NORTH MUNDHAM AND TANGMERE WARD COUNCILLORS BRIEFING. JANUARY 2025

LOCAL MATTERS

I have no current local news. I will request an informal meeting with Councillors Annie and David Maclean. I am aware of the Planning issues which are imminent,
Please note the All Parishes Meeting being held virtually on Zoom : Monday 3rd February at 17:00.

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

In December the government published a paper to outline plans for both devolution and local government reorganisation.

Devolution

'Devolution by default' to create new era of local power - GOV.UK

The Government wants to introduce "Strategic Authorities" with an elected mayor across England, so that it can hand more powers down from Whitehall. Streamlining local government is being presented as a way to enable the creation of more powerful local mayors, in an attempt to unblock infrastructure and attract greater investment.

Strategic Authorities and elected mayors would then oversee areas representing a population of around 1.5m people. For this area this is likely to include two or more County Councils.

Mayors will potentially be given new **strategic** powers and priorities including:

- Housing and Planning
- Transport
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Police & Crime Commissioners and Fire & Rescue Authorities (will fall to mayors where geographies align)

County Councils and existing Unitary Councils that wish to join the fast track process to become a Mayoral Strategic Authority have to apply to the government by 10 January

West Sussex County Council (and we understand Brighton and Hove Council (Unitary) and East Sussex County Council) are holding special Cabinet meetings on 9th January to discuss this.
Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 9 January 2025, 10.30 am

Local Government Reorganisation

This is separate to devolution, but links with the government's overall aims. The government wants all areas to have unitary councils, with each serving a minimum of 500,000 residents. West Sussex covers a total population of 900,000. Chichester District Council a population of circa. 125,000.The government could decide to create one or two unitary authorities within our area. This would mean all of the existing councils merging into the new unitary council or councils. Chichester District Council is expecting a further letter from government in January.

Growth and Place

Culture

I Grew Up 80s Exhibition - Novium museum

'I Grew Up 80s' opened on Saturday, 7 December and has already received some fantastic reviews, including: "This exhibition is such great fun! Highly recommended." This colourful trip down memory lane captures what the 1980s were like from a child's perspective - when music was on cassettes, shellsuits and leg warmers were must haves, and everyone had a Rubik's Cube at Christmas.
www.thenovium.org/1980s

1984: British Pop's Dividing Year – An Evening Talk with David Elliott Step back to 1984, a defining year in British pop music.
Thursday, 13 February 2025 to book visit: www.thenovium.org/whatson

Place

Public realm improvements at the Avenue de Chartres east side walkway have continued, with an improved walkway to the city centre. The wooden fencing along the east side of the river Lavant has been completed and the area looks revived and more welcoming to visitors.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation for 2025/26 has recently been announced. The council will receive £327,146. No announcements have been made relating to the **Rural England Prosperity Fund.** More details to follow

Communication, Licensing and Events

January Farmers' Market

The New Year kicks off with the first Chichester Farmers' Market on Friday 17 January with the "Feel Good Friday" theme. In addition to the regular traders a range of support organisations and charities such as the CDC Wellbeing Team, Citizens Advice Bureau, Fitness clubs, Nutrition Experts and Mental Health advisors will attend.

Vegan Market

We welcome back the popular Vegan Market to East Street, Chichester on Sunday 26 January between 10am to 4pm. The Market promotes all things vegan not just food and drink including sustainable living products, cruelty free cosmetics, and support for ethical charities.

Laser Shows are back

FREE Laser shows

- Chichester Canal Basin on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 February
- Petworth House on Saturday 15 February

Consultation

The Council will shortly commence (later in January) consultation on two new surveys

- Housing, homelessness and rough sleeping Strategy
- improvements to play parks in Chichester

Let's Talk current surveys - Chichester District Council

NORTH MUNDHAM AND TANGMERE WARD COUNCILLORS BRIEFING. JANUARY 2025

Growth

Economic Development

Enabling Grants Scheme - A new round of the Enabling Grant was launched in September. We received a total of 37 applications and have approved 20 to be allocated funding. The total the grant amount allocated to is £26,387.

Inward Investment
The Economic Development team supported the new ''Ghost at the Feast'' food hall and restaurant which is now open in North St. Chichester.

Growth & Sustainability 'Sustainable Support Grant Programme' will open to applications from 6 January 2025. The guidance is available here Sustainable Support Grant programme - Chichester District Council

Housing and Communities

Communities

COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025 The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport, has written to the council highlighting that the COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025 will take place on Sunday 9 March 2025.
Government announces COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025 - GOV.UK

Housing, Revenues and Benefits

The Supporting You Team continues to make a real difference to residents. A range of advice can be found at: Supporting You Campaign - Chichester District Council

CORPORATE SERVICES

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund West Sussex County Council, in partnership with Biffa, has launched a new Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund designed to empower local community groups, schools, charities and social enterprises to take innovative steps in reducing waste. Applications open on Monday 13 January 2025. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, visit the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund - West Sussex County Council

CDC MEETINGS - JANUARY

6 January 2025	Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel – 11am
7 January 2025	Cabinet – 9.30am
15 January 2025	Planning Committee – 9.30am
16 January 2025	Joint Employee Consultative Panel – 2pm
20 January 2025	Corporate Governance and Audit Committee – 2pm
21 January 2025	Council – 6pm
22 January 2025	Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel – 9.30am
27 January 2025	Environment Panel – 9.30am
29 January 2025	Grants and Concession Panel – 9.30am