

Cllr Christopher Cushing – March 2026

Fakenham Lancaster North Ward District Council Report

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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. Speeding in North Fakenham

- Still looking for more volunteers for a resident Speed Camera Watch team. I have the names of four people from north Fakenham who are interested but need a minimum of six people in a team.
- Lesley Meanley, the Town Clerk, has said the Town Council will advertise this in their website to see if any volunteers can be found from the rest of Fakenham.
- A noisy moped is causing considerable nuisance driving around the bypass and Greenway Lane at irregular hours. The police have been made aware of this for a month or so now.

2. Drugs in Fakenham

- I was contacted by a resident who lives in south Fakenham who is concerned about drug dealing that she believes is being undertaken in properties near where she lives.
- I reported this to Cllr Liz Vickers in whose ward the road is located, and we both paid a visit to the resident to hear her concerns and were joined by some of the neighbours.
- I was appalled by what I heard about the blatant drug dealing in that area.
- Given that the issue is in her patch, Liz has organised a meeting with the residents and police and will progress this with them.
- Liz and I followed this up at the quarterly Police Neighbourhood Watch session. I do find these sessions deeply frustrating as the standard response we get from the police is “we need evidence”. My response was that I thought it was the police’s job to look for this.
- Liz and I should be attending a meeting with a new police Superintendent which is being organised by Jerome Mayhew MP. I intend to raise both speeding and drugs at this and my concerns about the apparent lack of police response to these.

3. Swimming Pool Development

- The project team submitted a Traffic Regulation Order on 2nd December to request that Highways to put temporary yellow lines along Rudham Stile Lane. This is still being processed. At this rate, the pool will be built before anything is done.
- I attended the Steering Group meeting held on 16th March. It was reported that the development is on track to be completed in December with the swimming pool opening in January next year.

- The play area behind the Fitness Centre has now been closed for the duration of the build. This is earlier than planned but the builders said it is adjacent to the site and now felt safer to close it to reduce the risk of anyone straying onto the site inadvertently.
- As reported previously, a new and fully equipped play area will be built just north of the Fitness Centre once the pool is complete.

4. New Farmers' Market

- I attended the opening of the new Farmer's Market on Saturday 14th March. There were about 20 stalls selling some excellent produce. I can strongly recommend the pies and sausage rolls from one vendor. I understand over 700 people visited it during the day.
- I understand this will be held every second Saturday in the month.

5. Litter Picking

- I went on a litter pick on Friday 20th March organised by former Mayor Gilly Foortse and Town Cllr David Hunter. I hired the equipment from NNDC.
- Teams went out all over Fakenham, which included the Town Council office team. David and I did Field Lane, Rudham Stile Lane, North Park, St Peters Road and Claypit Lane and filled two refuse bags.

6. Planning Application PF/25/2321 – Proposed Highfield Road Planning Development

- The planning application has been reissued for consultation. I am supportive of the overall development as I think this is sympathetic to the site.
- I have raised one objection. This is the proposed removal of the leylandii hedge along Field Lane which would be the back of the gardens for the proposed houses numbered 24, 25 and 26. The stated requirement to remove these is because they will overshadow the houses. This is obvious nonsense as the trees on the opposite side of the road are three to four times higher and block out the light from the west. I would also like to see the hedge retained for number 19 - 23 though they are less affected by the trees opposite. I still do not think the hedge will overshadow the houses much. I suspect the new residents of these houses would prefer the privacy that this affords.
- I would ask the Town Council to consider this is their consultation response.

7. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance Issues

- **Morrisons Car Park** – Morrisons have filled in the major potholes in their car park. Congratulations to Town Cllr Andy Girton who led the charge on this with the supermarket manager.
- **Greenway Lane Bus Stop Signs** - Highways have refused my request to install two bus stop signs on either side of the road just west of the Lancaster Avenue entrance. I am bemused by this given that these are specified bus timetable stops. I asked Tom FitzPatrick, the County Councillor, to challenge this as I do not have direct access to Highways officers.

- **Rudham Stile Lane to Whitelands path** – Highways are responsible for the path, and I raised a request with them on 27th December remove the mud and leaves. Though Highways have said they will do it, it still looks as though nothing has been done. Again, I have escalated this to Tom.
- **Broken Tree Branch at Grove Lane leading up to the bypass** – A broken branch is overhanging the path. Highways have confirmed they are responsible for this and will cut it down, though no timeframe given.
- **Claypit Lane Potholes** – Last month I reported multiple potholes on Claypit Lane near the entrance to Dairy Farm Drive.
- **New** – I have reported a large pothole on North Park on the road leading to Field Lane.