

CLlr Christopher Cushing – April 2026

Fakenham Lancaster North Ward District Council Report

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

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

1. Speeding in North Fakenham

- Enough people have indicated their interest in creating a resident Speed Camera Watch team for the town. I have informed PC Jessica Elliott who said she will contact the Police Traffic team to organise a briefing. I did this two weeks ago and not heard anything so will chase if she does not come back to me soon.
- Highways installed speed monitoring cables on Greenway Lane. They put these across the road near the Henry IV pub. Unfortunately, this has coincided with road works near there where traffic lights have been in operation. Despite Cllr Tom FitzPatrick asking them to extend the monitoring period, these were removed last week. Therefore, they will not show any useful data.
- In addition, speed cables were installed midway on Rudham Stile Lane in the narrow section.

2. Swimming Pool Development

- Highways have still not implemented the Traffic Regulation Order on Rudham Stile Lane.
- The development is still on track to be completed in December with the swimming pool opening in January next year. The building steelwork is now being erected.

3. New 3G Artificial Pitch at Trap Lane

- The total project cost to build a full sized 3G artificial pitch at Trap Lane is estimated to be £1,289,000.
- Good news - The Football Foundation have agreed to give a grant of up to £879,000 which would equate to 68% of the cost. The District Council have agreed to fund the remaining £410,000.
- Bad news – Sport England, which is the national body to promote sport, has submitted a ‘Statutory Objection’ to the planning application because the new 3G pitch would be built on part of the existing cricket pitch which would result in its loss. Only the Government can override a Statutory Objection. There is a risk that unless a solution is found for this, the planning application will fail.
- One potential option is to create a new pitch and squares on the Academy site, opposite to the Cricket Club on Trap Lane. I am participating in negotiations with NNDC, the Cricket Club, Town Council and Academy to see if this is possible.

4. Local Government Reform (LGR)

- Last year the Government announced its intention to abolish the existing County Council and District Councils in Norfolk and replace them with one or more unitary authorities. It stipulated the new unitary authorities should have a minimum population of 500,000 to be financially viable.
- The Government considered three options. The first submitted by the County Council was for one unitary covering the whole county, the second by South Norfolk District Council was for a two unitary option. The remaining six Districts, which included North Norfolk, for three unitary councils, submitted a proposal for a three unitaries.
- The Government announced it has chosen the three unitary option which will create a Greater Norwich, Western and Eastern unitaries with Fakenham being in the Eastern one.
- The 'three' unitary option is crazy decision.
- The six District Councils account for just 7% of local government spending in the county, whereas the County Council accounts for 75%.
- Consequently, the District Councils have no understanding about the provision of the large County Council services like Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Highways.
- It will cost tens of millions to split these up.
- The Government ignored their original 500,000 population stipulation. As much of the county's wealth is in the Norwich area, the Eastern and Western unitaries will be severely underfunded as they will not have a sufficient population to support them.
- Consequently, we will all see our Council Tax increase and a reduction in our services. It is a recipe for disaster.

5. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance Issues

- **North Park** - Reported a large pothole on North Park on the road leading to Field Lane.
- **Closed - Broken Tree Branch at Grove Lane leading up to the bypass** – This has either been pulled down or fallen down.
- **Closed - Claypit Lane Potholes** – Multiple potholes on Claypit Lane near the entrance to Dairy Farm Drive appear to have been repaired.
- **New – Broken Rudham Stile Lane Road Sign** – I have reported to NNDC a broken road sign for 'Rudham Stile Lane' near the entrance to Thorpland Road. They will order a new one, though I do not know how quickly it will be replaced.