Cllr Christopher Cushing – July 2026

Fakenham Lancaster North Ward District Council Report

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

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1. Swimming Pool Development

- It has been confirmed that the completion of the swimming pool will be put back by two months to early February. This is a consequence of the delay in the delivery of the steelworks which was caused by the Iran war.
- The Fitness Centre should still be completed in December. A decision has yet to be taken as to whether this will open before Christmas along with the car park.
- NNDC has approved funding of £188,000 to build a new play area just north of the swimming pool, to replace the existing one further is further down. This will be constructed after the pool is finished.

2. Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Field Lane & Rudham Stile Lane

- Last July 2025, I was told there would be a Traffic Regulation Order in place for the start of the swimming pool development in September 2025. This date came and went with no TRO. I repeatedly chased as I believe it was overlooked.
- The TRO request was submitted to Highways in early December. I assumed this would be to put temporary double yellow lines along the southern side of Rudham Stile Lane from the Trap Lane corner up to the northern entrance to North Park.
- After seven months of waiting, Highways recently issued a TRO Consultation. This is where we enter the realms of public sector farce. Though cars have parked with impunity for months along the southern stretch of Rudham Stile Lane as described above, there is no proposal to put temporary or permanent yellow lines along here. Instead, the TRO proposes:
    - On the northern side of the Rudham Stile Lane to replace the single yellow line to a double. One resident who has lived there for nine years said they have never seen a car parking on that side of the road and nor have I in the seven years I've been a District Councillor.
    - Put double yellow lines on Field Lane from just south of the western entrance to the North Park along the houses there. I spent a morning knocking on doors of the residents there to get their views on this. It was mixed with about half in favour, and half against, especially those in bungalows with limited parking.

- I will leave Highways to determine what they do following their consultation. However, I thought the purpose of the TRO was to mitigate the impacts of the closure of the Fitness Centre Swimming pool. I have not been made aware of significant issues arising from this on Field Lane. Therefore, the TRO here seems to be trying to solve a problem that does not exist as result of the swimming pool development, though some residents may have concerns about school pick up and drop off parking.

- Whatever decision is made about the TRO, it will still likely be months before anything is done, by which time the Fitness Centre car park will be open again, negating any need for a TRO on Rudham Stile Lane. This makes the whole process a nonsense.

3. Rugby Club

- The Rugby Club allowed cars to park in their car park for people to use the Fitness Centre. In return they asked for some speed bumps to be installed on the road leading to the club which they owned. Four were put down, but Highways have intervened as this is a bridle way and as such, they have authority over it. They have asked for the speed bumps to be removed after a complaint from someone who said they damaged his car. NNDC are working with the club to find a resolution to this.
- Highways have also objected about the lights NNDC have installed along the path from the Rugby Club to the Fitness Centre asking for them to be removed because they were not informed about them and cannot prove they are of the required standard. NNDC are rightly pushing back against this. The path is dark from the middle of the afternoon in winter, and nonsense to suggest the District Council would not use a reputable electrical contractor.

4. Speeding in North Fakenham

- I have asked Highways if they will do anything following the results of the speed monitoring cables that were installed on Greenway Lane and Rudham Stile Lane.

5. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance Issues

- **Rudham Stile Lane Road Sign** – NNDC have ordered a new road sign for 'Rudham Stile Lane' near the entrance to Thorpland Road to replace the one that is broken.
- **Trinity Road Sign** – There is no road sign for Trinity Road. Residents of Meadow have requested one as they often see car drive down their end of the road where satnavs have mistakenly taken them. The road sign will be added to NNDC's August order.
- **Path between Rudham Stile Lane and Whitelands** – I received several complaints as this was full of debris and difficult to navigate. I cleared it myself as Highways did nothing last time I reported it.
- **Path opposite the Medical Centre parallel to Thorpland Road** – Again I have cleared this as brambles were impeding the path. I have never been able to find out who is responsible for this as its not the Surgery or Highways.

- **Path from Langham Glass to Holt Road** – I reported this to Anglian Water who agreed to clear the path that runs parallel to the houses. I am not who is responsible for the northern section and investigating this.

6. **NNDC Community Fund**

- The new NNDC Community Fund is now up and running.
- I have submitted one application for the 'Sunday Morningers Football Group'. This is a group of about 40 people who meet on a Sunday on the Trap Lane field to play football. They need some new goal posts for which I have applied.
- I have agreed to support two other applications. Richard has asked for some funding on behalf of Fakenham Active to support the Fakenham Film Festival. Both Liz Vickers and I will send applications for this.
- Also the Town Council have asked for some funds for some litter picking equipment.
- I told the Fakenham Shed I would be happy to give something to them too, subject to their making a request.