



MAYOR – MR TREVOR MARTIN
Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7AE
Telephone: 01795 503286 Email: Trevor.Martin@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Mr Mike Baldock
Leader
Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 3HT

12 August 2022

Dear Mike

Nutrient Neutrality

Natural England identified Swale as one of the first 32 councils affected by the nutrient neutrality rulings by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in 2018 and upheld by the High Court in 2021 concerning the pollution of designated protected areas by excessive nutrients in the form of nitrates and phosphates. In Swale, I understand that the main issue identified by Natural England was run-off from agricultural land.

Faversham has seen an increasing level of housing development in recent years, and this is set to increase further under the draft Local Plan. The increasing number of housing developments in Faversham will inevitably increase the discharge of nutrients from the Waste Treatment Works and therefore result in more nutrients being carried into the Swale Special Protection Area / SSSI / Marine Conservation Zone / Ramsar site.

I seek clarification on the wider implications of the nutrient neutrality rulings for Swale generally and Faversham in particular, especially where the impact of proposed new housing developments is concerned.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Martin
Mayor of Faversham