be able to join us in June."

For more information and/or to discuss any aspect of the event enterprise phone 07922 998349 or email info@swalefoe.org.



Visit the
Faversham based
Lovely World
exhibition on
June 23/24





ALL THE FACTS
Where to find The Faversham Eye
Pick up free copies
(while stocks last) at:

Carter's Newsagent,
Market Place

Co-op, Forbes Road

Furlongs Preston Street

KGN News Preston
Street

McColl's Preston Street

Reeves Taxis

The Hobby Shop
Preston Street

Railway Cutting Barber,
St Mary's Road

Macknade Fine Foods,
Selling Road

Sondes Tea House,
Selling

Fleur de Lis, Preston
Street



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CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY R. GREGORY For solution email richardinsaxon@gmail.com

Solution to EYE 15 Crossword

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
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12				13		14				15		
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ACROSS

- 1. Type of cricket at yard held by fool (7)
- 5. Attendant dropping one drink (5)
- 8. A stiff one to have a prod at Romeo (5)
- 9. Conductor on Routemaster strangely ignored - honest! (7)
- 10. A number drink regular rum and get walked over (7)
- 11. Pound for the short dress almost finished (5)
- 12&17. Large erection gives relief to few sadly (6,5)
- 14. Man did wrong in retrospect (7)
- 17. See 12a
- 19. About to kiss man on jugs (6)
- 22. Can meal be cooked for hamper (7)
- 23. His work can be a bind? (5)
- 24. Creep left in team (5)
- 25. Banks on Henry entering forces (6)

DOWN

- 1. Finally seek a position when not working (5)
- 2. Not a landing strip (4,3)
- 3. Dread to make a mistake but did so anyway (5)
- 4&16. Spotted chain reaction? (6,6)
- 5. Struggle with the others left? Not half! (7)
- 6. School term usually takes on raw beginners (5)
- 7. Letter to surgeon initially to keep wobbly bum in shape (7)
- 12. Doctor enters inaccurate notes putting one in a grave situation (7)
- 13. It's clear. A cheapskate will have a complaint (7)
- 15. Morons soon led astray (7)
- 16. See 4
- 18. Something magical with energy diminished (5)
- 20. West Ham berated with a warning (5)
- 21. Father's having a stable relationship? (5)