

Dalham Village Hall – Chairman’s report to the Parish Council – 19th May 2021

Over the past year the village hall has had 10 months of closure as a result of the CV-19 pandemic. When open the Hall has been subject to a number of controls including a capacity restriction to 16 people for social type events and 8 for exercise classes. This has meant that the normal programme of social events has been highly restricted, bookings for parties and other social gatherings have been halted completely.

Fortunately, the Village Hall has received government grants that have been offered to all such establishments and these have offset the financial losses associated with closure.

Very good advice for Village Halls operating during the pandemic was provided by Community Action Suffolk. After satisfying Covid Secure requirements, The Hall was able to open between the beginning of September and 5 November and during this period offered various exercise classes, including some that were subsidised by Fit Villages, as well as Coffee Mornings and Film Nights.

The government roadmap from lockdown has enabled village halls to open from 17 May 21 and we were able to open straight away, again following Community Action Suffolk advice and are starting with the hall booked four days a week for fitness classes, two of which are open to villagers, the other two are hired by a villager who is delivering fitness training to an existing group. Planning for future social events will be discussed following the Village Hall AGM on 21 May 21.

The view forward is slightly uncertain, with the planned easing of all restrictions in June possibly impacted by the spread of the India variant of the virus, but we will work within whatever rules we need to so that we can continue to make the Village Hall a useful amenity within the village.