

NOTES FROM THE RESIDENTS' MEETING
HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER 2025 AT THE FLITCHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Parish Council held a residents meeting on 16th December where 20 members of the public attended, alongside the Parish Councillors and Alistair Beales, the Borough Councillor.

Sandringham Land Agent Edward Parsons, Farm Manager Ted Holmes, plus an Environmental Adviser put together a comprehensive presentation regarding the Fertiliser Lagoon and held a question and answer session following the presentation. They opened the meeting by apologising for not consulting with residents sooner.

The decision from the Borough Council regarding this application has now been deferred until 9th January 2026 as they have requested further environmental information from Sandringham. However, it was pointed out that this application was put forward as a Certificate of Lawful Development.

The Farm Manager provided information regarding the route for traffic to deliver produce to the lagoon. He assured the meeting that traffic would not travel through the village. He promised that a restriction for traffic through the village would be added to the suppliers' contract to this effect. Any rogue tanker driver should be reported to Sandringham via the Parish Council, who would then take appropriate action against the contractor.

The lagoon will be double-lined to ensure no seepage would ever get into the land or watercourse and it is planned that weekly checks on the condition of the lagoon will take place. The filling of the lagoon will commence early October to mid December and then crops will be sprayed the following Spring; fields will be rotated.

One question that raised concerns was regarding the lack of a cover over the lagoon. Sandringham advised this was not legally necessary as the audit shows that emissions would be below the 1% limit. They also confirmed the lagoon would be completely fenced off to ensure wild life would not be able to enter unwittingly. With regard to the concerns raised relating to 'smells', the Farm Manager stated it would not be any worse than experienced over the past 8 years as crop spreading had been undertaken since that time, although a resident did point out that it would be over a longer period moving forward as the filling of the lagoon would commence in October.

It was pointed out to the Estate that a document on the Planning Portal, dated the previous day, stated that the Local Development Plan could not be approved at this stage because the proposal was likely to have significant effect on air quality. It was noted this could not be ruled out because of insufficient detail in the application. The Estate was unaware of this latest document but would provide their evidence when requested.

If residents of Flitcham raise concerns with the PC, the PC will then liaise with Sandringham. They also suggested holding quarterly meetings. Regular updates have also been promised regarding when and where spraying etc will take place.

Gill Welham
Parish Clerk