

Consultation report: Double yellow lines at junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street

September 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 Council members receive a number of verbal complaints about issues concerning the junction and reports of near misses and accidents.
- 1.2 This Consultation aligns with Pillars 3 and 4 of the Four Year Plan

2. Timeline

29th June 2023: Parish Council agrees to undertake consultation exercise (Minute ref 23.62 e)

1st August 2023: Notice of consultation exercise posted on Facebook (see Appendix A), the notice board and the Parish Council website inviting comment from the wider area.

2nd August 2023: 78 consultation letters hand delivered to properties of Mansfield Street and Dolben Avenue (See Appendix B)

31st August 2023: Consultation closed

21st September 2023 Discussed at Council

3. Consultation outcomes

Dolben Avenue		Mansfield Street		Other locations	
For	Against	For	Against	For	Against
4	9	10	3	1	1

3.1 Void responses (address not provided): 1

3.2 Written comments are reproduced in anonymized forms in Appendix C

Appendix A

Dolben Avenue & Mansfield Street

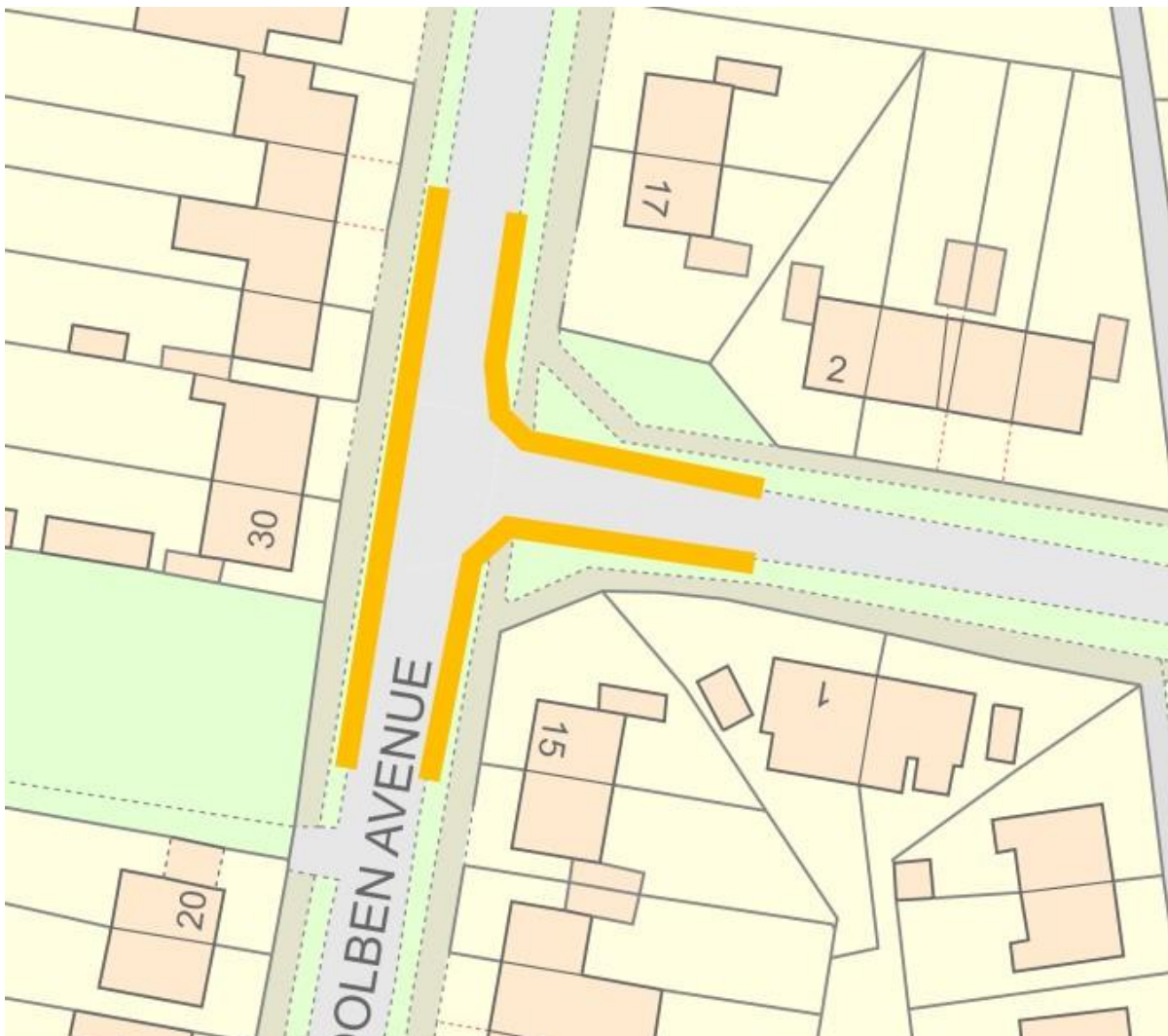
This week a letter will be delivered to all homes on Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street seeking their views on a suggestion to request that double yellow lines are painted on the junction of the two roads.

