

25th September 2024

Cllr Christopher Cushing - Fakenham Lancaster North Ward

North Norfolk District Council

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1. Urban Extension - A148 Roundabout

- Norfolk County Council and North Norfolk District Council have confirmed that the new roundabout on the A148 bypass near Water Moor Lane will be built over the next few months.
- The building work planned to start on Monday 7th October.
- Unfortunately the development will cause major traffic disruption:
 - Water Moor Lane will be closed for the duration of the works.
 - So will 'Wells Road', sometimes known as 'Long Lane', that runs from the A148 junction opposite Water Moor Lane to the crossroads with the B1105. The Wells Road in town running from Highfield Road to the Shell garage should be unaffected.
 - Two-way traffic lights will be in place on the A148 along with a reduced speed limit.
 - Night time closures will be required to facilitate works and these will be published when dates are confirmed.
- The work will include:
 - A supporting footway along the Fakenham bypass.
 - Resurfacing works and a cycle lane along Wells Road.
 - A new link road to join the southern arm to Water Moor Lane.
- The work is expected to take approximately 32 weeks weather permitting, which means it should be completed by May 2025. The reason why it will take so long is because it will require the installation of new drainage systems and the diversion of two major utilities.
- The roundabout is the initial stage in building the Fakenham urban extension. There is no indication as to when any new houses will be built. Nutrient Neutrality issues affecting the site will need to be resolved first.

2. FLASH Project - Swimming Pool & 3G Artificial Pitch

- There are now grave concerns as to whether the Labour Government will continue to support funding for the new swimming pool and 3G artificial pitch to be built at Trap Lane.
- The previous Conservative Government agreed to give £9.8 million which would have paid for most of the development. This funding was formally signed off in May. Following the General Election though, the government want to review the existing spending pledges.

- I have written a letter to Angela Rayner MP, the Secretary of State for Local Government, urging her to release the funding as the swimming pool is desperately needed by the town and area. I received a reply to say the decision will likely be made in the next two months.
- Design work and planning application should be completed in October.
- Construction work is then scheduled to begin. This is where the main costs of the development will be incurred.
- The council will have to put the project on hold at that point until the decision is confirmed.

3. St Peters Road Grass Areas

- In my last update I reported that I held a meeting with Victory representatives and residents at St Peters Road to discuss complaints about the uncut grass on most of the estate.
- Victory have now cut the grass and cleaned it up after further prompting. I'm waiting for their proposals as to their intentions for the grass next year.

4. Fly Tipping

- I have reported to NNDC two instances of fly tipping:
 - Large pile of over 50 tyres has been dumped on the old Holt Road pedestrian path close to the exit onto Clipbush Lane.
 - A smaller pile of rubbish has been left halfway along Thorpland Road behind Screwfix. Some papers were included in this, and these are being investigated to determine if they can identify the perpetrators.
- NNDC will only remove the above if they are deemed to be on public land and they are in the process of checking this. If not, they will contact the landlord to ask them to arrange the removal.

5. Meadow Walk and Medical Centre Footpaths

- The footpath that runs parallel to Thorpland Road alongside the Meadow Walk Care Home has now been cut by Housing 21 who own it. They have done an excellent job.
- Highways have cut the other side of the hedge along Thorpland Road up to Cherry Tree Farm.
- The path opposite the Medical Centre still needs to be done. County Cllr Tom FitzPatrick is chasing Highways to do this.

6. Potholes down Field Lane

- I have reported a dozen potholes that need to be repaired at the bottom of Field Lane to Highways, and another near the entrance to the Academy. I'm awaiting Highways' response.