



**Fakenham Town Council
Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting**

**On Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7.00 pm at The Fakenham
Church, Fakenham**

Annual Report 2024/2025

1. Chairs Report – Councillor Angela Glynn
2. Leisure & Environment Committee Report – Councillor Vivienne Joslin
3. Development & Market Committee Report – Councillor David Hunter
4. Finance Report – Councillor Martin Dutton
5. Community Awards
6. Market Tolls Grants awarded in 2024/2025
7. Useful Information



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1- Chairs Report

Councillor Angela Glynn

Since Fakenham Town Council's last Annual Assembly something of a revolution has taken place in our town. The approval and progress of the FLASH project, the announcement that the Northern Development is underway and the roundabout to facilitate the building of it has been completed after many months of work. The recent announcements regarding local government reorganisation, and the imminent (2028) creation of one or more unitary authorities overseen by an elected Mayor came as something of a surprise to all. Given these considerable challenges the council has been focussing on building a committed and skilled team, properly trained and qualified to provide the professional service that residents deserve.

The discretionary services currently delivered by North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) may well fall to the town council to deliver. These include the provision of public conveniences, the maintenance of public spaces currently owned and managed by NNDC, some additional street lighting and the emptying of the dog waste bins provided around the town. There may be other services withdrawn as NNDC ceases to exist that we don't yet know about! However, we are already making plans to take on these additional responsibilities as the devolution date will soon be upon us, so we need to be well prepared.

The town council team, staff and councillors, have been very much involved with NNDC and the team that will deliver the FLASH project. This includes the provision of the swimming pool and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Work will start on the pool project, which is funded by central government on 9th September 2025 with completion anticipated early in 2027. Funding for the MUGA will come from NNDC and the Football Foundation and work will start on that once the pool is completed. Having two sets of contractors trying to build two very different facilities on the same site would create too many difficulties in delivering the projects successfully. Inevitably there will be disruption to residents in and around the Trap Lane area, particularly at school drop-off and pick-up times, but the contractors are liaising closely with Fakenham Academy to mitigate the situation.

The council carried out a Community Engagement Survey in spring 2024, which helped us understand what is important to residents. Several issues were identified, including CCTV in the town centre, speeding and noisy vehicles in the town centre and youth anti-social behaviour. To address these issues, we are working towards improving the CCTV provision with input from Police. Using some funding from a fund called the Parish Partnership we have purchased a second speed monitor, which is portable and used across several sites in town. The council also supports the work of EP Youth, who run an outreach project for young people at risk. Their work with students at Fakenham Academy has been particularly successful.

One of the regular comments the council receives is about empty shops in the town centre - and what are we doing about it? The answer is that we can only be welcoming and supportive to those that take the plunge. But the decline of the high street is a national problem, not a Fakenham, or even Norfolk problem. Go to any large town or city and you will see how many familiar shops have simply disappeared. Fakenham is actually fortunate to have welcomed six independent new businesses to the town in the past year. Sadly, when an article celebrating these new arrivals appeared in the press, it attracted negative comments on social media! It is worth pointing out to residents that the town council has no power over business rates, service or the rents that landlords charge.

It is regrettable that 9 Norwich Street is still boarded up and is a blight on the area. However, we are assured by NNDC that all legal steps are being taken to resolve the situation, which is extremely complicated.



Millennium Park, Fakenham

Fakenham Town Council wants to make sure Millennium Park is a place everyone can enjoy.

We want to hear your ideas!

- Specific play equipment?
- Landscaping ideas or special features?
- Sporting equipment?
- Areas for gathering or relaxation?

Or something else entirely! **Let us know!**

To submit your ideas please email:
info@fakenhamtowncouncil.gov.uk
by Friday 30th May 2025





2 - Leisure & Environment Committee Report

Councillor Vivienne Joslin

Estate Report 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 period saw a significant investment in essential maintenance across Fakenham Town Council's estate.

At Creake Road, Queens Road, and Peckover cemeteries, substantial efforts are made to bring maintenance standards up to the required level, including the care of buildings and land. Additionally, the back part of Creake Road Cemetery has now been consecrated, with layout preparations underway to facilitate future burials.

