

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Since my last report we have distributed a note to every household about the planning applications which we expect to see in the coming weeks. This is a rather fast-moving situation, and we will not be able to advise you individually of each one as it is published. So please keep an eye on the Parish Council's website, the District Council's planning portal or the local papers to see what might be coming up.

One of the things we have to remind land owners about from time to time is their responsibility to maintain hedges and ditches which border their property. I am reluctant to press people to trim their hedges during the bird-nesting season, conscious that it is an offence to disturb nesting birds. But by the time you read this it is reasonable to ask you to make sure you trim hedges if they overhang or obstruct roads and pavements. And please remember this includes hedges anywhere on your boundary if they are next to a road or path, not just at the front.

One of the effects of the lockdown has been that we have not been able to pay as much attention as we would like, to the areas that we worked on over the winter with the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group. We had plans for further working parties to do some planting at Camic Pond and along the line of the old canal, and we hope to be able to start again soon. One of the features of both sites, but particularly the canal, is the use of 'dead hedges' to act as a barrier and also serve as a natural habitat for wildlife. We have noticed that in some places people have used them as a place to dispose of garden waste. Please avoid doing so. You may think you are making a useful contribution, but there is a very real risk that you will introduce non-native and invasive species. It is important that the material in the dead hedges is representative of natural growth from the immediate vicinity rather than garden plants.

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Your Parish Council

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