

Report to Faversham Town Council – 1st September 2025

Funding Campaign for Ham Marshes Development Judicial Review

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council's approval to launch a community fundraising campaign, in partnership with the Faversham Society, the Faversham Creek Trust, and Save Ham Marshes, to support the costs of the judicial review against the Ham Road development.

2. Background

Faversham Town Council has resolved to challenge the Secretary of State's decision on the Ham Road development by way of a judicial review. As set out in the legal budget update, the cost of taking the case through to the High Court hearing could be significant.

In order to fund this action, it is proposed to launch a community fundraising campaign with local partner organisations. This will provide residents and supporters with the opportunity to pledge financial support to the legal challenge.

3. Fundraising Arrangements

- **Target:** The fundraising target is set at £100,000, which is the upper estimate of potential legal costs through to the conclusion of the case.
- **Platform:** A SurveyMonkey page has been set up to receive pledges:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HamRoadAppeal>.
- **Partnerships:** The campaign will be undertaken jointly with the Faversham Society, the Faversham Creek Trust, and Save Ham Marshes, all of whom have confirmed their support.
- **Transparency:** Funds raised will be ring-fenced specifically for the judicial review. Any amounts not spent will be returned proportionally to donors, based on their original pledge.
- **Promotion:** The campaign will be publicised through Council channels, partner organisations, and wider community networks to maximise support.

4. Financial Implications

The campaign will provide the resources necessary to meet legal costs without placing the full burden on the Council's budget. By working with partners and the wider community, the Council will demonstrate transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility in pursuing the judicial review.

5. Recommendation

That the Council:

1. Approves the launch of the fundraising campaign for the Ham Road judicial review.
2. Confirms its partnership with the Faversham Society, Faversham Creek Trust, and Save Ham Marshes in delivering the campaign.
3. Notes that pledges will be received via SurveyMonkey and that the target is set at £100,000.
4. Agrees that any funds not spent will be returned proportionally to donors.