

Cllr Christopher Cushing – December 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 attended the quarterly police Neighbourhood Watch in early December. PC Jessica Elliott, the Fakenham Beat Officer, said they have continued to do some speed camera checks along roads where speeding is prevalent, and issued a few cautions and some tickets.
- In my last ward newsletter, I asked if there were any volunteers for a resident Speed Camera Watch team. I only had two people come forward from different parts of the ward. There need to be a minimum of six people in a team, so this is a non-starter.

2. Parking issues around Field Lane, North Park and Rudham Stile Lane

- Parking is still an issue at school dropping off and picking up times along the top end of Field Lane, along Rudham Stile Lane and the northern and western entrances to North Park.
- I raised this at the Swimming Pool Steering Group. I have been told that a Traffic Regulation Order has been requested from Highways to put temporary yellow lines along Rudham Stile Lane. This is with Highways to approve, and the County Councillor has been asked to see if this can be expedited.
- I have raised this with Jessica Elliott too; however, she said illegal parking is not a police responsibility.
- I forwarded a photo that a resident had sent me of a car which was blocking the pavement and Jessica said she would write a warning letter to the owner as this does fall within their scope.

3. Greenway Lane Bus Stop Signs

- A resident pointed out to me that there are bus stops either side of Greenway Lane next to and opposite the left-hand side of the entrance to Lancaster Avenue.
- I have written to Highways to ask that they put up signs on each side of the road as apparently some buses are not stopping at these places when they should. I'm awaiting a response.

4. Devolution (new Mayor) and Local Government Reform (new Unitary councils)

- The Government's statutory public consultation on local government reorganisation proposals for Norfolk. Is open until 11th January 2026, can be seen at the following link – Norfolk: Local government reorganisation - [Norfolk: Local government reorganisation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/norfolk-local-government-reorganisation)
- The Government had proposed an election next May for a Combined Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk. The Norfolk County Council agreed to participate in a fast-track application process, which included setting up new unitary authorities, on the promise that this would come with significant additional funding for both counties.
- Two weeks ago, the Government announced out of the blue that it is postponing the Mayoral elections for two years. The consequences are that it will not allocate most of the funding it had pledged, meaning Norfolk and Suffolk will now lose £50 million. We do not know what the impact will be on the proposed unitary elections in 2027, nor whether the County Councils elections in 2026 will go ahead either.
- As mentioned in my last report, I am extremely sceptical about both Devolution and Local Government Reform as I believe our Council Tax bills will increase, council services will deteriorate.

5. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance Issues

- **Field Lane path near the entrance to Wells Road** – This is worn and dangerous for pedestrians when covered by wet leaves. I reported it to Highways to ask them to resurface this. I have not had a response yet.
- **Morrisons Pedestrian Crossing** – I have not received a reply from my email to the Morrisons Community Champion to ask them to trim back the overhanging brambles which are on their side of the hedge.
- **New** – the kerb just south of the Running Horse pub on Trinity Road has been completely churned up by lorries parking on it, presumably waiting to enter the construction site at the neighbouring petrol station. Investigation has revealed that this is also owned by Morrisons. I will make another attempt to engage them to ask that they repair this.

And finally on behalf of the north Fakenham residents I would like to thank all the Town Councillors and staff for the work that they do to look after and promote the town. I think we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team. I am particularly grateful for all the support that you give me too throughout the year.

I am unable to attend this month's meeting as it clashes with the NNDC December Full Council. Therefore, I will use this report as my opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christopher