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9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays



TOWN HALL
FELIXSTOWE
SUFFOLK
IP11 2AG

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Cllr M Sharman (Chairman)
Cllr C Franklin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr D Aitchison
Cllr N Barber
Cllr S Bennett

Cllr J Candy
Cllr A Folley
Cllr S Harkin
Cllr M Morris

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **CIVIC & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** to be held at the **Town Hall, Felixstowe** on **Wednesday 11 December 2024** at **7.30pm** for the transaction of the following business:

Public Attendance

Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees are open to the press and public who are welcome to attend. Members of the public are invited to make representations or put questions to the Committee during the public session.

There is a limit to the number of public attending in-person. If you wish to attend in person, please email townclerk@felixstowe.gov.uk to confirm capacity.

Public are very welcome join via Zoom using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465860989>

Alternatively, you may join via the meeting ID 894 6586 0989 or over the telephone by calling 0131 460 1196.

Our online meeting guidance can be found here: <https://www.felixstowe.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Remote-Meeting-Guidelines.pdf>

Council has a duty to pay due regard to preventing crime and disorder and to conserve biodiversity in its decision-making and Members are reminded to consider the Council's commitment to climate action.

Ash Tadjrishi
Town Clerk
6 December 2024

For information (via email):

All Town Councillors
Local Press



A G E N D A

- 1. Public Question Time**
Up to 15 minutes is set aside to allow members of the public (up to three minutes each) to make representations or put questions to the Committee on any relevant matters.
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest and to consider any requests for dispensations from Members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, other registerable or non-registerable interest.
- 4. Confirmation of Minutes**
To confirm the Minutes of Civic & Community Committee meeting held on 9 October 2024 as a true record. **(Pages 3-4)**
- 5. Civic & Community Budget Report**
To receive the Civic & Community Budget report to 30 November 2024 and consider any actions deemed necessary. **(Page 5 & Appendix A)**
- 6. Occasional Grants 2024/25**
To receive an update from round 1 from Ipswich Skating Club and consider Occasional Grants applications submitted for round two, deadline 30 November 2024. **(Pages 6-8)**
- 7. Flag Flying Arrangements**
To review and consider Flag Flying arrangements at the Town Hall. **(Pages 9-10 & Appendix B)**
- 8. Harwich Harbour Ferry update**
To receive an update report on the Harwich Harbour Ferry. **(Pages 11-12)**
- 9. Summit for Charities and Voluntary Groups**
To receive an update report on the Charity Summit. **(Page 13)**
- 10. Felixstowe in Flower 40th Anniversary**
To receive an update report on the 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower. **(Pages 14-16)**
- 11. MS European Gateway Remembered**
To receive a report on the MS European Gateway remembered. **(Page 17)**
- 12. 72nd Anniversary of the Felixstowe Floods**
To receive information on the Anniversary of Felixstowe Floods. **(Page 18)**
- 13. 80th Anniversary of VE and Day**
To receive a report on the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. **(Page 19)**
- 14. Closure**
To close proceedings and confirm the date of the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 7.30pm.

223. CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT

The Committee considered a summary and detailed report showing income and expenditure against budget to 30 September 2024.

RESOLVED that the Budget Report to 30 September 2024 be received and noted as presented with no other action required at this time.

224. DRAFT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS 2025-26

The committee considered the Civic & Community Committee's draft budget proposals for the 2025-26 financial year.

Following a discussion on Occasional Grants, it was noted that the funding level had remained unchanged since it was increased from £15,000 to £25,000 in the 2017-18 financial year. Recognising the significant increase in the number of community groups over recent years and the impact of inflation, it was proposed to raise the funding for Occasional Grants to £35,000.

In a separate discussion on Twinning, members acknowledged the renewed enthusiasm for twinning activities following recent anniversary celebrations and agreed to maintain the twinning budget for 2025-26 at the current year's level.

RESOLVED that the draft budget for 2025-26, as presented, be recommended to the Finance & Governance Committee, with the Occasional Grants funding increased to £35,000.

225. TWINNING

Members noted the report on Twinning and requested that the Twinning Policy be reviewed at a future meeting.