Members of the Parish Council receive verbal reports and complaints about the junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street, particularly relating to the difficulties with sight lines and visibility due to parked vehicles and near misses and accidents at this junction.

If you do not live in the immediate area of the consultation but would still like to have your say, please write to or email the Parish Council. All comments must provide an address to be taken into consideration.

We are keen to hear from residents of Alfred Street, John Eagle Close, Needham Road, Parklands and Rectory Close who have not been included in the letter drop.

The closing date for comments is 31st August 2023



Appendix B

Stanwick Parish Council

Chairman: Councillor Mark Taylor

Clerk to the Council: Ms J. L. Hodgson

29 Hill House Gardens

Stanwick Northamptonshire NN9 6QH

Tel: (01933) 625616

Email: clerk.stanwickpc@outlook.com

Date August 2023

To Residents of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street

Dear Resident

Members of the Parish Council receive verbal reports and complaints about the junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street, particularly relating to the difficulties with sight lines and visibility due to parked vehicles and near misses and accidents at this junction.

As a council we are exploring what options are available to improve this situation. Whilst Stanwick Parish Council is not the Highway Authority, and cannot undertake any work itself, it can petition the Northants Highways to take action.

A suggested option is introducing double yellow lines around the junction of Mansfield Street and Dolben Avenue. It is hoped this would improve visibility for all drivers and reduce the chances of an accident, making it safer for everyone.

Before the Parish Council makes a decision on whether to request that double yellow lines are installed, it would like to consider the views of residents that will be most directly affected. This letter is being delivered to all properties on Mansfield Street and Dolben Avenue.

We would be grateful if you could complete and return the attached by the 31st August 2023.

This can be via email, delivered to the above address or dropped off at the village hall. The Parish Office, in the village hall, is open most weekday mornings.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

J Hodgson

Ms J L Hodgson

Clerk to the Council

August 2023

From address:

Note: your address must be provided for your views to be taken into consideration

I have been informed of the proposal to request that double yellow lines at the junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street and

Delete as appropriate

I support the introduction of yellow lines as shown below.

I would like to add the following comment:

Or

I do not support the introduction of yellow lines as shown below

I would like to add the following comment:



Appendix C

Anonymised Comment on Dolben Ave/Mansfield Street double yellow line consultation

Comment for

F1 Having lived here over 40 years, I don't know why it wasn't done sooner.

The junction is really bad with cars parking on them. Many cars belong to number 2 Mansfield St so I doubt they will support the idea.

F2 Whilst the yellow lines are needed (if enforced) to prevent people from parking irresponsibly, they will exacerbate the current problem of people parking on the grass verges and pavements. Part of the safety issue is that many drivers pulling out of Mansfield Street simply do not look up Dolben Avenue first.

F3 I literally drove down here this morning and thought...something needs doing with this corner. Too many cars too close to the junction.

F4 We would like to add the following comment. It would need to be ascertained that the residents in the area have enough spaces to park outside the yellow line area before applying the yellow lines.

F5 It would also help if lorries and works vans were not parked in Mansfield St during weekends and holidays

F6 Also it would be good to see the top of Dolben Avenue to have stop lines across the junction before the outgoing traffic passing the entrance at great speed.

