

Local Updates

Lagoon 3 Crouchlands Farm – Gareth and I were recently alerted to a potential leak of the digestate lagoon at Crouchlands Farm. We are able to confirm that there was **no** leak at the lagoon on this occasion and that attendees from Chichester District Council, the Environment Agency and West Sussex Fire and Rescue were on site as part of the routine multi-agency monitoring visits.

CDC Planning Enforcement continues to take steps to ensure the landowner complies with the Enforcement Notice to empty and remove the lagoon. At this stage we can share that test results on the contents are awaited before the Environment Agency can safely assess the landowner's request to spread it to land. CDC retains the right to take further legal action or seek prosecution against the landowner should this not be forthcoming.

Unauthorised works in Northchapel / Lurgashall – We were made aware by several residents on Friday 2nd May of caravans and unauthorised works that started on a rural paddock on Blind Lane in Lurgashall, within the parish of Northchapel. Council officers worked quickly to issue a Temporary Stop Notice which was in place by Friday 2nd May 2025 and should have put a stop to all unauthorised engineering operations. However, over the bank holiday it became clear that this notice had been breached as works continued and the matter required escalation to seek an injunction from the High Court in London.

This was successfully obtained and served prohibiting any further unauthorised works or vehicles and caravans entering the site. This form of injunction means that if a person fails to comply with the Injunction this could result in a custodial sentence. The council has also issued an Enforcement Notice. This requires the relevant parties to return the land to agricultural land and to remove any unauthorised structures, items, vehicles and caravans, and to cease unauthorised use of the land.

A frequently asked questions page can be found here:

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/latestnews>

CDC Wide Updates

Local Plan - The Local Plan process is continuing and the 'main modifications' following the Inspectors' examination are now out for public consultation until 29th May. More details can be found here: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/main-modifications-consultation>

Chichester District Council Grants Programme

The council was pleased to be able to increase the amount of funding available through the discretionary grants programme for this financial year and agreed three new funding priorities. A pot of £350,000 is available for this year. The first closing date for applications over £2,000 will be Friday 16 May (there will be three further rounds during the year). Applications must be from organisations delivering projects or services meeting one of the Council's priorities (Economy, Improving Places & Spaces, Stronger Communities). Details of eligibility can be found here:

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/grantprogramme>

Full Council Meeting – The next Full Council meeting will be on Tuesday 20th of May. Members of the Public are welcome to attend or the livestream / recording can be watched via the Council's website.

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans runs regular surgeries across Loxwood Ward which are available for all residents to attend. If the suggested dates do not work then home visits and telephone/video calls are also available:

Saturday 24th May 12 – 2pm The Onslow, Loxwood

Saturday 7th June 12-2pm Kirdford Stores, Kirdford

Our contact details are:

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