

North Mundham Parish Council

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

A Happy New Year to you all.

North Mundham residents cannot fail to notice that we had a road flooding problem over the Christmas period. I lost count of the number of times I was asked 'When are they going to do something about it?' To which I was tempted to reply 'Who have you reported it to?' When these things happen, it tends to be after heavy rain, and there will be problems all over the county. So it is important that the responsible organisations get to know about it, and I thought it might be useful to share some of the contact numbers.

For road flooding, where the gullies are not draining the water, the organisation to contact is West Sussex County Council Highways on 01243 642105. This is the number to call for any emergency road problems, such as manhole collapse, fallen trees and road signs, and flooding.

For a sewage problem, such as blocked drains or pollution, the responsible body is Southern Water on 0330 303 0368. If there is a risk of sewage contamination you can also call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

As I write, a contractor has spent a couple of days jetting the road drainage system. It is possible that, with some local help, they may have identified the problem. But if they are right, it will take some further work to fix it.

As I warned you in my report last month, the Parish Council discussed planning application 20/02989/FUL for a development of 66 houses at Pigeon House Farm, on the field behind the church, on 5 January. Because it was a significant application, it went before the full Parish Council rather than our planning committee.

After some lengthy discussion, the Council identified a number of concerns relating to waste water flows and sewage capacity, the need to maintain the surface water drainage arrangements, and the additional traffic burden on the B2166. Because the development proposal leaves more than half the land undeveloped, the Council also wanted to ensure that it remained undeveloped, and the developer has agreed to make a covenant to that effect. In its response to the Chichester District Council (CDC), the Parish Council has highlighted all these points, but has decided not to object.

I am conscious that this will be a disappointment to some of you, and it is of course open to you to make your own comments and objections to CDC. But the feeling of the meeting was that the developers had submitted an application which was sensitive to the site and, in the light of increasing pressure to find space for housing, presented the about best solution that we could hope to see. There are still some issues to be discussed, since part of the application contained outline proposals for a community hub and the provision of a footway and cycle path link, and the detail of these aspects is yet to be defined.

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