

# North Mundham Parish Council

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## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

You may have seen in the national or local press that the Government has a number of proposals to change the planning system. There are actually two sets of proposals. One is a set of detailed changes to the existing planning regime, most notably a change to the way the housing requirement for each District is calculated. If it is enacted, this change would require a big increase in the number of houses for which Chichester's Local Plan would have to find space. I understand that both West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council will make a critical response to these proposals, and your Parish Council is also preparing a response which argues against them.

In the slightly longer term, the Government has published a White Paper which proposes a much more radical change to the national planning system, and local government bodies have until the end of October to respond.

Much closer to home, I am happy to report that we have been successful in an application for funding for some outdoor gym equipment, and the Playing Fields Trust has offered to provide some additional funding. We will be discussing with the Trust exactly where on the playing fields the apparatus will be sited, to provide an accessible keep fit opportunity for local residents.

Now that autumn is with us, there is some more work to do on the old canal and at Camic Pond, under the supervision of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group whose help has been so valuable. We plan to hold regular working parties which are currently scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, starting on 1 October. If you would like to join us please let me know, and I will make sure you get an invitation with the details. The working groups will be arranged to comply with the 'Rule of Six' social distancing requirements. No special skills are required, and we can find something for almost anyone to do. It may be that Thursdays do not suit everyone, and if there are sufficient volunteers we will try to arrange sessions at other times - please let me know.

Finally, a number of people have drawn my attention to the very aggressive clearance which has started in the field between Canal Mead and Post Office Lane. This is a fast-moving situation which we are watching closely, and the District Council's Planning Enforcement team are already aware. However, we will not be able to act unless there is an identified breach of planning legislation.

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