

Cllr Christopher Cushing

Town Council Fakenham North District Update – 20th December 2023

1. New Swimming Pool & 3G Artificial Pitch

- Last month the Department of Levelling Up and Housing announced that the council has secured a £9.856m Levelling Up grant for a full size 3G Artificial Pitch. Officers from NNDC will give a presentation to the Town Council's Leisure and Environment.
- At the NNDC Full Council on 20th December, a recommendation will be made for the Council to approve the establishment of a Capital Budget of £11 million for the Fakenham Leisure and Sports Hub project within the Capital Programme.
- This will be made up of £9.856m of Levelling Up Fund (central government) monies, £0.408 million Section 106 monies, £0.575 million from the Football Foundation and the value of the land contributed by Fakenham Town Council. Any remaining shortfalls will be made up from borrowing.

2. Urban Extension

- Variation bids to roll over Business Rates and Norfolk Strategic Funding to 2024 have both been submitted to Norfolk County during October (to total £900,000 and to match fund the NNDC contribution of £900,000). From previous experience, it can take a few months before a decision is reached, but there is no reason to believe these requests will not be approved.
- In addition, an Outline Business Case for Devolution Deal funding bid is for £1.4m has been submitted. This included Levelling Up funding information at the request of DLUHC. A decision is expected around March 2024. Combined with the funding already in place as detailed above, should fully fund the roundabout.

3. St Peters Road Home Upgrade Grants Scheme

- Victory Homes plan to 're-wild' two areas at the St Peters Road estate. The first is the bank that runs along Claypit Lane.
- The second is a grass area within the estate. As a prelude to this, Victory have erected a small fence to prohibit any cars driving over to access their properties. This has given rise to concerns from the residents of the affected properties. They are happy for the area to be turned into a meadow, but requested a gate be made so that they can still drive up to their houses. Victory have declined this as they say cars are not permitted on this area.

4. Potholes around Roundabout at entrance to Morrisons

- Back in the summer I reported several potholes in the northern ward. These have all been repaired now apart from those around the roundabout at the entrance to

Morrisons car park. This will require some planning as it is a sensitive location with regards to traffic management. This should be resolved in the coming weeks.

I would like to thank all members of the Town Council for their help and support over the last year. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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