

Cllr Christopher Cushing

Fakenham Lancaster North District Council Report – 24th April 2024

1. Urban Extension - A148 Roundabout & Nutrient Neutrality

- Martyn Fulcher, Director for Place, says he expects to be notified in May of outcome of the bid for DLUHC funding amounting to £1.4m to cover the additional funding required for the new roundabout. Planning work proceeds on the assumption that funding will be granted which means that the roundabout will be built this autumn.
- No news is available on mitigating the nutrient neutrality issues that affect the site and whole town.

2. FLASH Project - Swimming Pool & 3G Artificial Pitch

- The front page of the 'Dereham & Fakenham Times' on 11th April stated, "Doubts over town's £11m pool dream – Delay in government support for new facility". It is appropriate for the project to highlight the risk that the development cannot proceed until the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has sent a formal letter offering the nearly £10m funding to NNDC.
- However based on the feedback I have received from officers and Jerome Mayhew MP, there is an expectation that the formal offer will be received soon. There are no red flags on the application and as far as anyone is aware, and it is simply proceeding through DLUHC's standard funding offer approval process.
- Steve Hems, the NNDC Director of Communities who is responsible for the delivery of the swimming pool and 3G pitch, has agreed the framework route to be taken. They are progressing the process around this in readiness of official approval of the funding. This should mean that they will be able to press forward with the project as soon as they receive the funding offer without an adverse impact on the timeline.
- There is a Steering Group scheduled for 29th April so more information will be available then.

3. Water Moor Lane Development – Alleged Tree Felling

- The site is subject of a planning application ref - PF/23/0649 - Erection of seven dwellings with parking and shared surface access drive. The proposal has been held up by Nutrient Neutrality matters. There were three mature ash trees that were deemed important to retain on site along with a number of poor-quality ash trees that officers raised no objection to being removed.
- As such, Tree Preservation Orders were served on 27th March, and letters sent to this effect. The Order included three ash trees on the development site and an additional ash tree situated just to the north of the site.
- Officers were alerted to the removal work and an officer visited the site on 8th April to find that all the TPO ash trees on the site had been, or were in the process of, being

removed. As such, it is our view that the Tree Preservation Order has been breached and protected trees removed.

- Martyn has asked for the matter to be fully investigated to obtain further evidence and caution any persons potentially responsible carrying out works on site. Once this work is completed it is likely that NNDC would look to prosecute the offenders. This takes time and there will be various steps needed to do this.

4. Speeding at Field Lane, Rudham Stile Lane and Claypit Lane

- Jessica Elliott, the Fakenham Beat Officer, has confirmed that two further handheld speed camera sessions have undertaken at Rudham Stile Lane. No-one was caught but this does help to remind motorists to keep to the speed limit along there.
- I will raise the ongoing concern at the next Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) which is scheduled for 8th May.
- Jessica is drafting an action plan to determine what extra measures the police can take to help reduce speeding in the area.

5. New Dementia Cafe

- A new dementia cafe is opening on Friday 26th April at Fakenham Sports & Fitness Centre.
- They would welcome any board games (e.g. dominos, picture bingo), craft items, colouring books, or books with images (for example, fashion, wildlife, travel, etc).
- Please contact Debi Haden, the Fakenham area Community Connector, if you wish to donate anything at debi.haden@north-norfolk.gov.uk or call 01263 516065.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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