RESOLVED that the update report on Twinning be noted and the Clerk to bring the Twinning Policy for review at a future meeting.

226. FLAG FLYING ARRANGEMENTS

Members reviewed the Council's Flag Flying Policy, drafted following the previous meeting.

It was proposed that authority for raising ad-hoc or additional flags, not specifically covered by the policy, be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Civic & Community Committee.

It was RESOLVED that, with the delegation of approval for additional flag flying as outlined, the Flag Flying Policy be adopted.

227. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.17pm. It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CIVIC & COMMUNITY BUDGET REPORT

Committee is to regularly receive reports on the Civic & Community element of Council's budget. A summary of the position to 30 November 2024 is provided below with a detailed report at **Appendix A**.

1 April - 30 November 2024 (2024 - 2025)

Felixstowe Town Council Summary of Receipts and Payments Summary - Civic & Community

Cost Centre	Receipts				Payments			
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	% Received	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	% Spent
301 Civic & Community	4,191.00		4,191	0.00%	38,578.00	24,950.00	13,628	64.67%
302 Grants				N/A	44,950.00	26,446.99	18,503	58.84%
303 Felixstowe in Flower	6,000.00	3,370.87	2,629	56.18%	9,250.00	7,399.11	1,851	79.99%
304 Communication	6,000.00	2,860.00	3,140	47.67%	22,000.00	9,806.00	12,194	44.57%
305 Community Projects & Partne	8,000.00			N/A	11,000.00	11,000.00	0	100.00%
NET TOTAL	24,191.00	6,230.87	9,960.13	25.76%	125,778.00	79,602.10	46,175.90	63.29%

Created by  Scribe

Committee is requested to consider the budget report to 30 November 2024 and decide any action it deems necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OCCASIONAL GRANTS 2024/25

In Round 1, £500 was allocated to the Ipswich Skating Club subject to confirmation that a Felixstowe venue is found (*Minute #57v 2024/25 refers*). The following update has just been received and the funding will now be released:

Sessions recommenced at Felixstowe in September once the school reopened after the summer holidays. Skating sessions have been extremely popular and they are seeing approximately 20-30 people each week turn up for the 2 hour session on a Saturday. In October the sessions were extended on a Saturday to include an extra session for skaters who had completed the grades and wanted a more social experience. In addition, they have been running fortnightly adult social skate sessions which have proved popular. They have been running fortnightly coach training sessions and now have 2 coaches who are ready to undertake a formal Level 1 coaches qualification.

Round Two

Committee is to consider the applications received for the Occasional Grant fund Round Two for 2024/25 from the following organisations:

(Members have been provided the full application details under separate cover)

Name of Organisation	Grant Project	Amount Requested	Other Funding applied for or self-funded (Total project cost)	Previous Grant given by FTC
356 Air Cadets	STEM Engagement equipment (Science, Technology, Engineer & Maths)	2,000.00	£249 (£2,249)	2017 - £400 2020 - £1,680 2023 - £1,300
Compass	Debt support for 8 local families overwhelmed by debt	1,993.20	(£1993.20)	2022 - £2,000 COL 2024 - £988 COL
Cuppa	Repair Café - recalibration of PAT tester and thermal camera	392.27	(£392.27)	2023 - £445
Edible Felixstowe	Edible Felixstowe 2025 Celebration Event / Harvest Festival	750.00	(£750)	-
F-Cat	Felixstowe Folk & Shanty Festival #2	2,500.00	£4,500 (£7,000)	2016 - £3,000 2019 - £1,000 2020 - £350 2022 R1 - £250 2022 R2 - £250

