DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LIZ VICKERS: FAKENHAM LANCASTER SOUTH WARD (please feel free to contact me on 07537 917699 or liz.vickers@north-norfolk.gov.uk)

REPORT JUNE 2026

Anti-social behaviour: I have been working with residents, the police and housing providers to tackle anti-social behaviour generated by a small number of people who cause great distress to elderly and vulnerable residents. There has been some practical resolution to this with two arrests and a closure order placed on one residence to prevent people from gathering there. On a strategic level, the solution is not to place people, with known substance abuse issues or previous instances of anti-social behaviour, in accommodation more suitable for elderly and disabled residents. I met the Flagship housing's community manager. She recognises the problem and agreed to review Flagship's policy. After receiving a disappointing written response from the NNDC portfolio holder for housing, I questioned this at NNDC full council and suggested that the NNDC housing team should also recognise this problem and work with housing providers to thoroughly vet potential tenants before they house them in neighbourhoods where elderly people form the majority of residents.

Fakenham First Focus: It was my pleasure to visit this Fakenham charity that does so much to help the most vulnerable members of our community and give practical help to those who don't know how to navigate bureaucracy or don't have access to IT. I have made several fundraising appeals. I went to an early breakfast meeting with the Wensum Chapter of BNI to ask their business members to adopt First Focus as their nominated charity. I am grateful to the Town Council for its contribution. Unfortunately, Liberal Democrat led NNDC declined my request for a small one-off contribution to First Focus, despite closing the council services at the Connect building, which has increased footfall at First Focus. Closure of the Connect services was done without consulting or even informing Fakenham District Councillors.

Plannng application for an ATM machine outside Nationwide: I support this application to give residents and businesses easier access to cash. Fakenham used to have four banks and all but Nationwide have closed. I met the Conservation officer and I understand the team's reservations about a concrete structure against a 18th Century building. I have suggested a less instrusive alternative and have informed the planning team that I will call this application in to planning Development Committee if refusal of the application is proposed.

Visit to Langham Glass: It was my pleasure to visit Langham Glass and hear about its progress. I am delighted that they have recruited two apprentices to keep the ancient art of glassblowing alive. Yet another great day out in Fakenham, with glassblowing demonstrations and a chance to practice the art, as well as a lovely café and gift shop. I was joined by Cllr Cushing and an officer from NNDC's economic development team.

Vist to P4 Fakenham: another solid Fakenham employer based in a rather glamorous, glass fronted building. P4 is a manufacturer and distributor of high-performance emergency lighting. It was interesting to hear about the company's history and see its products being made in the workshop. I was joined by Cllrs Cushing, Punchard and an officer from NNDC's economic development team.

Parking in Norwich St: parking in the narrow confines of Norwich St is a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles. I have been chasing a parking order (TRO) for some time and I am grateful for County Cllr Jamieson's offer of assistance with this.