

# **Cllr Christopher Cushing – October 2024**

## **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.*

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### **1. Speeding on Field Lane, Rudham Stile Lane and Clipbush Lane**

- I have received more complaints about speeding on the above roads. There is particular concern about the Academy school drop off and pick up times with cars regularly doing over 40mph in the 20mph zone along Field Lane and Rudham Stile Lane along North Park.
- I raised this again with Jessica Elliott, the Fakenham Police Beat Officer. Jessica said she would visit the area during the morning busy periods.
- The Town Council has deployed its only SAM 2 camera at the bottom of Field Lane. This is a mobile camera that records the speed of oncoming cars and flash up their speed with a 'slow down' message if they are going too fast. Each deployment lasts up to 8 weeks.
- I understand the Town Council has ordered another camera. I would like to request that the Town Council, in conjunction with Highways, place a camera along Rudham Stile Lane on the 20mph stretch that runs along North Park.
- One other option that may help would be to put some 'Sleeping Policemen' along both stretches, but Highways would need to determine whether this is viable.

### **2. Urban Extension north of Rudham Stile Lane**

- Building work has started on the A148 roundabout and is scheduled to finish next May.
- Earlier this year the District Council submitted the Local Plan for North Norfolk from 2016 – 2036. It has taken many years to draft this which is why starts in 2016 which is when the last plan finished. This document outlines the council's housing needs and how these will be addressed. This must be approved by a Government Planning Inspector. The Inspector has now responded to the council and requested several changes.
- The first is that it is pointless having a plan covering the last 8 years, so it will now run from 2024 to 2040.
- The Inspector has stipulated that to meet estimated housing needs, another 1,000 dwellings will need to be added to the plan.
- This should not affect north Fakenham as the urban extension has been included in its Local Plan since 2008. The Inspector has specified some revisions for this.
- The urban extension will be built in two phases. The first covers the land to the east of Water Moor Lane where it is proposed to build 950 houses.

- The Inspector believes work on these will not start until 2027/8, and when it does about 100 properties will be built per annum. Therefore, it will take about 10 years to complete.
- As far as I understand Trinity College has not sold any of this land to a developer. No building can be undertaken until the Nutrient Neutrality requirements are addressed to offset the nitrates and phosphates the houses generate.
- The second phase of the extension covers the land to the west of Water Moor Lane which is earmarked for approximately 600 houses. The current plan stated that work on this would start in 2032. The Inspector has revised this to 2035/6, and consequently only 300 would be complete by 2040.

### **3. FLASH Project - Swimming Pool & 3G Artificial Pitch**

- It is anticipated that the Chancellor's Autumn Statement will confirm whether the previous government's funding allocation of the £9.8m for the swimming pool still stands. If it does not, then the pool will not be built.
- It has been confirmed that the Football Foundation and Football Association will fund most of the costs for full sized 3G pitch. I'm delighted that the Town Council agreed to lease the land at Trap Lane on which this will be built.

### **4. NNDC Fakenham Car Parking Fees**

- Recommendations for NNDC's car parking fees were submitted for review to the October Overview & Scrutiny Committee of which I am a member. One proposal is to increase charges by 20p across all Standard car parks, which includes all of Fakenham's, as well as their Coastal and Resort car parks.
- I argued that there should be no increase for the Standard car parks, or 10p at most if necessary, and this should be compensated by 30p per hour increases for the Coastal and Resort car parks. I suggested this on the basis that residents mainly use the Standard car parks, whereas the others are heavily used by visitors and tourists.
- This will go to the November Cabinet and Full Council for a decision.

### **5. Arthur Road (off Eckersley Drive)**

- Wimpey Homes have cut a hedge at the back of Arthur Road that runs up to the rugby club that I requested as this was impinging on a residents' car park there.

### **6. Wensum Grange (new estate off Rudham Stile Lane)**

- Farm Drive Sign - Following a request from a Farm Drive resident, I have asked NNDC if they can alter the sign at the entrance to the Wensum Grange estate to add Farm Drive in addition to Brick Kiln Road. This will help delivery van drivers find it as it tucked away well into the estate.
- Tree Preservation Orders have been placed on all the trees on the border between the estate and the Town Council allotments.