

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The arrival of the pandemic has made a lot of people think about our local reaction to an emergency, which we used to call 'Emergency Planning' but which is now sometimes referred to as 'Community Resilience'. A small team from the Parish Council is working on reviewing and updating our Emergency Plan. One of the features of the Emergency Plan is a confidential list of people who may be vulnerable in some way. For instance, they may be dependent on a continuous supply of electricity, or regular supplies of medication – or they may simply find it difficult to get shopping done if we are blanketed in snow. If anyone would like to be added to this list – it is strictly confidential and entirely voluntary – please contact Frances Neave on 01243 782391 or by e-mail at: f.neave@northmundham.org If you know anyone who you think should be on the list, please let them know about it – but any request to be added to the list must be with their explicit agreement.

I have recently been asked to intervene in an issue between neighbours. It is important to realise that neither I nor other parish councillors have any special powers in this regard. If there is a problem then there is nothing we can do that you cannot do yourself. If there is a difficulty that you need to resolve, the first thing to do is 'ask them nicely'. But if there really is a problem that cannot be resolved amicably - for instance a nuisance such as noise, smoke, artificial light, smells or insect infestation – then this is a matter for the District Council's Environmental Management team on 01243 534598 or by e-mail at: environmentalprotect@chichester.gov.uk

And now for a short note on a rather grisly topic. We have recently heard about a nasty incident in South Mundham involving an injured deer. This was the result of the deer being set on by dogs and left badly mauled and with two broken legs. The dogs and their owners ran off, and the deer had to be destroyed. Make no mistake that anyone coming across coursing or any form of illegal hunting needs to call 999 straight away. Do not try to intervene yourself – these are not nice people.

I said I would keep you informed about planning matters. The Lowlands application goes to Chichester District Council's (CDC's) planning committee on 9 December, so it will probably be decided by the time you read this. In addition, we have now seen the details of application 20/02989/FUL for a development of 66 houses at Pigeon House Farm, on the field behind the church, accessed through the Lowlands development. This proposal also includes, in outline only, a community hub building, and a footpath and cycleway access through the Alternative Provision College close to Aylwin Place. Because this very

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detailed application was only published a few hours before our most recent planning committee meeting, we have asked for an extension of time to respond after our next meeting on Tuesday 5 January, though if we cannot get an extension we will meet before Christmas. But remember that it is the District Council's planning committee which decides these applications. Let us know what you think. But do not just rely on the parish council to represent your views, since they carry much more weight if you respond yourself.

There is one further planning issue. Until now, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been working on the assumption that the next Local Plan would require us to find space for at least 50 houses. However, as you may recall, the Government published some consultation documents during the summer which suggested a much more demanding housing requirement. Although these requirements are still under discussion, CDC has just circulated a letter telling us they want to test a revised distribution of housing which means we need to plan for 150 houses.

And finally, one bit of good news. Working with the Playing Fields Trust, the Parish Council has jointly funded a set of outdoor gym equipment sited on the playing field, which is now ready for your use.

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