Felixstowe Lions Club	School Garden Improvement Project	1,500.00	(£1,500)	Annual Grant £8,000 CIL Grant £10,000
Felixstowe Methodist Church	New Kitchen project used by variety of groups	1,000.00	£4,000 (£5,000)	-
Felixstowe Opportunities Group	Essential repairs and Redecoration	2,689.00	£1,080 (£3,769)	2017 - £1,500 2018 - £600 2023 - £500
Felixstowe Radio	Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) outdoor equipment	1,254.00	(£1,254)	2015 - £575 2018 - £1,100 Covid - £951.19 2022 - £1,335
Felixstowe School	Community Outreach Mural	1,300.00	(£1,300)	-
Friends of Fairfield & Colneis	Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) outdoor equipment	1,725.00	(£1,725)	-
Hamilton MAS	WAVE - a move/me(a)nt for health as part of UK wide Coastal Arts Festival 'Beach of Dreams'	1,800.00	£11,000 (£12,800)	2019 - £1,000 2021 - £400
Headway	Support for People with Neurological Conditions	500.00	(£500)	2022 - £500 2023 - £500
Home Start	Cooking Group in Felixstowe for carers/parents	405.00	£1,705.10 (£2,110.10)	2016 - £500 2018 - £1,000 2023 - £1,000
i-Woman	i-Woman Community Platform events to empower women in Felixstowe	2,160.10	£2,192 (£4,352.10)	-
Ipswich Dementia Alliance	Felixstowe Dementia Café	1,500.00	£5,000 (£8,140) *	-
Little Hoppers	Undercover outdoor area	1,000.00	£4,240.65 (£5,240.65)	-
Memory Lane	Crafts and refreshments for Memory Lane Group	700.00	£300 (£1,000)	2019 - £1,000

SARS	SARS Felixstowe Activity	500.00	£224,500 (£225,000) *	2015/16/17/18 - £350 per annum 2021/22/23 - £500 per annum.
Save the Children	Santa and Rudolph's Ride Around Felixstowe Tracker	99.99	(£99.99)	2019 - £373.82 2021 - £606.71 2022 - £1,893.08 2024 - £36.99
Suffolk Mind	Improving Sustainability at Suffolk Mind's Felixstowe Office	1,800.00	(1,800)	2020 - £1,050 2022 - £1,600 2023 - £1,980
TS Landguard Sea Cadets	New Classroom – Land Clearance/ Skip Hire/ Footings	2,000.00	£22,600 (£24,600)	2017 AFW - £1,500 2022 - £1,800 2024 - £2,000
Total Grant amount requested		£29,568.56		

*Awaiting confirmation of difference/figures.

Funding Availability

The Town Council allocated £25,000 for its Occasional Grants in 2024/25. In the first round, £7,086.99 was awarded, leaving a balance of £17,913.01 for the second and final round.

However, a clerical error during the previous financial year meant that £410 (Occasional Grants Budget) and £250 (Annual Grants Budget) were not accrued for in 2023/24. These sums formed part of the £1,500 contribution to Felixstowe BID for the Love Green Felixstowe launch (*Minute #508 of 2023/24*). To avoid overspending, this reduces the second-round funding to £17,253.01, unless the shortfall of £660 is offset by the Community Support Earmarked Reserve, maintaining the full £17,913.01 allocation.

Whilst Committee is not obliged to award all the available funding, the overall total awarded in the full year 2024/25 cannot exceed £25,000 without further approval from Council.

Committee is requested to decide whether to reduce the second-round allocation to £17,253.01, or Use £660 from the Community Support Earmarked Reserve to maintain the full allocation of £17,913.01; and, review and consider applications for the second round of grants, noting the revised available budget.

AGENDA ITEM 7: FLAG FLYING ARRANGEMENTS

Civic & Community Committee is requested to undertake a further review of the Council's Flag Flying Policy to ensure clarity, consistency, and appropriateness in the handling of requests to fly flags that are not currently listed in the approved policy.

The current Flag Flying Policy was reviewed and updated by the Civic & Community Committee at the previous meeting (*Minute #226 of 2024/25 refers*) and is at **Appendix B**.

The latest policy specifies the days and occasions for flag flying at the Town Hall and introduced a clause delegating authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Civic & Community Committee, to consider ad-hoc flag raising requests not otherwise covered by the policy.

Since its adoption, recent requests have highlighted challenges in its implementation, particularly regarding the handling of politically sensitive flags and international causes.

The Council received a request from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign to fly the Palestinian flag on the 29th November for the UN's International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The request was received out of time for consideration by the Civic & Community Committee, therefore the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Mayor and Committee Chairman, considered and ultimately declined the request.

