

CLlr Christopher Cushing – October 2025

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

- I note that the EDP reported a couple of weeks ago that the police had stopped a driver doing 51mph along Greenway Lane at lunch time.
- Cllr Tom FitzPatrick has requested that speed sensors are placed on Greenway Lane so that data can be collated to demonstrate how bad speeding is along there.
- Sarah Taylor, the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner, has accepted my invitation to visit Fakenham to discuss speeding on Tuesday 4th November, 2.00 – 4.00pm. We will meet at the Town Council office. I will take Sarah on a tour of the key roads that are affected along with County, District and Town Councillors who will be available. At 3.00pm we will convene in the Town Council Committee Room for a question-and-answer session, which can cover speeding and any other relevant issues. Residents are invited to attend this too.

2. Swimming Pool

- Construction work has started in October. The Town Council has signed the lease of the land with the District Council.
- The Fitness Centre car park is now closed, with alternative parking available at the Academy and Rugby Club, depending on the time of day. Academy parents and Fitness Club members have been notified about this.
- There is excessive parking along Rudham Stile Lane. Cllr Angela Glynn, the Mayor of Fakenham, and I visited the area at school knocking off time. There were about 15 cars parked there, most of which disappeared by 3.40pm, so it is parents who are responsible.
- A Traffic Regulation Order has been requested from Highways to put temporary yellow lines along the road which should solve the issue.

3. Dilapidated Building at No. 9 Norwich Street

- I attended a site meeting at No. 9 Norwich Street last week convened by Cllr Glynn. This was chaired by Jerome Mayhew MP, and attended by other Town Councillors, the Town Clerk, Cllr Liz Vickers, the NNDC Director of Service Delivery along other NNDC staff and Historic England representatives.
- This is in the South Fakenham ward, so not my patch. As a Fakenham Councillor though I share the concern of my South Fakenham District Councillor colleagues, Liz Vickers and

Jeremy Punchard, and the Town Council about the continuing deterioration of the building.

- It is clear from what was said that the current owners have not complied with NNDC requests to repair the building, nor show any sign of doing so. As far as we were able to discern, the only recourse NNDC have available to get the work done would be to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order to take ownership of the building. A CPO is a lengthy process and if successful would undoubtedly cost the District Council a lot of money.
- It is a political decision to pursue this option. The Conservative Opposition at the council would certainly support this as there are ample Budget Reserves to cover the work. However, the ruling Liberal Democrat administration has no wish to do so. The consequence is that the building will remain in its dilapidated state for years to come, and the cracks will continue to grow until one day something will have to be done. In the meantime, the town is left with the carbuncle which impedes the regeneration of the Town Centre.
- The District Councillors need to work with the Town Council to define a strategy to challenge the NNDC Administration to pursue a CPO.

4. Urban Extension

- I have asked the new NNDC Assistant Director for Planning for an update from Savills who are marketing some of the land owned by Trinity College at Rudham Stile Lane.

5. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance Issues

- **Copper Beach Close** – I have twice chased Anglian Water to cut an overgrown area on an Anglian Water Pumping station which borders Lee Warner Avenue.
- **Rudham Stile Lane** – Chased Flagship Housing to request they trim a tree at the back of one of their properties on Lee Warner Avenue. No response though.
- **Toll Bar** – Noise pollution from a cockerel, and rat infestation from the field on the left-hand side of Toll Bar. The latest report I have received from the NNDC Environmental team is that remedial work is being done by the tenant.
- Hedge is overgrown at the **crossing to Morrisons** on the Medical Centre side. Work has been undertaken on the gas pipes which meant the hedge was sectioned off. This is complete now. I have no contact address for anyone at Morrisons so will have to go into the store to ask for them, then request the hedge be cut.
- The streetlight at the entrance to the **Meadow Walk path** from Thorpland Road is not working. Housing 21 are responsible for this, and they have referred the matter to their Head Office manager. I have followed this up by writing to him as well, but he has ignored my email. I'm not aware of any leverage to make Housing 21 repair the light. I would welcome support from the Town Council on this.
- New – I reported to NNDC Environmental Services that rats have been sighted in a hedge in the car park at the Running Horse pub.