



# Dalham and Dunstall Green Parish Council

May 2024



## Traffic calming measures implemented

After feedback from villagers and extended discussions, Suffolk Highways has finally implemented a variety of traffic calming measures for Dalham village requested by the parish council. These include new 30 mph roundels on the Lidgate Road, SLOW markings and Pedestrians in Road signage at the entrance to the village on Stores Hill, and single white lines on both sides of Stores Hill up to and including the bridge over the Kennett and extending around the junction between Stores Hill and The Street.

Hopefully, these will reduce the speed of vehicles through the village on Stores Hill and Lidgate Road, deter obstructive parking on the lower reaches of Stores Hill and adjacent to the junction of Stores Hill and the Street, and increase safety for pedestrians in the centre of the village after a number of worrying near misses. The funding for the scheme has come from the accumulated reserves of the parish council, together with a contribution from our County Councillor Andy Drummond. We are very grateful for his help.

## Potential additional measures to reduce speeding

Monitoring of vehicle speeds with the parish's Vehicle Activated Sign and Suffolk Highways ANPR system has shown that whilst the large majority of drivers in the village are law abiding, there is a small minority who speed dangerously. Whilst the new measures will hopefully reduce this problem, the council wishes to explore the option of establishing a Community Speed Watch group for Dalham, who will be able to conduct further monitoring and identify persistent offenders.



## Community Speed Watch Volunteers Wanted



In order to do so, we will need volunteers willing to help out with monitoring duties on an occasional basis. How effective the scheme would be would depend on the number of volunteers, so we are keen to hear from villagers willing to put an hour or two a month aside to help out. Could those interested please notify one of the parish councillors or our parish clerk, Antonia King, at her new email address of [clerk@dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## 20s Plenty

The parish council is also exploring the option of joining the nationwide "20s Plenty" campaign and will be discussing this further in the July Parish Council meeting.

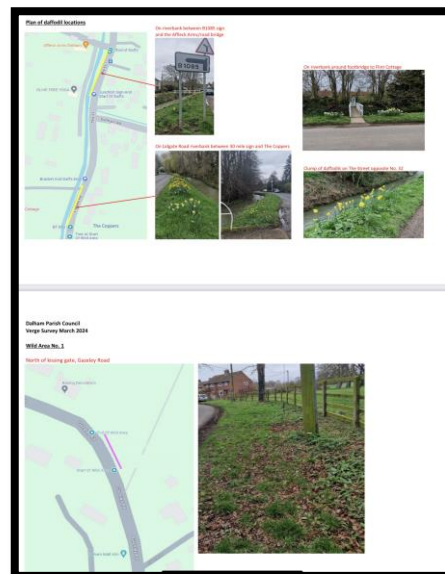


**20's Plenty for Us**

...making your place a better place to be

## Verge cutting

Following feedback from villagers, we have decided to implement a new verge cutting policy this year for the areas within the 30mph speed limit signage for which we are responsible. Villagers should note that elsewhere in the parish verge cutting is the responsibility of Suffolk Highways. Our approach will involve cutting verges short up to 4 times a year, commencing once spring flowers have had a chance to die back, and concentrating on the centre of the village, where cut verges are important for the village's appearance and the safety of pedestrians. Several areas where verges are wider further out of the village will be left uncut (other than a narrow strip by the roadside for pedestrian safety) in order to encourage biodiversity. A map detailing the proposed approach has been placed on the parish council's new website at <http://dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk>. The council will be monitoring the uncut areas to see if this has the desired effect and, as ever, we welcome feedback from villagers on their views of how well this approach addresses their different concerns about appearance, safety and the protection of wildlife.



## New Community Police Officer for Dalham

As part of a county wide initiative by Suffolk Police, Dalham has now been provided with its own designated Community Police Officer, PC Emma Harper. The CPO will act as the designated point of contact for policing matters relating to Dalham for both the parish council and for villagers in general.

## Parish Council administration

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council were held at Dalham village hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at which a report on the past year was presented by the chairman of the council. It was particularly pleasing that, thanks to careful control of expenditure and the assistance of our County Councillor Andy Drummond and District Councillor Mike Chester, the parish council was able to freeze its precept request for the year to April 2025 at the same level as that requested for the year to April 2024. A copy of the report and the draft minutes of the meetings have been placed on the parish council website.

The council also regrets to announce that our councillor David Fitch resigned in March. David has been a great asset to the council since he joined it in 2016, in particular due to his work in developing our Emergency Plan and in redesigning the parish council website, as well as supporting our transfer of our IT systems to a gov.uk domain in accordance with guidance for local authorities from the government. He will be much missed.

## Parish Councillor Vacancy

As a result, we have a vacancy for a councillor, and we would be delighted to hear from any volunteers interested in taking on the role. Please speak to the parish council chairman, another councillor or our clerk if you want to hear more about the role and what it involves.

## Emergency quick reference cards

As a result of the change to the website domain and David Fitch's resignation, the Emergency quick reference cards previously distributed to everyone in the parish need to be slightly amended. The parish council website is now at [www.dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dalhamparishcouncil.gov.uk), and David Fitch should be removed as a contact. The parish council doesn't intend to issue updated leaflets for these minor changes, but anyone who has lost theirs or never had one can request a copy of the original leaflet via our parish council clerk.