The situation underscored the challenges of delegated authority for politically sensitive requests, given the potential for public scrutiny and perceptions of bias.

A subsequent request from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign has been received, asking the Council to fly the Palestinian flag in remembrance of the 17,000+ children who have reportedly been killed in the past year. This request introduces further complexities, as it underscores the deeply emotive and political nature of such gestures.

Challenges Identified

1. **Delegated Authority and Decision-Making:**
Decisions to fly another nation's flag are inherently political acts, which can attract significant public attention and scrutiny. This raises questions about whether such decisions are appropriate to be delegated to an apolitical officer like the Town Clerk.
2. **Precedent and Consistency:**
The policy's automatic inclusion of the Ukrainian flag as a solidarity gesture following Russia's invasion in 2022 has legitimised the flying of international flags in certain contexts. However, this precedent complicates decision-making for subsequent requests.
3. **Clarity of Criteria:**
The absence of clear criteria or principles to guide decisions on ad-hoc flag raising requests risks inconsistency and controversy.

4. Community and Reputational Impact:

Decisions to fly or decline to fly specific flags have implications for community cohesion, the Council's reputation, and public perception of its impartiality.

The Civic & Community Committee is therefore requested to review the Flag Raising Policy, defining clearer criteria for assessing ad-hoc flag raising requests, particularly for international causes or politically sensitive matters; and, consider the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's request for the Town Council to raise the Palestinian flag in remembrance to the loss of life in the past year.

AGENDA ITEM 8: HARWICH HARBOUR FOOT FERRY 2025 FUNDING SEASON

The annual meeting regarding the Harwich Harbour Ferry funding for the 2025 season took place on 14th November. Christian and Lucy Zemann have successfully operated the Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry for 10 years, providing critical transport connectivity for the region. Despite increasing costs due to inflation, fuel prices, maintenance, and regulatory compliance, funding levels have remained stagnant since they took over the service.

Funding from partners currently totals £30,750 per annum, distributed as follows:

- Suffolk County Council: £12,250
- Essex County Council: £12,500
- Tendring District Council: £1,500
- East Suffolk Council: £1,500
- Babergh District Council: £1,000
- Felixstowe Town Council: £1,000
- Harwich Town Council: £1,000

Key Challenges

1. Rising Costs:
 - The service's annual operating costs are significantly higher than those of the previous operator due to expanded capacity (12 to 58 passengers per trip) and additional Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) compliance costs, such as training and vessel adaptations.
2. Funding Gap:
 - Current funding only covers approximately 20% of operating costs, compared to 92% under the previous operator.
3. Reduced Service:
 - From 2025, the ferry will operate 5 days per week (Wednesday to Sunday) during April, May, September, and October unless additional support is secured.
4. Future Aspirations:
 - Freeport East has emphasised the importance of a year-round ferry connection, which they consider vital for the region. However, achieving this goal would require:
 - A winter vessel costing a minimum of £200,000.
 - Berthing infrastructure at each port, estimated at £2,000,000 (based on figures from an older feasibility study).
 - The ferry operators have liaised with Freeport East, councils, and private investment firms to access funding but have encountered barriers. Consequently, the development of a year-round service has been deferred to prioritise securing the summer service's future.

