

Tom Gates

Conservative Member for Faversham Division



A year at County Hall. Serving Kent. Serving You.

Kent County Council has 84 Members representing every part of the County. Tom has been serving the community of Faversham as a Member since 1993.

He was last elected in 2009 and, like all KCC Members, serves for a four year term of office. The next KCC elections take place on 2 May 2013.

About Tom

Tom Gates has represented Faversham on Kent County Council since 1993; he has also served on Faversham Town Council since 1992. He was born in the town in 1941, and has lived and worked there all his life. Tom is involved with many local organisations: he is President of the Faversham Branch of the Royal British Legion, a trustee of the Faversham Sea Cadets, a trustee of both the Faversham United Municipal Charities and Bensted's Charity, President of the Faversham Charity Cup and a trustee of the recently-formed Faversham Buildings Preservation Trust, to name just a few. This involvement with the town means that Tom is well aware of the concerns and problems of the residents, and is well-placed to do something about them.

Tom serves on the Planning Applications Committee, the Regulation Committee and the Communities Cabinet Scrutiny Committee at County hall. He is also



The Guildhall and Market Place, Faversham

vice-chairman of the Faversham Local Engagement Forum – a body set up to make K.C.C more accessible to the local community. He has been able to advise residents on a wide range of issues this year, including education appeals, social services problems and traffic and highways issues.

In 2004, Tom was appointed by K.C.C to the Kent Police Authority, where he serves on the Policing Performance Committee, the Policing Plan Group and the Human Resources Committee; he is also Lead Member for Community Engagement and the Special Constabulary, and Faversham's member on the Swale Community Safety partnership. He is appointed by the K.P.A to serve on 'Crimestoppers' and 'Kent People's Trust'.

Tom will be seeking re-election as Faversham's member on K.C.C in May 2013.

Work at County Hall

Attending meetings isn't all councillors do, in fact most of their time is spent out and about meeting people in their community, doing their best to help solve problems and finding out what matters most to them. However, when decisions are taken by the council, their job is to be there and put across the views of their constituents.

Tom has attended 6 out of 8 meetings of the Full Council.

Find out more about the meetings Tom has attended.

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council.aspx

Contacting Your Councillor

Elected Members are here to help residents, organisations and businesses with enquiries about KCC services. They are probably a good starting point for other enquiries too.

To contact Tom:

By Post

Abbey Green House
Abbey Street
Faversham
Kent
ME13 7BN

By Telephone

01795 538534

By email

tom.gates@kent.gov.uk

Member's Community Grant

KCC has found a great way to help fund local community groups and organisations without fuss or too much bureaucracy. Every year, each KCC Member may allocate £10,000 to worthwhile causes within their community.

Here's how Tom spent his last year:

Rotary Club, Invicta 10k Race and 2k Fun Run - £450

Abbey Physic Community Garden - £1500

The Honey Bee Project, Millfield Allotment Association - £225

Faverhsam Buildings Preservation Trust, for securing the Assembly Rooms, Faversham - £3000

The Faverhsam Society, for Preston Street Redecoration - £2000

Oare String Orchestra, for advertising and publicity project - £325

Kent Crimestoppers - £500

Groundwork Kent and Medway, for Oare Gunpowder Works Young Rangers - £1000

Faversham Festival - £1000

If you want to suggest a local group which could benefit from the Member's Community Grant then you'll find your local Councillor's contact details on the front page.

Allowances

Each Member of KCC receives a basic allowance (salary) to compensate them for the time spent on their duties and to meet many of the day-to-day expenses of being a Councillor.

Some Members also receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) when they take on extra duties such as serving as a member of the Cabinet, Leader of the Opposition or Chairman of a committee.

County Councillors can only claim the usual expenses that most businesses would pay for.

These are for actual costs for example reimbursement for fuel and travel which they have incurred whilst carrying out their duties as County Councillor.

[View Members allowances and expenses](#)

Member's Highway Fund

KCC recognises that local Members are well placed to decide which small transport and highways schemes would be most useful to their communities. That's why each Member is allocated £25,000 to spend on local schemes. It's called the Members Highway Fund and here's how it was spent last year...

Resurfacing Monks Alley, Faversham - £5,545

Replacing bus shelter in Court Street, Faversham and painting lamp columns in Abbey Street, Faversham - £9,500

Replacing bus shelter in Stone Street, Faversham - £5,000

Contribution towards 'Public Realm Project' to be used on improvements to Faversham Town Centre - £29,955

My achievements this year, and ambitions for next year

My objective this, as in past years, has been to do my best for Faversham and to ensure that our town's best interests are represented at County Hall. I work closely with the Faversham Enterprise Partnership to help identify worthwhile projects; my Members Fund this year from KCC has helped pay for town centre and highways improvements as well as providing community grants for local organisations.

I am also a member of Faversham Town Council. I am keeping a close watch on several ongoing issues, such as youth services in the town and the future of Faversham Creek. I am always available to help with KCC-related queries, or to put residents in touch with KCC officers who can provide assistance or advice.

The Faversham Local Engagement Forum provides residents with the opportunity to raise their concerns with KCC. Please contact me for details of the next meeting.



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