

# North Mundham Parish Council

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our November meeting was a busy one. There are two items in particular to mention.

The most significant item is the emerging District Council Local Plan Review. We are still getting to grips with this. We only saw the details for the first time on the day of the meeting, when they were published in advance of a District Council Cabinet meeting on 14 November, followed by a Council meeting on 20 November. If the review document passes those two hurdles, it will go out for public consultation from 13 December 2018 to 7 February 2019.

Although the document covers a multitude of planning issues, one of the key issues is the requirement to meet future housing needs. As well as proposing major development on a number of sites, the document sets out a proposed housing requirement for each parish. The proposed housing requirement for the parish of North Mundham is 50 houses.

If this number survives the consultation phase, that is the number which we will have to find space for. We can either sit back and let the District Council decide where they will go, or we can produce our own Neighbourhood Plan to provide for them. It is important to realise at the start that if 50 houses are to be our allocation, that is what a Neighbourhood Plan must provide for – a Plan that provides a lesser number will not be accepted.

You may recall that, until recently, we had been advised that we did not need a Neighbourhood Plan, and so we were concentrating on producing a Parish Plan instead, which is a much less bureaucratic process. However, this recent development has persuaded us that we must revive our commitment to developing a full Neighbourhood Plan. There is a further complication in that we will need to keep pace with the emerging Local Plan, which is a very demanding timetable.

Several months ago, some of you were kind enough to volunteer to help develop a Neighbourhood plan, and we will be in touch to see if your offer is still open. And we still need the help of more volunteers – developing a Neighbourhood Plan needs to involve the whole community. It is not something that the Parish Council, working in isolation, can do for you. If you can help, please let me know.

The other issue for which we would appreciate your help is in planning the Open Gardens day next year. We have heard a number of views about how long the gardens should be open – is four hours enough to let visitors get round them? How widely should event should be advertised – or is this primarily an event for local people? Who should benefit from the proceeds – should they go to a particular charity? These and any other questions are really for discussion with the people who are kind enough to open their gardens. We appreciate you may not want to make a firm commitment this far in advance about whether to open your garden. But it would be helpful to have your views anyway, and we will plan a small event early next year to find out what you think.

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