

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I am pleased to be able to report that we have managed to find the money to carry out a project to improve the state of the eastern end of the old canal, where it runs next to the footpath to Canal Mead. Working with the FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) project and the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, it will improve the water quality and the biodiversity of this part of the canal. It will involve digging out some deeper pools and letting more light into the canal. The canal itself will be protected by a 'dead hedge' made from wood cleared from the site to form an attractive fence, and a range of wetland plants can be introduced to provide more colour and interest.

We have been looking at the way we manage the Village Hall, and how we co-operate with the Playing Fields Trust to market their pavilion facilities with the Hall as the Village Centre. It may be that there is a more efficient way of doing this, and the Parish Council has provided funding for a small working party to get some professional advice to explore the options.

I know that John Ashley, as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, produces regular reports in 'connect' and elsewhere. In the next few weeks we will be delivering a survey questionnaire to every household. I want to emphasise how important it is for you to respond to the survey so that we know your views. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a vital tool to shape the future of the Parish, and it will include policies which will determine where any new housing will be built. Once it is agreed it will form part of the structure of policies which will guide District Council planning officers and the Planning Committee. But we need to convince the Planning Inspector that it has been written after local consultation. Even if knew what you think, we need to have written evidence as a record. So please help us by completing the survey.

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