Recreational Spaces and Community Engagement

All playing fields are under regular maintenance and inspection to ensure they remain safe and accessible for all users. A structured refurbishment plan has been initiated, establishing a long-term framework for continuous improvements.

At Millennium Park, a Public Consultation is currently in progress, as widely publicised on the Council's website and in the media. Community engagement is essential for shaping the park's future. Notably, EP Youth has been actively contributing to making the park a safer space while helping to reduce vandalism and damage to our assets. This has been a persistent issue, and ongoing community support is crucial in protecting this valued public amenity, for the benefit of residents. Similarly, Aldiss Park continues to serve as a cherished communal space, promoting a spirit of community use and enjoyment.

Estate Management and Volunteer Contributions

The Fakenham Town Council estate is extensive and requires significant expenditure to ensure safe and effective maintenance. This includes:

- Trees, hedgerows, and green spaces
- St Peter & St Paul's Church Grounds
- Railway Cutting area (off Greenway Lane), with thanks to FACT for maintenance contributions
- Three allotment sites
- Picnic areas, including Gogg's Mill

A permanent maintenance programme is now in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This initiative includes the invaluable support of volunteers, whose efforts help maintain smaller areas during the growing season, such as the Cinema Triangle Garden and various seasonal planters across Fakenham. New volunteers are always welcome to contribute to these community spaces.

Acknowledgements

Finally, sincere appreciation is extended to our Groundsmen for their continuous hard work, dedication, and care in maintaining Fakenham's outdoor spaces. Thanks, are also due to the Office Staff, whose support ensures the smooth operation and upkeep of all council-maintained areas.



3 - Development & Market Committee Report

Councillor David Hunter

The Development and Market Committee (The Committee) has met monthly throughout the year on the first Monday of each month. All planning applications for Fakenham are reviewed and considered by The Committee as part of the district council's planning policy. The Committee frequently comments on applications, but it is not the planning authority and has no power to veto a planning application. That responsibility lies firmly with the planning authority – North Norfolk District Council.

Natural England imposed a status of Nutrient Neutrality (NN) on the whole of the River Wensum catchment area in June 2022 in a hope to improve the water quality of the River Wensum, which is one of the most important chalk rivers in Europe. In practical terms NN means that in order for planning to be granted to ANY new residential building the nitrogen and phosphorous that will be produced by that new building (waste and dirty water) has to be offset with a gain/positive ecological impact elsewhere. The offset has to be achieved upstream from where the building is to be built. For Fakenham this is difficult to achieve as the source of the Wensum is only just upstream of Fakenham town. Consequently, not a single new build planning application has been granted in the whole of Fakenham for the past three years. Even the 900 new houses planned for the Northern Extension have not been given planning. As a result, the Committee has only been able to consider residential extensions, garages and business/commercial new builds.

The most exciting and welcome planning news is the imminent construction of a new 25m swimming pool and upgrade to the existing sports facilities at Trap Lane. Known as The Fakenham Leisure & Sports Hub (FLASH). The town council has a FLASH sub-committee of three councillors who work with the NNDC project team. All three councillors are members of The Committee.

The Committee continues to ask NNDC what is happening to the embarrassing eyesore of the derelict and structurally compromised Newman's Yard building in Norwich Street. It is a very complicated situation, NNDC are making progress and the Committee will continue to apply pressure.

Fakenham Charter Market

Fakenham's long-standing weekly charter market remains a cornerstone of the local community, contributing significantly to the town's vibrancy and appeal. The market features a diverse range of stalls, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere for both residents and visitors.

Thursdays see a noticeable increase in footfall across the town, with additional visitors travelling in from surrounding villages as well as tourists. This uplift in activity supports local businesses and enhances the town centre's economic vitality.

The Council maintains a strong collaborative relationship with market stallholders to ensure a high-quality experience for all attendees. Initiatives such as themed market days—commemorating events like D-Day last year and, more recently, celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day—demonstrate a shared commitment to community engagement and heritage.