F7 Also Alfred Street near Post Box. The conjection (*sic*) seems in the morning outside 9 Dolben. @30 Dolben for car repairs especially at weekends where normally 7 vehicles expanding to 10 on average and 2 mansfield (*sic*) having 6 vehicles constantly.

F8 I would like to confirm my agreement in double yellow lines being put around the junction of Dolben Ave and Mansfield Street.

I live in Parklands and have done for years and this parking has always been an issue. I signed a petition many years ago for the same thing but sadly it didn't get us any double yellows so hoping now with so many more vehicles parking there and blocking the access this will be successful.

Currently there is an issue with a larger van parking on the junction opposite a car, it is not clear who parks there first but no common sense is used. I struggle to get between them so there is no hope for emergency vehicles to get through.

When coming up Dolben you cannot see what is coming along Mansfield whilst overtaking the parked vehicles so if a car is coming along Mansfield you end up having to reverse or get yourself in a pickle to move out the way and done drivers have an awful attitude yowards (*sic*) you even though its not your fault the way others park and make it difficult.

Double yellow lines would be very welcomed on this junction pllllleeeaaasssssseeeee (*sic*)

F9 Could some of the grassed areas be made into parking bays. The problem may be shifted to another part of the road down or up.

F10 However thought and support and guidance must be given to residents at this junction, without alternative solution to parking shortage the problem will simply move, not disappear.

F11 It is not before time. Sadly some do not have any consideration for others and do not use common sense. We are amazed that there has not been accidents before now and if the fire service was needed on the estate, particularly in the evening, they would little chance of getting through.

So we are all for anything that can be done to eliminate the danger.

However just putting in yellow lines will achieve nothing. They will be ignored, again particularly in the evenings, as it will be common knowledge that there is no one about to police them. Just look at Brook St, Raunds in the daytime when the double yellow lines are completely ignored.

To make them effective will also require stakes (wooden or metal) in the grass verges as those looking to park will just drive up and on the grass verges instead.

So you have our full support but before spending the money have to seriously consider what form of enforcement you are going to implement.

F12 The yellow lines are a good idea but who will police/enforce this. Also part of the problem is residents from Mansfield Ave area are sometimes don't even look or slow down treating the junction as a corner.

F13 Re the above, we support the introduction of yellow lines, as indicated in your letter and enclosure of August 2023.

Some years ago, the PCSO posted a letter through some doors, politely asking people to park responsibly around this junction. The poor parking continued, but no further action was taken at that time. If people won't do it voluntarily, then yellow lines should be introduced.

This would also mean that emergency vehicles would not have any problem accessing the estate.

Our only worry would be that this would lead to even more parking on the grass verges.

F14 We agree there should be double yellow lines where they are proposed at the junction with Mansfield Road.

We live in Needham Road and have to pass this junction daily. Dangerous junction when people park on the corners

F15/A12 I do not think we need double yellow lines on the side adjacent to 30 - 38 Dolben Avenue as parking is already difficult on the street for the houses that do not have driveways; however, I do think that having double yellow lines on the junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street would be beneficial as it would improve visibility and be safer for drivers getting in and out of the estate.

Comment against

A1 Parking at the top of Dolben Avenue is already terrible as all don't have drive ways and some people have 3 or 4 cars per household. Putting yellow lines here is going to cause problems for residents as some are disabled like my son so it means as people cannot park there they will start piling them at the top. Its not a blind spot issue. Its people who don't stop at the junction and look both ways!!

A2 In reply to your letter regarding possible yellow lines being put at the junction of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street, I live at Dolben and can tell you from experience (having lived here for 34 years) the problem is not parked vehicles. The problem comes from people turning from Mansfield Street into Dolben without looking and without stopping.

I have lost count of all the times I have come from the top of Dolben only to have to break suddenly as someone has driven into Dolben from Mansfield Street without looking to their right.

Because of this I am not sure that putting yellow lines in would be at all effective.

A3 We at the above address strongly appose (*sic*) the Parish Council proposal concerning the Double Yelliw (*sic*)lines.

The 4 Main Reasson (*sic*) Listed Bellow.

1 - The Above Address Is Past The Junction And Doese (*sic*) Not Affect Any Sight Of Line.

