DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LIZ VICKERS: FAKENHAM LANCASTER SOUTH WARD (please feel free to contact me on 07537 917699 or liz.vickers@north-norfolk.gov.uk) Follow me on Facebook at Cllr Liz Vickers

REPORT August 2026

Fakenham Banking Hub

Link has recognised that Fakenham has a deficit in access to cash and other banking services but has not recommended a banking hub. This is grossly unfair as other market towns have banking hubs. North Walsham, for example, has just over half the footfall of Fakenham, but has a banking hub. Similarly, Wymondham, has a smaller population than Fakenham, is closer to banks in Norwich and has a Nationwide branch with an outside ATM, but has a banking hub.

Why not Fakenham. That is why Jerome Mayhew MP, Mayor Angela Glynn, the County Councillor and I worked together to launch an appeal. With the support of our Postmaster, we have all written separately to Link. A great example of teamwork towards a common goal for Fakenham. We have asked Link to review its decision and, if it still refuses a banking hub, to give us clear reasons why. The time for appeal ends on 26 August.

I also launched a petition in support of a banking hub so that Link is aware of the strength of feeling in our town. Fakenham shopkeepers have been magnificent in supporting this. Access to cash is very important for Fakenham residents, visitors and businesses. However, this is not just about access to cash. Other banking services are important, particularly for our elderly population.

Nationwide ATM

I spoke at planning committee and gave my full support for the outside ATM. Unfortunately, the planning committee was held when many councillors were on holiday. We lost by a single vote, the casting vote of the Lib Dem Chairman. I have had conversations with both the Head of Planning Development at NNDC and Cllr Brown, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement. Both have told me that, in their view, there is no opportunity for NNDC to review the decision on this application. If the applicant wants to proceed with plans in their current form, it will need to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. I have written to the applicant to give my full support for an appeal.

Officers from the NNDC Conservation Team have met Nationwide's architect as part of their duty of care following refusal of a planning application. The meeting was positive. Officers want to work constructively with Nationwide to see if a new, alternative application is possible. The vehicular right of way into the Market Square remains a sticking point that needs to be resolved with County Highways. My view is that a resolution to this right of way is long overdue as it is a broader matter of pedestrian safety. It is early days, but I believe that this is a step in the right direction to get an external ATM for Fakenham.

Fakenham Friends Club

Two community spirited ladies, Kaye and Kerry, have started a friendship club which currently meets on Monday and Tuesday morning at The Crown pub. This is a lovely initiative which has come from the grass roots as a response to the needs of our local community. Many of our more vulnerable residents attend this club. I have joined them twice and I am helping them to set up as a charity so that they can attract funding. With thanks to the generosity of Ali, landlady of The Crown, for providing a temporary meeting place.

9 Norwich Street

I have been lobbying for a resolution to the eyesore at 9 Norwich Street from my very first Council meeting. I have asked both NNDC officers and Cllr Tim Adams to brief me on what current steps they are taking to resolve this. I have been refused on, in my view, rather spurious grounds of confidentiality. My very real fear is that this can is being kicked down the road until NNDC is dissolved. I have now written to the Monitoring Officer to exercise my "right to know" entitlement under NNDC's Constitution and force NNDC to be transparent about its actions.

Red Lion Court and Mill Court

This week, I held further meetings with residents about ongoing anti-social behaviour, which is having a serious impact on their lives and wellbeing. I have passed all information to the police These two hotspots continue to require significant police resources. Unfortunately, it appears that Victory Housing did not put an adequate vetting process in place before housing troubled individuals close to elderly, disabled and vulnerable residents. I am seeking to remedy this with Flagships management team.