

## Report from Councillor Liz Vickers (Fakenham Lancaster South Ward) 27 September 2023.

### Future of 9 Norwich Street

The building at 9 Norwich Street has been in a state of disrepair for some time. I have lobbied the Council, both in full Council and private meetings, for a swift decision on its future. I met Martyn Fulcher Director for Place and Climate Change and the new Assistant Director of Planning Russell Williams. Russell subsequently contacted the building owner. I am delighted that NNDC now aims to have a clear position on the future of the building by the end of this year.

### Strategy for Fakenham

I am lobbying larger businesses in Fakenham to ask them to use their PR and marketing skills to help local organisations develop a future strategy for Fakenham town centre. So far I have met representatives from Elis, Linda McCartney and Jack Richards. This is ongoing.

### Heather Barrow Court

On 21 October, the delightful residents of Heather Barrow Court gave me a very warm welcome at their Community Centre. I'm working to resolve a range of issues to improve their environment.

### Hall Close

I had a meeting with three residents from Hall Close to discuss the uneven pathway that has led to tripping accidents. I initially referred this to Victory Homes and subsequently to the County Council.

### Home Upgrade Grants (HUG2)

A central government fund of around £3.4 million has been given to Norfolk Warm Homes (NWH) over a 2-year period from April 2023 and is open to all of Norfolk except Great Yarmouth. I met the NNDC liaison officer and had a subsequent meeting with the HUGS2 project manager at NWH. The project has decided to focus first on homes in postcodes with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which **includes some targeted addresses in Fakenham Lancaster South ward**. They will start rollout in Stalham and move next to targeted properties in Lancaster South. A letter will be sent to the targeted properties, followed up by a visit. I have registered as a stakeholder and volunteered to help with the practical rollout in my ward. Typical property improvements include air source heat pumps, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and solar panels (although panels and heat pumps may only be provided if homes are insulated). Grants are fully funded albeit with a maximum sum per property at £38k.

Eligibility

- The property must have an energy performance certificate rating of D, E, F or G. If one isn't available, NWH can arrange as part of the grant fund.
- In addition, the property must achieve the following:
  - Be off gas.
  - Be in a fit state to withstand the proposed measures being implemented.
- With regards to the resident, **one** of the following must be achieved:
  - Having a gross annual household income of not more than £31k.
  - Households where after paying mortgage or rent costs, annual income would be below £20k.
  - Owner occupier is in receipt of a mean tested benefit.
  - Have a postcode identified as an 'Index of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD).
- The property must be owner occupied or privately tenanted. Details of a tenanted property criteria are described in detail within the Welcome Pack.

### **Uneven Pavement by the Norwich Road Roundabout**

There is uneven, broken pavement in front of the area under development at the end of Norwich Road (next to the Conservative Club). I spoke to the developer, Mr Rust, and asked him to make a temporary fix to even out the pavement, which he has done. The good news is that once finished, the developer will install a permanent 1.8-meter-wide pavement and widen the road by half a meter. I am sure this will make a significant contribution to pedestrian and road safety. I am grateful to Mr Rust for his kind cooperation.

### **Bins and Loos**

I have had a number of complaints about uncollected bins and filthy public loos, the latter specifically at Queens Road and Highfield car park. I commend the efficiency of NNDC officer Joseph Kenny, who took prompt action to put things right, as soon as I contacted him.