



FORDWICH TOWN NEWS



Report on the Town Council meetings held on Monday 24th May 7.30pm.

All town councillors were present for the two meeting, and Councillor Alan Marsh represented KCC. There were no CCC representatives.

The first meeting was the AGM of the Town Council. Adrian McCarthy was elected as Mayor and Philip Lewis as his deputy. It was highly appropriate to elect the mayor in a meeting in the church building because this is where the mayor would have been chosen by acclamation throughout the medieval, and more recent period.

The town council meeting followed. There was a request for the yellow lines on Fordwich Road on the western side to be extended to enable safety at the Marlow Meadows junction. The council was encouraged to put in a bid for this as quickly as possible, recognising that any actual action may take up to a year to be completed. A paper is being prepared to form the basis for yet further opposition to the planning application at Moat Farm. Further action on Romany Greenacre site is being taken involving CCC and the rural police. The Environment Agency has stated that it has responsibility only to prevent flooding – and money for flood defence is determined by the number of properties that might be impacted. There is, therefore, no statutory body with responsibility for ensuring access along the course of the Stour. It is the responsibility of the landowners on both banks. But some progress is being made to establish best practice on the river and boards will soon be mounted on the riverbank. Contact is being made with Canowild after complaints about potential problems caused by their toilet and its soakaway.

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See Fordwichtown.org and

Fordwich Residents Group on FB



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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Fordwich Town Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group reports to the Fordwich Town Council. It consists of 2 councillors and 6 residents from the community of Fordwich.

The aim of the Neighbourhood plan is to develop a shared vision for Fordwich and a stronger role in shaping planning issues and opportunities our community faces in the future. The neighbourhood plan is there to represent the views of the community and for this we will need your help. There will several ways that you can get involved in the coming months and we very much hope to hear from you. Please contact Cllr Sue Thompson suet@mail.com for any more information.

Denton Homes ; numerous residents accepted the invite to meet with Denton Homes this week in St Marys . Further information can be found on their website www.welllanefordwich.co.uk but please feed back to the Town Council your questions and comments we want to hear from you.



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Notes from the (ex) Mayor

Congratulations to Adrian McCarthy on his election. I hope he receives the support and friendship I have known over the last five years. He has inherited a list of challenges, but also a position of historic fascination and wonderful links with Sandwich, Brightlingsea and the Cinque Port Federation, along with other civic authorities.

Parking on yellow lines

With enforcement sadly limited, people do park on double yellow lines. The council were advised that in most cases where an insurance claim is made following an incident involving a vehicle parked on double yellow lines, insurance companies will not pay out.

Food bank

There continues to be a growing need for basic foodstuffs and items of personal hygiene. Your donations left in the box in the church are very much appreciated by the organisers.

Town Tidy Up

Postponed twice because of wet weather, a small group eventually gathered and managed to clear the pavement by the chicane at the top of the High Street. Our thanks go to the volunteers who, in the preceding weeks had done a good job of clearing litter from much of the area around the town.



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Fordwich Town Hall

We are open again! We are so excited to show off the beautiful Fordwich Town Hall again and introduce you to this amazing historic building dating from 1544. For opening times please see www.fordwichtown.org and do check in from time to time as we will be adding dates cautiously as we find custodians able to open. If you would like to serve as a custodian, please send your details to Catherine.molin@hotmail.com. We are a member of Wheels of Time, an initiative to welcome more children to historic buildings. You will find links and more information on the website. Fordwich Town Hall is available as a venue hire for weddings, civil partnerships, renewal of vows and naming ceremonies. For more details please contact sarah.fordwichevents@gmail.com

Fordwich United Charities

We have two grants available to apply for: Coal Grant and Book Grant. The coal grant is given to a Fordwich resident to aid with heating and the book grant is given to a young person in education formal or apprenticeship to aid with tools of the trade or books. Please send FUC your details with a short accompanying text to apply for either of these grants.