2 - Parking either side of the double yellow lines WILL impact neighbouring parking causing conflict (which is already an issue)

3 - Proposal WILL IMPACT DAILY LIVES for example does the parish Council expect myself or my wife to possibly have to park a distance away from our property to simply bring shopping into our house.

4 - we feel this proposal is extremely unfair and victimising the residents it concerns.

Reduce the width of the Grass Verges to allow parking bays outside proposed affected Properties

Parish Council suggest to the highways/Council supplying dropped kerbs as the proposed double yellow lines affect the residents with out of road parking facilities the most.

Or reduce speed to 20 MPH through out (*sic*) the whole village.

A4 I believe the introduction of yellow lines will just move the problem further along the street without the provision of further off road parking areas.

A5 This will create a further problem of the cars parking down the hill, causing reduced visibility as you approach the crest of the hill. We have lived here for 10 years and there has not been a crash on the junction. It is unfair to residents of 30, 32, 34 etc as they need to park their cars and I know at least one of them houses has been refused a dropped kerb which they requested to get their vehicle off of the road. This proposal is contradictory.

A6 The houses opposite Mansfield St junction need a parking space for their cars the same as everyone else in the avenue. Maybe the removal of the grass verge and parking bays installed would be a better idea.

Also if residents in Dolben Avenue who are lucky enough to have off road parking actually use their drives it would free up valuable parking space for the rest of us. I have one car that I like to park outside of my house. So would not like it if yellow lines were painted at the junction, therefore moving all of the cars that are usually parked there further up the road

A7 All this will do is move the issue elsewhere in the vicinity. There is plenty of grass verges that could be turned into allocated parking spaces for affected residents. I have indicated these on the map below.

A8 I have been informed of the proposal to request that double yellow lines at the junction of Dolben avenue and Mansfield Street and

I do not support the introduction of yellow lines as shown below.

I would like to add the following comment:

We have been trying to get planning permission to drop the curb outside our house for two years now, unfortunately this has yet to be successful due to the change in dimensions

To drop our kerb would enable us to park fully off the road.

I believe our neighbours are in a similar situation.

My concern with the yellow lines is that it is going to push the car parking issue down the road to where it won't be yellow lined, therefore not solving the actual issue of car parking.

I believe dropping our kerb will be a better solution as it would not just move parked cars down the road.

If the parish council is able to influence this in any way it would be appreciated.

A9 Its because the cars are speeding up to the junction. There is only one Rd in and one Rd out. Only needs 2 speed bumps.

A10 I do not support the introduction of double yellow lines

The introduction of double yellow lines along Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street will not solve the problem. Cars have to park somewhere and if this proposal goes ahead it will only move the problem somewhere else

Making it possible for off road parking would be a better solution. Perhaps making some of the grass verges into parking bays could be an answer or allowing parking on the verges with grills to protect the grass could be another way.

A11 We strongly object and do not support the introduction of Yellow lines as shown on map.

If Yellow lines are introduced to the area it is going to cause bigger and difficult issues further down the Dolben Hill. By adding yellow lines it is not going to make residents cars disappear, the cars will just be moved further down causing issues with traffic especially the turning from the main road of the village and residents, or further up again causing issues with other residents.

We propose that the grass area outside No30 No32 be turned into resident parking. The trees that are there are owned by us and we will happily move and relocate them. This will take our cars off the road and still be outside of our house and with RESIDENT PARKING paint on the floor it will stop people from parking there that come to walk to Stanwick Lakes. This is also an issue for the residents of Dolben Avenue. . This will keep the full road clear for the 2 way traffic turning into Mansfield. Residents park on the grass areas anyway to keep the road clear. By just adding this parking area on that certain area of the Avenue it will not change the aesthetic look of the Avenue. It will be more pleasing to the eye instead of having cars parked on the grass areas.

My honest opinion about this is where our cars are parked is not the actual issue. Where our cars are parked there are NO visibility issues. The real issue that people have been complaining about is the work vehicle that parks a little down (double parks) only allowing 1 way traffic at a time. This vehicle is not ours and is not associated to this address. The driver lives further up Dolben Avenue. The other issue that is causing concern is the car that is parked on the actual corner of Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Road. Again this car is not ours is the same address as the work vehicle.

