

FTC ALLOTMENT REPORT.

I want to start up the Faversham joint allotment best plot competition, with the help of Cllr Claire Martin. We will be judging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd spots on each allotment site, and then have an overall winner. Vouchers will be given out as £50, £30, and £20, and the overall winner will have the cup with their name on it, looking to announce the winners at the in bloom event on October 21st.

Stonebridge.

There are no issues currently at Stonebridge allotments.

We are meeting with the new chair on the 2nd of September.

Hedge cutting will start in the 1st or 2nd week of September, around the allotment, and all hedge cutting will be placed in the Stonebridge allotment site ready for the bonfire in late October.

Stonebridge has 72 people on the waiting list.

Millfield.

Millfield has a waiting list of 49 people.

We have had issues with pesticides being used on Millfield allotments. This has been brought to the attention of the chair that in the Management agreement, she has signed and that it states in the Tenancy agreement that we are a pesticide-free council.

The popular tree along the train track and one at the bottom of the site, I have had these looked at for safety reasons, as the bottom tree is unsafe, and the cheapest quote I have had to remove the tree is £864. Cllr Claire Martine is aware of the bottom tree and what safety issues it presents.

In the future, the popular tree along the train track may need to be reduced in size, which could cause an issue with Network Rail, as they are not keen on tree work being done near the rail track, and the cost could be in the thousands.

St Nicholas.

There is an issue currently at St Nicholas allotment, with one of the new tenants in the new build properties. The housing association have been informed of this issue, and I am waiting for a response.

St Nic has 6 on the waiting list.

Joseph had been sending the waiting list to the secretary at St Nic's, and we have been informed by the chair (Jennie) that the secretary cannot get into her emails, and we were not aware that there is a members' secretary. We have spoken to Jennie, and she has asked for the list to be sent to her going forward.

There are vacant plots on the site and 6 on the waiting list.

Perry court.

No issues on site, working well.

The site is now full, and there are 10 on the waiting list.

The allotment is looking good.

The walking trails are being cut. We have done two cuts already. The prices for a sit-on mower to hire, from Go Mowers, are £150 a day. We are hiring this over two days; the orchard has had moloch put around the base.

Mowing Schedule – Faversham, Kent (Fescue Lawn)

- **March – April (spring growth starts):**
 - Mow twice.
 - Set mower high (6–7 cm).
- **May – June (peak growth):**
 - Mow **twice**.
 - Keep height around 5–6 cm.
- **July – August (hot/dry periods):**
 - Growth slows, mow once.
 - Raise cutting height slightly (6–7 cm) to protect from heat/drought.
- **September – October (second growth peak):**
 - Back to two cuts. Mow twice.
 - Best time for lawn repairs/overseeding.
- **November (slowing down):**
 - Mow once.
 - Keep mower high.
- **December – February (winter/dormant):**
 - Usually, **no mowing** is needed.
 - Just clear leaves/debris to prevent disease.

The landscape that's on site needs to be signed off on our area, but my concern is that there are trees that are dead and need replacing, and stone or flint needs to be removed. To get hold of the person overseeing this is difficult to pin down. When trying to get a meeting, they turn up on a different day and then phone to say the work is done. Keep asking for a tree plan of the site, no luck. An email has been sent to the project manager.

Hi Stacy

1 Plan Attached, although all trees have been replaced early this season, some will die due to the weather unless you want to water

2 We still have work in the old compound area, the bit fronting the road to the left of the drive to the allotments. This will be graded and reseeded. We have no other de-stoning work planned.

3 The attached plan shows the grass length envisaged, except for the kick about area, which is longer; the residents would not have been advised of anything differently

4. Until we have a reliable water supply, I would keep our landscaping to a minimum cut.

Don't forget the grass path up to Aldi

Regards

David Clark

Estate and PX Manager

This was the last email I had from him. There is no response to the bit about reseeding work, as I have asked when the timeline will be.

Perry Court has people on the waiting list, and it continues to grow.

North Preston.

All is well on the site. The site is almost full,

There have been bonfires on site, which I would like to stop and have two burning bins put on site this I hope this will stop the big piles that keep appearing, which are mostly not allotment rubbish and being brought onto the site.

North Preston has 10 people on the waiting list.

The treasurer is aware of these bits of work that need to be done and has been emailed, the price to fix the door and the twirly bit for the Woo Hoo toilet fan. He said it was taken down and is on site somewhere.

Faversham in bloom.

Ted Wilcox would like me and Joe to meet at the Rec to discuss with the judges how FTC has taken on the Rec on a Wednesday, and to discuss the volunteer group and what they have achieved.

Town Planters.

The six town planters are doing well, keeping up with the watering we have had them for 3 months. The car park planter is looking leggy, and West Street. The court street planter gets hit by the wind a lot; the timeline for these to be picked up is the 5th.

Planted up the planter at Preston Street. The leading light helps with keeping it tidy, working well now, and we have also planted up a new planter at the back of the central car park

The three tree planters in the central car park are in a bad state and need to be made safe. I have asked SBC if we could help them make them safe again, by providing the materials, and FTC would do the work, waiting on a reply.

Made safe one of the cherry trees in the central car park, a big branch was blocking the pathway. Taken photos of the work carried out and sent to SBC, no feedback from this.

The price of a new planter at Lower Road, oak & teak, is £475.24 each, and black is £352.80, with a delivery charge of £50.00 plus costs for plants/soil. We are waiting on Julian to determine the best placement.

Pumpkin Report.

I have had 4 plot holders sign up for the Pumpkin competition.

Benches report.

New plaque and bench installed at Stonebridge Pond.

The stone street bench has been painted, stained, and finished with varnish.

Report on the Blast Wall.

Walked around the wall area with Claire Martin to look at the growth on the walls, all looked fine.

The cutting of the hedge around Stonebridge allotment will start sometime in September.

Stacey Woolf
Facilities Manager
July - August 2025