

Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council

November 2023 Newsletter

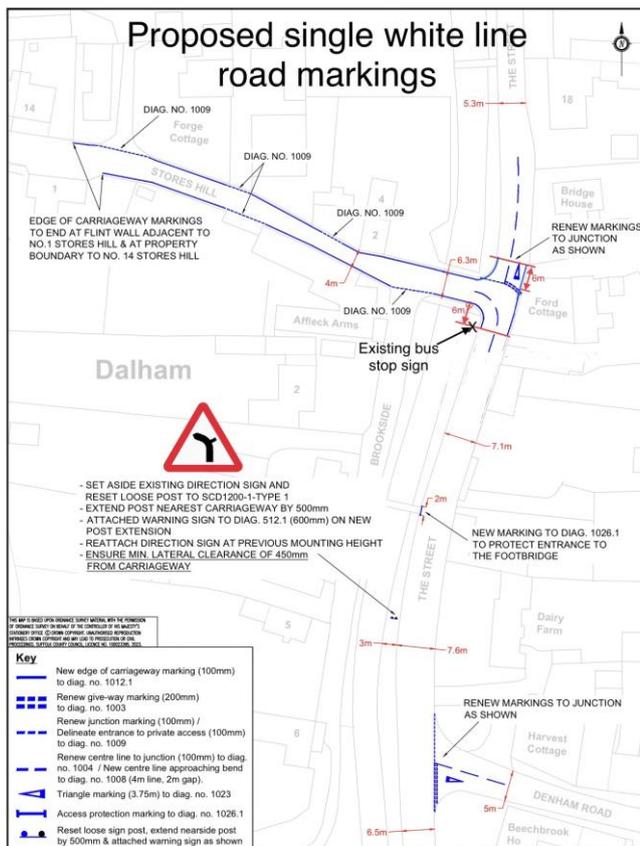


New Councillor from Dunstall Green

Following the request for a volunteer from Dunstall Green to act as a new parish councillor to replace Jackie Bolton, we are happy to announce that Francine Wilkins-Smith has stepped up to the role and was co-opted to join the council at its September meeting. We look forward to her input.



Proposed additional road signs and markings



In the May 2023 newsletter, we noted that following the withdrawal of the proposed scheme for yellow lines near the Affleck Arms to address illegal parking issues there, the parish council was exploring alternative ideas with Suffolk highways to help address parking, speeding and other road safety issues in Dalham village, whilst taking account of villagers' concerns.

An alternative approach has now been jointly developed, which involves the repainting of the existing single white lines on both sides of Stores Hill approaching the Affleck Arms, and the extension of these to the junction between Stores Hill and The Street. In addition, the junction markings would be repainted and new warning signs added on Stores Hill and The Street.

Our county councillor, Andy Drummond, has offered to meet half the costs from his locality budget. A plan of the suggested changes can be found on the Dalham parish council website at

<http://dalham.onesuffolk.net> The council believes this much less intrusive approach will help deter the illegal parking at the junction and improve safety in the centre of the village where there have been near misses in the past between pedestrians and vehicles.

The scheme will be on the agenda at our next parish council meeting on 8th November 2023 at 7.45pm at Dalham Village Hall, and anyone who wishes to hear more or express a view is welcome (as ever) to attend.

Footpath improvements

Villagers may have noted that various rotting and fallen footpath posts on the routes from the village to Jillings Farm and along the Icknield Way route to Gazeley have been replaced with new posts on metal spikes, which should be more resistant to similar problems in future. Many thanks are due to Isobel Aylott and Ann Ward for carrying out the work, ably assisted by their respective spouses.



Potholes

Potholes are an ongoing source of concern for everyone. Whilst councillors make every effort to report them using the online system provided by Suffolk Highways, any concerned parishioner can do the same any time they become aware of them. Potholes in the parish on the Gazeley Road and The Street recently have been filled, so it is well worth doing so, especially if they are likely to cause damage to vehicles. The online reporting system is <https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk> for Suffolk and <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk> for Cambridgeshire. Dangerous highways issues (such as flooding) can also be reported to Suffolk by phoning 0345 606 6171, and footpath issues can be reported using the same highways reporting system for both Counties.

Bus services to Dalham

West Suffolk District Council has advised us that they have some additional money in their budget for enhancing rural bus services and have specifically asked for feedback on a proposal to reinstate the old 225/6 Newmarket to Haverhill (via Wickhambrook) bus service. This ran through the village six times a day in each direction (except for Sundays) prior to 2007, when it was withdrawn.

The only bus service we have currently is the 312 Bury St Edmunds to Newmarket service and this only runs two or three times a day Monday through Saturday, and is little used. West Suffolk have indicated their proposals will reflect feedback from potential bus users and accordingly we would like to hear from villagers as to whether a restored 225/6 service, or some other approach such as an enhanced 312 service, would be of greatest interest. Could anyone with a view please email our parish clerk on dalhamparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or speak to a parish councillor.

Mobile library services

West Suffolk are also intending to consult on the provision of their mobile library services towards the end of the year. Currently the mobile library parks in Dalham on Saturdays between 11:30 and 12:00 every 4th week and again, we are keen to hear from anyone who uses this service, so we can effectively represent the views of the parish.



Verge cutting frequency and timing

The parish council is responsible for cutting verges within the area of the 30mph speed limit signs and has recently followed a policy of limiting grass cutting, especially early in the year. However, some villagers have expressed the view that the verges need to be cut more frequently. We are looking at all options available to us and we would welcome hearing any views parishioners have at the next meeting.

Information request

We have had a request from a local resident for information regarding the full name of his Italian grandfather, known to him only by his nickname Candy, who was a POW in the area during World War II and worked for the Topham Smith family. Candy returned to Italy after the war but was unable to take his son Tony Holmes and his son's mother Gladys Holmes with him due to family opposition. If anyone has any relevant information, please get in touch with our parish clerk Antonia King, whose contact details are provided above, and she can pass it on.

Hare coursing in the parish

Finally, the parish council notes that there have been reports of hare coursing being carried out in some areas of the parish, including close to Dalham windmill. Hare coursing is illegal and is not only cruel to the hares but also damaging to the fields where it occurs. We are assured that the police take reports of hare coursing seriously and accordingly would ask parishioners who become aware of such activity to report it to them promptly.