

Motion: Water Safety Along Faversham Creek

Proposed by: Cllr Rob Crayford

Faversham Creek is an important part of our town, enjoyed by residents, visitors, walkers, boat users and businesses. As access to and activity around the Creek continues, the Town Council should ensure that appropriate measures are in place to help protect people should they accidentally enter the water or find themselves in difficulty.

Water-related incidents remain a significant community-safety concern. Kent Fire and Rescue Service reports that its crews have attended more than 300 water-related incidents across Kent in the last three years, including 23 deaths, while national figures show that 202 people died accidentally in water-related incidents during 2025, with the majority occurring at inland locations.

Public rescue equipment can provide an important means of helping somebody in the water while the emergency services are on their way. Alongside traditional life rings, equipment such as throw bags, throw lines and dedicated water-safety stations may be appropriate at some locations.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Undertake a review of existing public water-safety and rescue equipment along Faversham Creek, including its location, condition, accessibility, visibility and signage.
2. Identify areas along the Creek where there may be gaps in existing provision or where the level of risk warrants additional measures.
3. As part of the review, consider whether additional or alternative public rescue equipment would improve safety, including life rings, throw bags/throw lines, water-safety stations, improved signage and emergency location information.
4. Seek advice and, where appropriate, work with relevant organisations including Kent Fire and Rescue Service, HM Coastguard, the RNLI, Swale Borough Council, landowners and other organisations with responsibility or expertise in water safety.
5. Receive a report back setting out the findings of the review, any recommended improvements, responsibilities for the maintenance and inspection of equipment, and indicative costs or potential sources of external funding.

Rationale

This motion is not intended to suggest that Faversham Creek is unsafe, but to ensure that the Town Council takes a proactive and evidence-led approach to community safety.

Faversham has a tidal creek running through areas used regularly by residents and visitors. Reviewing the equipment already available, identifying any gaps and considering modern public rescue equipment is a proportionate preventative step.

In a water emergency, the actions taken in the first few minutes can be critical. Ensuring appropriate rescue equipment is visible, accessible and properly maintained could help a member of the public assist someone in difficulty without entering the water themselves and potentially becoming another casualty.

A periodic review will provide assurance that the safety measures around our Creek remain appropriate for the risks and for the way this important part of Faversham is used today.