Opportunities

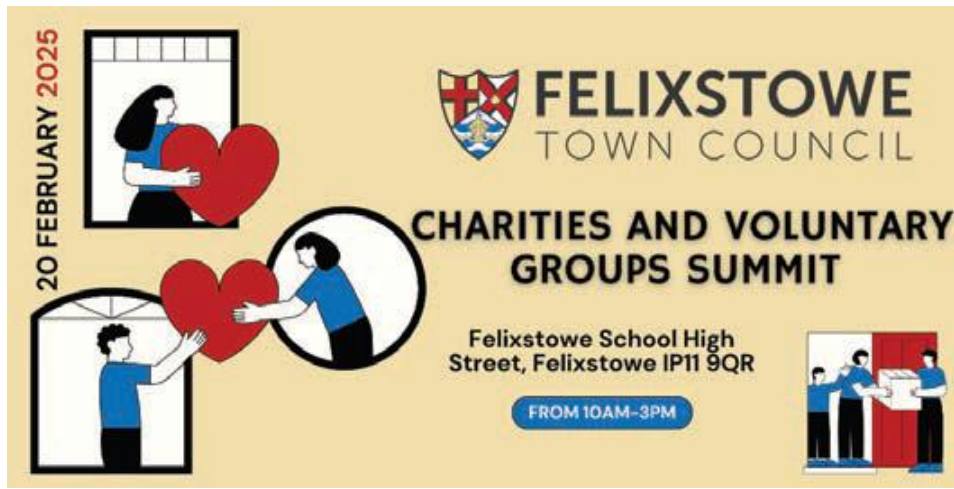
1. Collaborative Marketing Campaign:
 - A targeted marketing strategy is being developed to boost passenger numbers and raise awareness of the ferry's importance. This is subject to securing additional funding.
2. Business and Marketing Planning:
 - Babergh District Council will assist the ferry operators in applying for grants to develop a comprehensive business plan aimed at ensuring sustainability.
3. Enhanced Collaboration:
 - Partners have committed to more frequent meetings to explore funding opportunities and marketing initiatives.

Actions

- Grant Applications:
 - Harwich Harbour Ferry to collaborate with Babergh District Council on grant funding applications for business and marketing planning.
- Partner Meetings:
 - A further meeting is being planned (date TBC) to allow partners to explore funding strategies and operational enhancements.
- Marketing Campaign:
 - Develop a collaborative marketing campaign to increase passenger demand and support the ferry's sustainability.
- Stakeholder Updates:
 - Regular updates will be shared to ensure alignment on progress and funding opportunities.

Committee is requested to note the update report on the Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUMMIT



On 20th February 2025, Felixstowe Town Council is hosting a Charities and Voluntary Groups summit at Felixstowe School. The Summit, which will be hosted from 10am-3pm, will provide the opportunity for local charities and voluntary groups to connect, network and to share their experiences of operating in Felixstowe and the surrounding area. Attendees will be provided with the opportunity to join a series of workshops on different topics relevant to running a charity or voluntary organisation. Lunch will be provided.

Charity, not for profit and voluntary organisations based in Felixstowe and the surrounding area are invited to attend and can book tickets up to two tickets per group for free at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/felixstowe-town-council-charity-and-voluntary-groupssummit-tickets-1104426933689

To aid the planning of the event, attendees are also asked to complete a short survey to identify what they are most interested in learning about, and to register the greatest challenges that their charity or voluntary organisation faces. The survey is available at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQ8WK3J .

Committee is requested to note the update report on the Charities and Voluntary Groups Summit and decide any action it deems necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 10: FELIXSTOWE IN FLOWER

The Felixstowe in Flower Working Group met on 24th October and 4th December. Members of the Working Group discussed opportunities to increase engagement and to highlight the 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower.

Members discussed a number of pathways to increase sponsorship and engagement with the Felixstowe in Flower competitions, which are outlined below.

Increasing Sponsorship

Members suggested that letters should be distributed to previous sponsors by the Mayor, and visit paid to businesses who have previously sponsored Felixstowe in Flower. It was suggested that sponsorship forms should be redesigned to highlight the significance of the 40th Anniversary, and to feature images of the tubs, baskets and troughs from Felixstowe in Flower 2024.

Members suggested that the price of the tubs, baskets and troughs should remain frozen, to retain current sponsors, and to ensure that sponsorship remains accessible to businesses and individuals throughout the town.

Increasing Engagement with Competitions

School Competitions

Members suggested that all Schools be visited by the Mayor to encourage participation in the School Competitions. It was also suggested that local businesses could sponsor a tub, provided to Schools, which could be filled as part of the Felixstowe in Flower Competitions, to encourage engagement. Members suggested that kits be provided to schools, consisting of essential items, such as canes, seeds and compost, to enable their engagement. Members emphasised a desire to involve as many Schools as possible.