We are committed to the ongoing development and improvement of the market, recognising its value in attracting visitors, supporting local enterprise, and contributing to a vibrant, healthy, and connected community.

Income from the market also allows for a limited number of grants to be made to local charities or projects that support Fakenham residents (see details of Market Toll grants later in report)





4 - Finance Report 2024/2025

Councillor Martin Dutton

Introduction

Fakenham Town Council has been affected by the financial challenges of inflation and taxation changes that we all face as individuals. This has led to an increase in the precept, the difference between Council income and expenditure. The average cost per household in North Norfolk of Town for Parish Council's represented 3p per £1 collected by North Norfolk District Council in 2024/2025.

The Budget for 2024/25 made provision for several areas of improvement requiring significant expenditure, while we do our best to keep any increases to the absolute minimum, Fakenham Town Council must provide a mix of statutory (e.g. Cemeteries, Allotments and Street Lighting) and discretionary duties, the later mainly driven by the expectations of the residents. During the past year it is these that have guided the efforts of our resolute and hard-working staff.

The Council maintains strict budgetary control with procedures in place to question the need for any expenditure, via a Finance Committee, which reviews expenditure and presents recommendations to Full Council for approval before payments are made, to ensure Best Value.

Our Thursday Charter Market is accounted for separately as all profits go towards the community.

