Cllr Christopher Cushing – August 2026

Fakenham Lancaster North Ward District Council Report

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

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1. Nationwide ATM Cash Machine

- Nationwide want to appeal the decision to refuse an ATM Cash Machine at their premises in the Market Place.
- I have signed the petition for the ATM which demonstrates the town's support for a much-needed cash machine in the centre of the town which will assist Nationwide.

2. Banking Hub

- LINK recently carried out an assessment of access to cash in the town and concluded that Fakenham does not need or meet the criteria for the provision of a Banking Hub.
- This is a bizarre decision given all the main high street banks have closed their branches, with only Barclays offering some advisory services for four days a week. Holt which is less than half the size of Fakenham was granted a Hub, as was Wymondham which is a similar but close to Norwich.
- I appreciate a building would need to be found for the facility, but the need is not in doubt.
- I have signed a joint letter to LINK with Cllr Liz Vickers to ask them to reconsider their decision.

3. Swimming Pool Development

- The swimming pool is on schedule to be finished by early February.
- Though the Fitness Centre renovation will be completed in December, the car park will remain closed until the swimming pool opens as their will still be work men on site.
- I am told additional 55 – 63 car park spaces will be created with the development of the new 3G artificial pitch which would help alleviate concerns about the parking capacity at the site. This feeds into the next item…

4. Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Field Lane & Rudham Stile Lane

- As reported last month, Highways issued a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation.
- This proposes on the northern side of the Rudham Stile Lane to replace the single yellow line to a double.

- Put double yellow lines on Field Lane from just south of the western entrance to the North Park along the houses there.
- Though cars have parked with impunity for months along the southern stretch of Rudham Stile Lane as described above, there is no proposal to put temporary or permanent yellow lines along here.
- I understand that the feedback received by Highways has been generally negative, though I do know a few residents who are support the proposals.
- There will be a second consultation round as the process must run its course. I would not be surprised if the outcome of the TRO is a 'wait and see' if the new swimming pool creates additional congestion along both roads, and if so, the TRO will be implemented.

5. Speeding in North Fakenham

- Highways installed speed monitoring cables on Greenway Lane and Rudham Stile Lane over may and June. They concluded from this that there are no major speeding issues along these roads, which is nonsense.
- It has been pointed out to them that they placed both sets in the wrong places so have been asked to try again at different points along these roads.

6. Hedge, Verge and Road Maintenance

- **Eastern Path between Rudham Stile Lane and Whitelands** – I cleared this of branches that were impeding the path in response to resident complaints.
- **Path along Meadow Walk parallel to Thorpland Road** – Housing 21 are responsible for this and have confirmed they will trim it soon. Residents there have complained about dog mess along that stretch. I have asked the Town Council if dog waste bin could be placed further up opposite the Medical Centre.
- **Path from Langham Glass to Holt Road** – I cut the northern stretch of this as not sure who is responsible for this. Anglian Water are responsible for the southern stretch and have agreed to clear the path that runs parallel to the houses. I have chased them to do this.
- **Grove Lane from Rudham Stile Lane to the Bypass** – This has been cut so residents can use this.
- **Seppings Road / Fisher Road / Wells Path connecting path** – I asked Highways to cut the long stretch of grass that borders the Academy pitch as it was a fire hazard. Highways refused as they said it did not meet their criteria for action. The recent rain has reduced the risk.
- **Rudham Stile Lane Road and Trinity Road Sign** – NNDC have ordered a new road sign for 'Rudham Stile Lane' near the entrance to Thorpland Road to replace the one that is broken.
- **Trinity Road Sign** – Also a sign has been ordered Trinity Road as one has never been placed there.

7. Fakenham Arts Festival

- I attended the launch of the Fakenham Arts Festival 2026 at the kind invitation of Richard Crook, Chair of Active Fakenham. Several events are planned. Also, many shops in the town centre are displayed works by local artists.

8. **NNDC Community Fund**

- The new NNDC Community Fund is now up and running whereby each District Councillor has a fund of £4,000 to spend for the benefit of local groups.
- My first one application was approved for new goalposts for the 'Sunday Morningers Football Group'. This is a group of about 40 people who meet on a Sunday on the Trap Lane field to play football.
- I have received two requests this month which I will support and submit. One from Active Fakenham to fund some Defibrillator and Emergency Bleed Kit training which residents can apply to attend.
- The other is from the Town Council have asked for some funds for some litter picking equipment.