



Everyone deserves a warm, safe, secure place to call home, they can afford.

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Faversham has a very large number of hidden homeless. Young people unable to find accommodation that they can afford to leave home and live independently as adults. Many are sofa surfing. Faversham couples are living apart, back with their parents saving for a deposit to begin married life, delaying having children into their forties. There are families with children living in the garden shed.

Older people cannot find smaller properties to downsize to.

The survey found that the three house types Faversham residents mostly considered should have the highest priority were small family homes (2 or 3-bedrooms),

small homes for singles and couples and smaller homes to enable older people to downsize. The household types mostly considered to have the highest priority were first time buyers, social rented housing for low-income households and housing suited to frail elderly or disabled people.

The wrong kinds of houses are being built at prices local people cannot afford. We need houses that local people can afford.

Come along to a meeting to hear about what we can do to create more homes for Faversham's hidden homeless
7.30 pm Thursday 14th July in the Guildhall

Together we can do something about the housing crisis:

- We can press developers for more one and two-bedroom houses
- We can campaign for KCC to ensure that locally affordable housing is built on the Kiln Court and Osborne Court land
- If Swale provides land, Faversham's Community Land Trust can build homes which will, like the Alms houses, be genuinely affordable for local people for generations

In addition to Community Land Trust speakers, we have invited:

Cllr Antony Hook, Faversham's representative at Kent County Council, and Cllr Ben J Martin, Chair of Housing at Swale.

If you need housing, get on the housing register - even if you think it's a waste of time.

Just a reminder, Swale's affordable housing register is not only used to allocate affordable housing in the borough, it also has an important function providing the database that is used to work out how many new, affordable and social rented homes are needed for the local plan.

The FCLT Arc 4 Housing Needs Survey reveals that there are 721 'hidden homeless in Faversham including 221 sofa surfers', many of these people with housing need do not register on the council's housing list. They are aware that others will be assessed to have greater need and a higher priority when affordable homes are allocated from an oversubscribed list. As such they consider registration to be pointless and a waste of time. Why bother?

It matters because the planners use the register to determine how many affordable homes are needed in the area. If people don't register not enough affordable homes will be planned to address housing need. This is one significant reason why not enough affordable homes have been built and are not being planned.

Do you qualify for the register?

Households that have lived in Swale for 2 years or more, have less than £50k in saved assets and have an annual income less than £30-60K (depending on number of bedrooms required) qualify for the register.

Visit www.swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/housing/housing-register and take the pre-assessment to start the process.

