

Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council

October 2026





Update on potential development site at Higham

Villagers may already be aware that a major development of several thousand homes has been proposed by Barclays Higham Estate south of Junction 40 on the A14, encompassing our neighbours in Higham. They include a solar farm and country park north of the junction. The proposal responds to the call by West Suffolk for new development sites to meet increased housing needs after 2031. A new Local Plan is being drafted to address this. Demand up to 2031 is met by the existing Local Plan.



At this stage these are just proposals and have not been reviewed by West Suffolk. They have, however, caused great concern in Higham. An action group, Save Higham, has been formed, and its Facebook group can be emailed at media_save_higham@outlook.com. There is also a Save Higham Google email group at htttps://groups.google.com/g/save-higham/. The action group have drawn up a list of councillors to lobby and also key points to be made by those doing so. Villagers who are concerned about the proposals and who wish to support their efforts should contact them directly.

Given the significance of the proposal, Dalham's Councillor Wilkins-Smith attended a public meeting on the subject on 7th September and her report is summarised in the minutes of our 9th September meeting on Dalham Parish Council's website at www.dalhamparishcouncil.gov. Barrow cum Denham and Hargrave parish councils were also there.

The next step in the planning process is for all proposed development sites to be reviewed by West Suffolk. If the site at Higham passes initial review it would be included in the first draft of the new Local Plan, which is expected to be released for public consultation in spring 2027. The Parish Council would then be invited to comment, and members of the public would have the opportunity to do so too.

At our meeting on 9th September it was agreed that the plans could have an adverse impact on Dalham and we should lobby West Suffolk planning officers directly with our concerns. We will discuss the matter again at our next meeting on 11th November 2026.

"Forest City" development

Villagers may also have concerns about the unrelated "Forest City" proposals to construct a massive urban development to the south and east of Cambridge, reaching as far north as Wickhambrook. An update on this was given by our MP Nick Timothy at a public meeting in Moulton on 10th July, attended by our chairman John Riddell. The proposals have NOT been adopted by the UK Government as part of their plans for new towns across the UK and do not form any part of West Suffolk's Local Plan, being vastly in excess of local demand. At present these plans appear stalled, but the parish council will remain vigilant.

Local Government reorganization postponed

As residents may have noted from the press, the Government's plans to reorganize Suffolk's County and District councils into three unitary authorities have now been indefinitely deferred, following legal advice. There are no indications as to whether or when they may be revisited.

Community Speed Watch



Dalham's CSW volunteers were very active in July and August with 9 sessions catching 31 vehicles (5%) travelling at or above 35 mph, the threshold for recording their numberplates. Since it began on 19 March 2026, 64 speeding drivers have been sent letters by Suffolk Police as a result of Dalham's CSW team. We need 3 volunteers per session and now have 9 in total, giving us more presence and flexibility. Please contact our parish clerk if you can help out.

Full details of the CSW scheme and its results to date, together with traffic levels and speeds through the village as recorded by our Vehicle Activated Sign, have been posted on the parish council website, www.dalhamparishcouncil.gov. Many thanks are due to Councillor Methven for his hard work in organizing the CSW teams and monitoring the VAS.

Please clean up after your dog(s)

Villagers might have noticed that we have an unfortunate and increasing problem with dog mess being left on paths around Dalham. The parish council is hoping to install signage and add a waste bin to address this, but since West Suffolk won't add this to their bin round, we'll be obliged to use a volunteer system to empty it.

If you are a resident walking your dog, please set a good example to outside dog walkers and reduce the scale of the problem by cleaning up after it. As matters stand the issue is unsightly and unpleasant, as well as a health hazard.

Anglian Water pumping station works

We've had some comments recently about the intrusively shiny new pipework at the pumping station in Dalham, next to the bridge and footpath to Moulton. The council is asking permission from Anglian Water to plant a hedge outside the fence round the station, thereby screening it from view. Hopefully this can be progressed in the near future.

New footpath posts installed and new footpath route at Dunstall Green

The parish council has bought a number of new footpath posts and has now replaced several damaged or destroyed posts around Dunstall Green. Additional posts around Dalham will be replaced in the near future. Many thanks to Councillor Wilkins-Smith for the work to date.

A new route for one of Dunstall Green's footpaths has also been approved and notices of this change have been posted on the Dunstall Green and Dalham noticeboards and on our website.

New bench installed outside Dalham Church



The severely damaged bench outside Dalham Church has now been replaced by a new one, following liaison with the original donors. The work was carried out by Councillors Petchey, Corby and Riddell and funded by our District Councillor, Mike Chester.

Volunteers wanted to plant more daffodils



And finally – following the positive reaction to last year's daffodil planting efforts on the riverbank in Dalham, the council has bought more bulbs to extend the planting southwards. Councillor Wilkins-Smith is organizing a group of volunteers to help with the work. If you would like to take part, please be at Dalham Village Hall at 10am on Saturday 24th October. The more people there are the less time it will take!