Members suggested that it may be beneficial to allocate an optional theme to the School Painting Competitions, to increase participation. For example, ruby red, to symbolise the 40 Year Anniversary.

Commercial and Public Competitions

Members suggested that competitions categories should be refined, with no additional categories to be added, to ensure a high quality of entries, and to enable a seamless Awards Ceremony. Any new categories should be substituted for an existing category, or otherwise carefully considered. It was also suggested that Runners Up should not be awarded at the 2025 Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony, to improve the quality of the Ceremony.

Members raised the potential of sponsorship of the cups presented at the Felixstowe in Flower Awards Ceremony. It was suggested that local businesses or individuals may wish to sponsor a cup for a small sum of money.

Members suggested that local Scouts and Guides groups may be engaged to assist with the distribution of sponsorship and competition forms.

2025 Felixstowe in Flower Launch

The 2025 Felixstowe in Flower Launch will take place on 7 June 2025 at Felixstowe Triangle.

Members suggested that, to coincide with the Launch, local businesses participate in a 'window dressing competition' to highlight the 40th Anniversary, to span from 1-7 June 2025.

Highlighting the 40th Anniversary

Members are discussing further possible mechanisms to highlight the 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower, such as a 'Living Wall' of plants, to be placed somewhere in Felixstowe town centre, some '40th Anniversary' Felixstowe in Flower tote bags, with a unique design, to be distributed for free at the launch event. Further information will be brought to Committee in due course for consideration.

A Timeline for the Year Ahead

Members created a timeline of actions to span the year, which can be viewed below:

January	<p>Organise a meeting with the event's Main Sponsor to discuss what the sponsorship involves and to take recommendations for the anniversary year.</p> <p>Decide a venue for FIF Awards Evening</p> <p>Quote for signage for trucks/and new plaques/stickers.</p> <p>Contact all community groups wanting a stall for the launch. e.g. Allotment Association, Garden club, Garden Centre, Country Market, etc.</p>
February	<p>Draft and distribute letter from Mayor to all previous sponsor of FIF. Thank them for their previous support and notify them about 40th Anniversary.</p> <p>Start door-knocking for new sponsorship.</p>
March	<p>Make contact with schools and organise for the Mayor to visit an assembly the following month with information about competitions.</p> <p>Feature in the Spring Magazine.</p>
April	<p>Week of Monday 13th April - Mayor to present each school with Felixstowe in Flower Kit 'including a gro-bags, seeds and some canes.</p> <p>Launch Competition Forms/ Annual Town Meeting.</p>

	Invite all sponsors and community Group to attend the Launch.
May	<p>Basket/troughs/tubs planted and in location</p> <p>Competitions to be promoted and forms included in the Summer 25 Magazine</p> <p>List of baskets/troughs/tubs location of sponsors</p> <p>Contact local branches of Scouts/Guides to distribute the competition forms.</p> <p>Councillors to assist with the promotion of competitions and forms around the town.</p>
June	<p>Launch Saturday 7th June 10am 12pm Triangle (All booked)</p> <p>Communicate with all entrants following entry. Thank them for their entry.</p>
July	<p>Judging to take place/Schools/Gardens/ Allotments</p> <p>Photos of all gardens/schools/ Allotments prior to judging.</p> <p>Change the panel of judges to ensure that new entrants are recognised</p>
August	Continued maintenance of baskets/troughs/tubs
September	<p>FIF Awards Evening (venue TBC) Thursday September 18th</p> <p>Invite all entrants. Main sponsor will give out the 'The best of the Best' Award.</p>
October	Baskets to be taken down.

Committee is requested to note the update report on the 40th Anniversary of Felixstowe in Flower and decide any action it deems necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 11: MS EUROPEAN GATEWAY REMEMBERED

The MS European Gateway disaster occurred on 19th December 1982 when the roll-on/roll-off ferry collided with another vessel, Speedlink Vanguard, in heavy fog near the Port of Felixstowe. Tragically, six lives were lost, and several others were injured in the incident. The collision caused significant damage to the ferry, which capsized partially, leading to a rapid evacuation effort under challenging conditions.

