

CLlr Christopher Cushing – June 2025

Fakenham Lancaster North Ward – District Council Report

Contact details: christopher.cushing@north-norfolk.gov.uk and 07921 564763

Lancaster North ward covers all dwellings in the parish of Fakenham that are east of Wells Road, and north of Highfield Road, Greenway Lane, Pensthorpe Road and the A1067.

1. 'In Touch' Ward Newsletter

- In early June I delivered my latest 'In Touch' newsletter to all residents in the North Fakenham ward, which totals about 1,300 deliveries.
- The articles cover the subjects which I include in my Town Council monthly submissions.

2. New Bypass Roundabout & Water Moor Lane

- The new roundabout has been completed and Water Moor Lane opened both ways.
- I think Highways have done a good job. One positive outcome is having the right of way when exiting Water Moor Lane onto the bypass, as you no longer take your life in your hands as used to be the case when turning right.

3. Speeding on North Park, Claypit Lane, Field Lane, Rudham Stile Lane and Wells Road

- Speeding remains the top concern in this area. I've heard some harrowing stories from residents of 'near misses' and people driving up to 60MPH on these roads. I will continue to encourage the police to make this a priority to tackle this issue.

4. Toll Bar Cockerels Noise Pollution

- A resident has complained about cockerels which are housed at a field to the west of Toll Bar. These crow through out the night and can cause some sleep deprivation for some residents in nearby roads like Arthur Road, Eckersley Drive, and Peckover Road.
- A complaint has been made to the NNDC Environmental Protection team. I am chasing for an update and timetable for action.

5. Fat Cow Restaurant Planning Application

- I previously reported that the NNDC Planning Department intend to reject a planning application from owners of the Fat Cow summer burger bar for a permanent restaurant and farm shop at Thorpland.
- I have called this into the Council's Planning Development Committee for a decision, as the committee has the ultimate authority on all applications. This is on the agenda for their 27th June meeting where I will present the case for approving the application.

6. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance

- I have reported several maintenance issues across the ward:
- To Highways:
 - The path between **Fisher Road, Seppings Road** and **Wells Road** is overgrown with brambles, nettles and an overhanging branch.
 - Trees obscuring vision at the exit of **Lancaster Avenue**. Strictly speaking this is the other side of the road from my ward but requested by one of my residents.
 - Southern end of **Water Moor Lane** where there are branches hanging over the road.
 - Two potholes at the top of **Claypit Lane**, one is large.
 - Pavement completely blocked by foliage along **High Terrance** which is halfway down Claypit Lane.
- To Flagship Housing:
 - A tree/hedge at the back of one of their properties in Lee Warner Avenue is growing out into **Rudham Stile Lane** which is at the back of the property. This is obscuring oncoming cars for anyone pulling out of **Copper Beech Close**.
- To the Town Council:
 - Both verges at the exit of **Elizabeth Avenue** are overgrown and have not been cut for months.
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7. St Peters Road and Silverlands 'Wild Meadows'

- In my last update I reported that Flagship Housing have continued their policy of leaving some areas of the St Peters Road estate uncut to promote biodiversity. Silverlands will also have some uncut areas too, though this is a smaller estate.
- Subsequently the Flagship Environmental officer has responded to me. He explained that Flagship have contacted residents on the estate to say they have acknowledged that last year they left too much of the estate uncut. I was sent a map of this year's plan which appears to be much reduced.
- I have not received any adverse feedback from residents so assume they are happier with this.

8. Local Government Reform

- Steve Blatch, the NNDC Chief Executive, gave a briefing on the Government's proposed Local Government Reform to Town and Parish Councillors at the Gallow on 17th June. This will abolish the existing County and District Councils in 2028 and replace them with unitary councils.
- NNDC are promoting a three unitary council option for Norfolk. They are debating whether Fakenham would go in the Eastern or Western unitary. I am strongly in favour of us going east along with the rest of North Norfolk as I feel we have much more in common with these areas. Also, I have doubts about the financial sustainability of a western unitary.
- Either way it will have a major impact on the Town Council so please tune into this.