

**Faversham Town Council, Environment Committee**  
**Water Quality Working Group**  
**Draft Terms of Reference**  
**December 2024**

This working group will be subject to Faversham Town Council's general terms of reference.

The Water Quality Working Group (WQWG) is a sub-group of Faversham Town Council's Environment Committee. Its focus is on the parish's tidal and freshwater systems extending across the entire parish and into the Swale, acknowledging the link between water quality, the flow rate of watercourses flowing from the chalk aquifer (e.g. the Westbrook), and water abstraction both inside and outside the parish. The WQWG's purposes are to:

- Consider ways in which Faversham Town Council could help to bring together the interests of various groups using Faversham Creek, freshwater courses and water bodies (e.g. Stonebridge Pond) as amenities to the benefit of all. Possible interest groups to include might be: sailing, rowing, canoeing, houseboats, boatyards, shops, restaurants, anglers and walkers.
- Consider ways in which water quality testing could be further improved, the results used to improve water quality, and the results more widely publicised.
- Explore options for improving water quality in the Creek by using national policy tools such as the Water Framework Directive to designate the Creek as a bathing area or leisure amenity, an area sensitive to eutrophication, and/or an Impact Risk Zone for the nearby Swale SSSI. The goal of such designations would be to set higher standards for water quality standard than are required at present.
- In collaboration with FavWat, monitor levels of key pollutants in the Creek and in freshwater courses and water bodies, as the basis for identifying remedial actions that Faversham Town Council can undertake. The overall goal of such actions should be to safeguard public and ecological health and may include measures such as upgrading the Faversham Wastewater Treatment Works to conduct tertiary processing. Reducing water abstraction from the chalk aquifer may be another option, with the goal of restoring the flow of chalk streams such as the Westbrook.
- Engage with the private sector, local charities, voluntary groups and the general public about the levels of key pollutants in Faversham Creek and local freshwater courses and water bodies, the measures needed to improve water quality, and how they can help bring about change.
- Engage with other interested parties as a member of the Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership (MSEP) North Kent Catchment Improvement Group.