We are seeking tenders for works on the crane and crane house at The Town Hall. If you know anyone who has the skills needed for this once in a lifetime opportunity to be involved in the maintenance of this historic medieval building, please let us know. All correspondence to Catherine.molin@hotmail.com



FORDWICH TOWN NEWS



FordSwitch

Last month we welcomed the Ford Motor Company to the tiny town of Fordwich for the launch of its new all-electric Ford Mustang Mach-E, at our very own Sturry Quarry! The weekend long event not only invited local residents to test drive the new Mustang but also provided opportunity to understand more about why switching to an electric vehicle is so important. Not only did our very own Mayor get behind the wheel of the new Mustang Mach-E, but local Canterbury MP, Rosie Duffield also joined in the fun and put Fordwich firmly on the motoring map! As part of the activity, Ford and British Gas kindly installed our town's very first electric car charging point, right outside The Fordwich Arms!

The team at Ford wanted to share the following message of thanks: “To all in Fordwich, we wanted to send our utmost thanks to everyone for your welcoming spirit and enthusiasm towards our entire team who joined you over the weekend. We really hope those who got behind the wheel had a brilliant time and now have more of an understanding about the importance of electric vehicles the role they play in our future”



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Residents Facebook Page

The Fordwich Residents Group Facebook page has 147 resident members. It is a great place for those who like to use it to share photos, news, and information. It was particularly useful in the recent power cut when the early risers within our town were able to pass on information quickly. It is run by volunteers to keep Fordwich connected and offers lots of links to events and our neighbours

School Room

To book the School Room please contact Roger Green hrmarmg@gmail.com. The School Room has had a deep clean and is ready for use adhering to CoVID restrictions.



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Dates for the Diary

Fordwich Open Sunday 13th June: Gardens If you can volunteer to open your garden this year, please contact Roger Green.

South East Open Studios 2021: This is a fantastic opportunity to step into studios and meet artists and makers throughout Kent: Seos-art.org for more information

Max Kimber will be opening her studio in her garden from 11am - 4pm on **4/5/6/11/12/13/18/19/20th June**

www.maxkimberstudio.co.uk

Old Way House Moat Lane, Fordwich, CT12 ODP

Wednesday 23rd June Swearing of allegiance to the Mayor of Sandwich.

Sunday 19th September: Fordwich Civic Service with Bishop Rose

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**Date of the next Fordwich Town Council meeting
Wednesday 30th June 7.30pm in the Town Hall.**

Contacting the police

In an emergency: **Phone 999**

If it is less immediately important: **Phone 101**

If it is a local matter contact: www.kent.police.uk/contactus

Or

PCSO Robin Todd

robin.todd@kent.police.uk

Download the **Country eye** app to report rural crimes such as fly tipping, simply, easily and effectively.

Councillor Contacts:

Adrian McCarthy: adrian.mccarthy@isgplc.com

Roger Green: hrmarmg@gmail.com

Geoff Connolly: geoffconnolly@btinternet.com

Sue Thompson: suet@mail.com

Philip Lewis: pandelewis@gmail.com



FORDWICH TOWN NEWS



Just to mention....

When you have a complaint – about litter, or parking, traffic, or noise pollution from the guns across the valley, power cuts or whatever else – please pass onto the council a record, by way of dates and times, photos, or recordings. Make your complaint to us as Fordwich Town Council, but wherever possible, make the same complaint to CCC or KCC, the police, the power company, UK power network, or the Environment Agency as well. The more evidence and records, the more likely they are to be answered by the powers involved.



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Thank you notes from the (new) Mayor Adrian McCarthy

I would like to thank Philip Lewis for guiding the Town through the last 5 years, his energy and vision has been second to none. He has always looked to improve the Town, firstly for its residents and then for its visitors. Philip has stepped down as Mayor, after implementing the Neighbourhood Plan, which is now in its first phase. I hope we can all contribute to this, as it will provide the Town Council with the direction that its residents, businesses and other stakeholders would like to see happen, moving forward, for the future of Fordwich. I would also like to express how honoured I am to be elected as the new Mayor of Fordwich by my fellow Councillors and I just hope I can fill the "large shoes" that Philip has left behind....



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Philip Lewis hands over.....thank you