Market Income & Expenditure

INCOME



**£19,243
Balance
B/F**



**+ £18,785
Income**



**£16,212
Grants**



**£5,630
Market
Expenses**

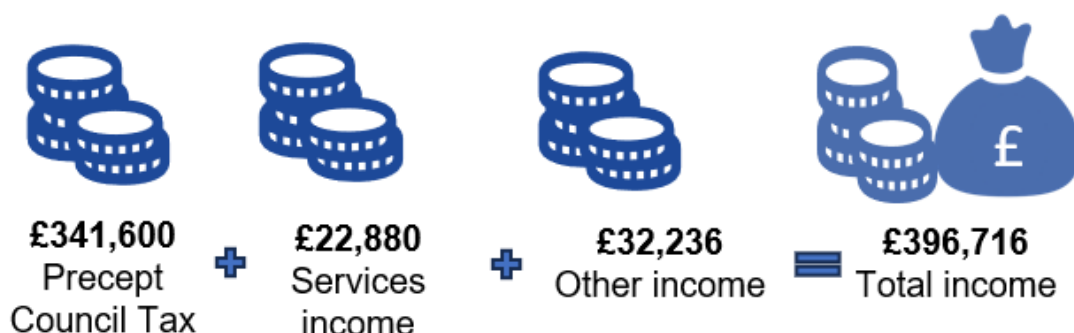


**£16,186
Year end
Balance**

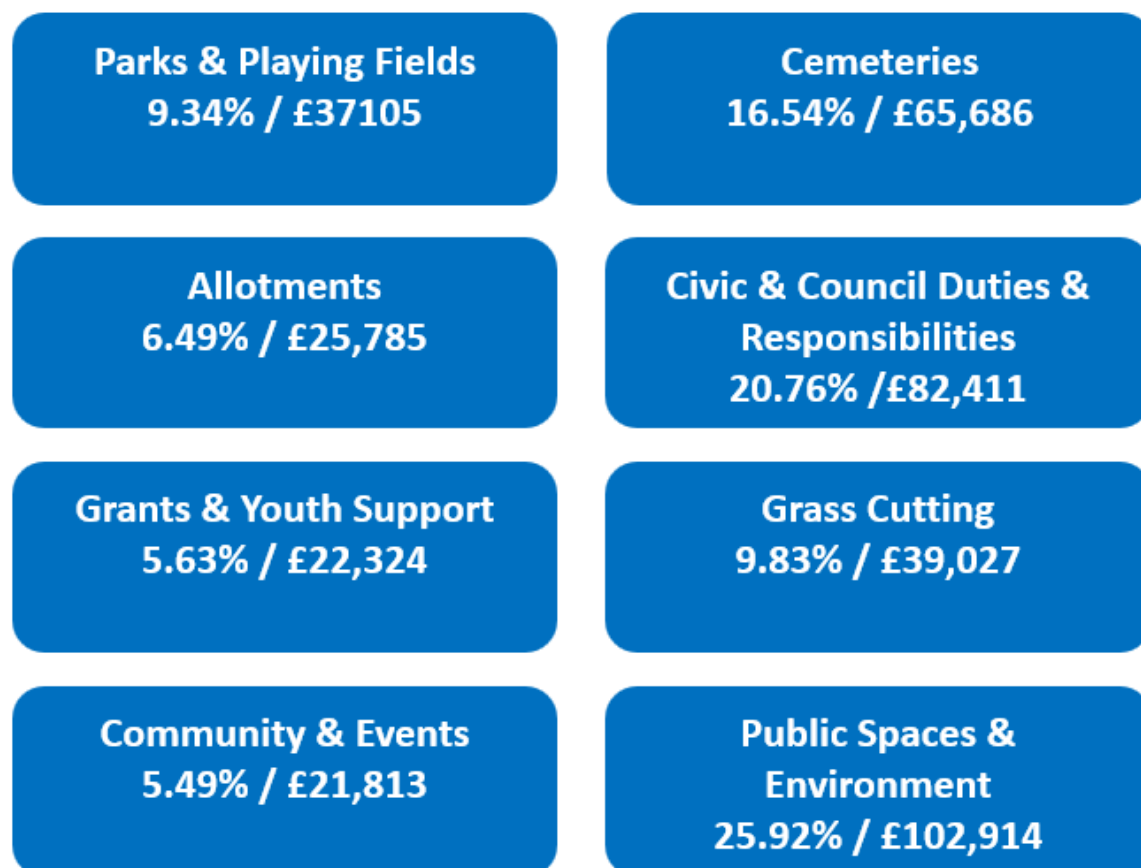
A draft summary of Income & Expenditure for the 2024-2025 financial year is shown in the next infographic. Full details and exact figures are given in our Annual Accounts, which after validation by our Internal auditor will be available for inspection later in June/July. Over the summer our accounts are scrutinised by a government appointed accountant as part of an external audit process which concludes in early Autumn, full details are then published on our website.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2024-25

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



TOTAL 2024-25 EXPENDITURE = £397,065

OUR BUDGET 2025-26



FAKENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

OUR ANNUAL BUDGET

Breakdown for 2025-26



HOW WE PLAN TO SPEND YOUR COUNCIL TAX

Parks & Playing Fields
£16.90 / 8.10%

Cemeteries
£21.17 / 10.15%

Allotments
£14.36 / 6.89%

Civic & Council
Duties & Responsibilities
£38.98 / 18.68%

BREAKDOWN PER BAND 'D' PROPERTY



Grants & Youth Support
£14.01 / 6.72%

Grass Cutting
£14.64 / 7.02%

Community & Events
£10.69 / 5.13%

Public Spaces &
Environment
£40.93 / 19.62%

Fakenham Leisure and Sports Hub
(FLASH) Project Related Expenditure
£36.90 / 17.69%



5. Community Awards

Mayors Cadet 2025/26 – Sponsored by Kinnertons

Chosen Annually the Mayors Cadet this year is Army Cadet Tyler Barker. The Cadet will support the Mayor in their Civic Duties, often interacting with other dignitaries during their term. This is a high-profile appointment, with candidates selected for their good interpersonal skills and ability to interact with a range of people.

Community Spirit Awards - Sponsored by Pensthorpe

This award highlights our appreciation of the people making a big contribution to the community spirit of Fakenham, expecting nothing in return. Nominees this year are;

Dawn Wakefield for her work providing information on the Thursday markets in Fakenham, advertising traders and their wares on both sites.

Serena Ward for her previous role on the Friends of Cranmer House committee, playing a key role in raising funds for the residents' amenity fund. Alongside her late mother, she brought joy to residents by delivering flowers to all female residents on Valentine's Day and Easter. Currently, Serena organises bi-monthly quiz nights at The Gallow in Fakenham, raising vital funds for local beneficiaries including First Focus, First Responders, The Blind Club, and many others.

