

2024 – the year of the bollard

As residents will hopefully have recently seen in Melford Matters the Parish Council are to replace the majority of the wooden posts along the edges of the pavements in Hall Street and Little St Marys during the first half of 2024.

Those that are the Parish Council's responsibility are marked with a yellow blob and we will be installing a new stronger bollard made from recycled materials that look like metal. These can be easily replaced if damaged.

Work will commence on the 16th January 2024 starting from the Fire Station area and heading along Little St Marys and Hall Street towards the Bull. We will be working on that side of the roads in tandem with Anglian Water to try and minimise and disruption to residents and road/footpath users.

The work will be done in two phases to take account of the Council's financial year so please don't worry if you think we've stopped work, we haven't. We hope the finished results will help deter bad parking and help smarten up the centre of our village.

Parking and Speeding

The Parish Council often receives complaints from residents about parking in the centre of the village and the speeds of road users.

Both issues are something that we have no direct control over and we have to work with Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council and the Police to try and address the issues raised.

Neither of the two councils will support the introduction of formal parking bays along Hall Street and Little St Marys, and in fact they would probably reduce the amount of parking space available as any bays have to be a set size.

We have raised the idea of a 20mph limit through the centre of the village, as being considered for Lavenham, but have been advised that it is not County Council policy to adopt this for a road the width of Hall Street.

We arranged for County Council speed surveys on the roads into the village and the results generally showed that motorists were adhering to the speed limits. We have also been in contact with Suffolk Police and they will add the approach to Hall Bridge from the Green to their list of speed camera sites along with High Street and Rodbridge Hill.

In addition to the above, the Parish Council are looking at a suitable location in the Rodbridge Hill area to erect a pole that could hold a speed indicator device and potentially an automatic number plate reader device. This will be subject to SCC's approval of the location.