The event remains a poignant moment in Felixstowe's maritime history, highlighting the dangers faced by those working at sea and the importance of ongoing improvements in safety protocols and navigation technology.

To honour the memory of those who lost their lives and to reflect on the courage of those involved in the rescue efforts, a commemorative plaque has been installed at The Viewing Platform, Wolsey Gardens, above the Town Hall Gardens. This plaque replaces the previous one, ensuring that the disaster and its victims are not forgotten.

A short service will be held to unveil the new plaque on the 42nd anniversary of the disaster, at 11:00am on Thursday, 19th December 2024.

Committee is requested to note the report on the unveiling of the MS European Gateway plaque and the commemorative event on the 19th December.

AGENDA ITEM 12: 72nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELIXSTOWE FLOODS

On 31st January 1953, Felixstowe experienced one of its darkest nights during the East Coast Floods, which claimed the lives of 41 people locally. The floods caused widespread devastation across the town, with some of the deepest floodwaters recorded near the present-day site of the Flood Memorial at Langer Primary School on Langer Road.

The Flood Memorial was unveiled at midnight on 31st January 2006, exactly 53 years after the tragedy, and serves as a solemn tribute to the victims. Each year, the anniversary is marked by a short commemorative service at the wall, featuring the laying of a floral wreath. The blue line at the top of the wall represents the depth of the floodwaters that night, while a plaque lists the names of those who lost their lives.



In 2022, the Memorial underwent refurbishment to ensure its preservation ahead of the 70th Anniversary. A full list of victims is also available on the Town Council's website, providing further historical context and honouring their memory.

The 72nd Anniversary will be marked on 31st January 2025 with a short service at the Flood Memorial at 10:00am, attended by local schoolchildren. Further details about the service will follow, but it will likely include:

- A floral wreath-laying ceremony.
- Reflections on the events of 1953.
- Participation from local community representatives and stakeholders.

Committee requested to note the report on the forthcoming service to mark the 72nd Anniversary of the Felixstowe Floods.

AGENDA ITEM 13: 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8th May. As a historically significant milestone, this presents an opportunity for Felixstowe to commemorate the sacrifices made during World War II with a range of events, bringing together the community and honouring those who served.

Proposed Events and Activities

Felixstowe Remembers VE80 Torch Parade and Beacon Lighting

Felixstowe Remembers has proposed a torch-lit parade akin to the successful and poignant event held in 2018 for the centenary of remembrance of World War I. This event would involve 112 torches, representing the individuals from Felixstowe who lost their lives in World War II, including members of the armed forces, home guard and civilians.

Key Details:

- 112 torches sourced from Lewes Bonfire Societies at £4 each (total £800).
- Other potential costs: road closures, barriers, programmes, and insurance.
- Coordination with the Salvation Army to perform “*I Vow to Thee My Country*” at 21:30, aligning with a national beacon-lighting initiative.

The event could create a powerful, intergenerational tribute and bring home the personal sacrifices of the Felixstowe community.

Outdoor Screening

The Landguard Trust has proposed hosting an outdoor screening of *They Fought Them in Gunboats*, along with an AV projection display on the Fort towers. Discussions with production teams are ongoing. The event may include partnerships with the Felixstowe Museum and Felixstowe Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL).

The Landguard Trust has expressed a desire to coordinate with other local plans to ensure a unified and collaborative approach. The Felixstowe RBL is also keen to ensure alignment with other civic activities to avoid overlap and to maximise public participation and visibility. Chairman of the Felixstowe RBL has also raised the importance of commemorating VJ Day (Victory over Japan) on 15th August 2025 and suggests discussions to coordinate these events as part of the broader commemoration.

Coordination between the Town Council, the RBL, Landguard Trust, and Felixstowe Museum is essential to avoid duplication and ensure a unified programme of activities. With several organisations expressing interest and plans already under discussion, the 80th anniversary of VE Day presents a unique opportunity for Felixstowe to unite in a meaningful, respectful, and collaborative commemoration of this significant historical milestone.

The Committee is asked to consider events for VE and VJ Day 2025, ensuring the appropriate promotion and resourcing of these historic commemorations.