

Maintaining Stillingfleet Village Green (From Stillingfleet Parish Council)

The Stillingfleet Green is a unique asset which sets our village apart from others and is held dear by all residents. Its origins are uncertain, but its modern-day management by the Parish Council must take account of its ancient bye-laws and, more recently, the rules of a Stewardship Scheme agreed with Natural England. Happily, this Scheme has resulted in the recovery of many wild flora, however there is some evidence that the recovery of orchids has been inhibited by over-enthusiastic mowing.

This note, which is being delivered to all residents sets out some of the constraints that are placed on residents as a result of the bye-laws and stewardship conditions referred to.

The plan overleaf shows two outlines: the green line shows the extent of the village green which is registered with North Yorkshire County Council, and which is therefore subject to the ancient bye-laws. The red line delineates the land belonging to the Parish Council which is registered at H.M. Land Registry and which, in times gone by, was the true extent of the green.

The main rules applying to these two areas are as follows:

1. Within the green area, no unauthorized grass cutting (even verges), dumping of grass cuttings or car parking is allowed. A double mower width cutting is allowed to keep the three public footpaths clear, and the picnic area in the south west corner can also be mowed. Mowing is also allowed immediately around and under the four benches.
2. The red line meets the boundaries of private properties bordering the village green. There is often a grass verge between that red boundary line and the three access roads. The Parish Council has granted dispensation to residents who wish to mow that verge between the access road and their own hedge/fence boundary. (See footnote)
3. No trees may be planted in the verges and car parking is not permitted on any verges.
4. The two parking areas (opposite Dales Court and the Chapel) were intended for temporary parking mainly for Church and Chapel so residents are encouraged to park within their own boundaries.
5. The cost of maintaining the green as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and complying with the terms of the Natural England Stewardship Scheme depends heavily on our contractor being able to take an uncontaminated crop of hay from the green. If the hay is contaminated with dog faeces, its value is significantly reduced as it can cause disease in farm animals. So please watch your dog and pick up as would on public footpaths and private land. That way a walk on the green will always be a pleasant experience.

Footnote: Any resident seeking an easement for a new vehicular access or drain crossing land in the ownership of the Parish Council should refer to the Parish Council website for more information. Residents are of course responsible for maintaining the full length of any drain that serves their property and which crosses the green to discharge into the beck.

July 2019