

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The most immediate problem facing us all is the consultation on the District Council's Local Plan Review. This is happening because, when the current Local Plan was put in place, the Planning Inspector required that the Plan should be reviewed to cover the period up to 2035. The document setting out the Preferred Approach has been published, and the consultation period ends on 7 February. You can find all the consultation documents on the District Council's website here: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/30923/Preferred-Approach---consultation-December-2018>

The Parish Council will of course respond to the consultation, but by the time you read this there may be little time left for you to let us know your views. Alternatively, any local resident can respond directly to make their views known.

One of the key issues for the local community is the proposed allocation for new houses to be built in the Parish. The consultation document requires us to find space for 50 new homes, and regardless of what we might say in response to the consultation there is little realistic possibility that this number will be reduced. We can either wait to see what sites the District Council might designate, or we can take a more proactive approach by developing our own Neighbourhood Development Plan, and this is what we have decided to do. An important date for your diary is the evening of Tuesday 18 March when we hold the Annual Meeting of Electors. We intend that the meeting will focus almost entirely on the Neighbourhood Plan. Effective Neighbourhood Plans are the result of community involvement, and we very much hope you will get involved.

Another date for your diary is the Open Gardens Day, which we have provisionally set for Sunday 23 June. I am aware that there has been some criticism in the past about the limited time that the gardens have been open, and the difficulty in getting round to see all of them. We would very much welcome feedback about this, as well as how widely we should publicise the event - or should it be just an event for local people? - and how we should use the proceeds. Councillor Denia Turnbull is coordinating the arrangements for this event, so please let her or me know what you think. And of course we would welcome offers from anyone prepared to open their garden on the day.

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