Richard Crook of Active Fakenham for volunteering his time year in & out to make Fakenham a better place by putting on multiple free or low-cost events that bring the community and local businesses together, raising money for local small charities and putting Fakenham on the map as a thriving town with much to offer. He works relentlessly behind the scenes to source funding, event volunteers and promote events, making sure they are inclusive and good for the community.

Clarissa Belson who through her tireless work at First Focus has transformed countless lives with her extraordinary dedication to those in need. Whether coordinating essential support services or personally attending to vulnerable community members she approaches everything with skill and compassion. She shows remarkable resilience in the face of adversity never letting her purpose or compassionate energy slip.



6. Market Tolls Grants awarded in 2024/2025

Profit generated from the Thursday Charter Market is allocated annually to support a range of community groups and organisations with grant applications assessed based on the value and benefit they provide to the residents of Fakenham.

In the past year, the total value of grants awarded exceeded £16,000.

Date of Award	Recipient	Purpose	Amount
April 2024	Fakenham Auto Club	2024 Celebration Rally	£350
October 2024	Fakenham Area Partnership	Fakenham's Christmas Lights	£8705.50
November 2024	Fakenham Lancaster BP Air Scout Group	Help with costs of lease renewal	£850
November 2024	Good Companions Club	Towards the Club Christmas Dinner	£200
November 2024	Fakenham Town Gas Works Museum	Purchase of defibrillator and cabinet to replace defibrillator taken out of use at the fire station.	£1500
December 2024	Club 26 Heather Barrow Court	For 22 residents Christmas dinner and entertainment	£286
January 2025	Active Fakenham	Town Guide, website, Fakenham Film Festival and Support & Sponsorship for 2025 events	£4320

This represents a slight decrease compared to the 2023/24 financial year, during which the Council awarded just under £20,000 in community grants to organisations such as the Fakenham First Responders, Fakenham Area Partnership, The Choral Society, Active Fakenham, The Community Shed and Fakenham Area Conservation Team.

7. Useful information

RESPONSIBILITIES



Norfolk
County Council

03448 008020

- Birth, Marriage & Death Registration
- Highways - Roads / Trails / Pathways / Potholes / Drainage / Grit Bins / Overgrown Trees & Verges / some main road Street
- Lighting
- Libraries
- Arts & Museums
- Social Care
- Strategic Planning
- Trading Standards
- Transport including Bus Passes
- Waste Disposal
- Grants & Funding



FAKENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

01328 853653

- Cemetery Sites
- Burial Records
- Closed Churchyards
- Charter Market
- Trap Lane Recreation Ground
- Trap Lane Pavilion
- Hayes Lane Play Area
- Whitelands Play Area
- Gogg's Mill Picnic Area
- Millennium Park & Aldiss Park as a trustee to the Fakenham
- Recreation Ground Charity
- Allotment Sites
- War Memorial
- Planning Application Consultants
- Edward VII Lamp
- Some Street Lighting
- Litter Bins on our Estate
- Dog Bins - Installation
- Grants to Community Groups
- SAM2 & Town Sign
- Bus Shelters
- Street Collections - Financial



NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

01328 853697

- Council Tax & Business Rates
- Benefits
- Environmental Health - Litter Bins & Littering / Dog Fouling / Fly Tipping / Abandoned Vehicles
- Housing - Homelessness / Housing lists / Affordable Homes
- Leisure Centres
- Planning Permission & Applications
- Tree Preservation
- Public Conveniences
- Waste & Recycling Collection
- Car Parks & Season Tickets
- Licensing
- Community Grants & Funding
- Tourism Development
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Electoral Registration / Elections

Fakenham Town Councillors (North Ward LN1) (5 Councillors)	Penelope Bucknell
	Ali May-Hannam
	Lucy Harrison
	Vacant x 2
Contact details can be found on the website	
Fakenham Town Councillors (South Ward LS1) (11 Councillors)	George Acheson
	Mark Campbell
	Timothy Duffy
	Martin Dutton
	Carl Fairbrother
	Angela Glynn
	David Hunter
	Viv Joslin
	Jim Rockett
	Natasha Southerland
Contact details can be found on the website	Vacant x 1