We have lived at this address for 13 years and have parked in the same position this whole time and have actually only witnessed 1 accidents, a motorbike on the corner. Our car or the neighbours car had no involvement on this accident at all. The tenants before us parked in the exact same spot and the tenants before them. Our cars are not the problem it's the parking of a very large work vehicle that double parks.

We do not support the yellow lines.

Comment without declared preference

O1 Further to the post on facebook regarding the parking issues on Dolben avenue and Mansfield (*sic*) street junction.

I am a resident of John eagle close (*sic*) and daily there are issues going out and coming in at Dolben and Mansfield junction with cars parked on both sides of the road and close to junction preventing free flowing traffic. In particular when a large flatbed truck is parked its a real issue to get passed. It has become increasingly apparent that something needs to be done before an incident/accident happens. Larger emergency vehicle access is near impossible due to parking.

Proposed solutions:

1. Change the grass area on mansfield (*sic*)/Dolben corner to off street parking area. This would reduce vehicle parked on road but would need to reroute pedestrian walk way.
2. Further up Mansfield (*sic*)/Alfred Street change to off street parking .

I believe the about two proposal if council owned land would solve the issue.

Another area of parking concern is on West Street opposite car wash and adjacent to car wash where car parking can cause issues on exit/entrance to village.

O2 We often experience cars and vans parking right by our drive, making it very dangerous to get our car out as visibility is severely restricted by this thoughtless behaviour. We have tried leaving polite messages but have given up now. Also the cars are parked on the pavement which is not good for disabled and people with babies in prams. Also, the refuse collectors often leave our bins laying on their side, in the middle of the street, outside different houses, and could be asked to return them where we are instructed to leave them for collection. This would mean disabled wheelchairs could move effectively during bin days. I know from wheelchair users in Stanwick this is a big issue for them.

We are older residents and when our elderly parents visit or my daughter with 2 babies, it is hazardous trying to get out onto the road safely. I would also add that drivers are always turning in our drive and we have considered putting a notice up recently. We are concerned if parking restrictions are put in place, we will be even more crowded at the bottom of our hill. Residents from Villa lane seem to use our road to park, probably as theirs is one way, so ease of getting out, which is very selfish.

During the summer holidays people using Stanwick Lakes park outside our house instead of paying parking charges. This also happens when the park is full up. Could additional parking facilities be made available at these times, so residents do not have to suffer this additional pressure on our street.

We could do with some community police presence at weekends when cars and motor bikes rev their engines and drive very fast up and down the hill. Also, issues around Spencer Parade/West Street with angry drivers sounding their horns and being verbally abusive to each other.

O3 Thank you for your letter dated August 2023 requesting observations relating to the traffic problems in Dolben Avenue and Mansfield Street mainly being caused by indiscriminating parking at that particular junction. It is recognised that whilst the Highway Code states that owners of vehicles should not park opposite, or, within 10m of a junction, this is advisory, not mandatory, not enforceable and therefore a traffic management system would need to be enacted to enforce any restrictions. Focusing on this single issue on the Dolben estate in isolation or looking at the problem in a piecemeal fashion has the danger of creating problems elsewhere in both these and other streets, without considering the whole of the access to the estate and the implications caused to owners and others by the resultant displacement of the cars. This was clearly demonstrated by the introduction of the restrictions on the approach to the village (which had to be done) from the A45 which at peak times, the overflow from the Lakes now finds its way onto the estate. As long-term residents of the estate, we would like to submit the following observations.

Both Dolben Ave and Mansfield St provide the only vehicular access to the wider estate which was mainly constructed in the 1960's with some additions in the 80's. At the time of the original construction car ownership was at a lot lower level and of course, the predominantly original social housing developments in the two access roads did not foresee or plan for the rise in social and personal mobility with the subsequent rise in car ownership. Many households now have more than one car and those in Dolben and Mansfield St rely on on-street parking, parking part off road on the grass verges, or across the pavement into small front gardens (some with and some without) proper dropped kerbs.

Not only has there been a significant increase in the domestic car volumes, there has also been an increase in commercial traffic with a significant number of large vans, and at times, small lorries parking overnight, which exacerbates the free movement of traffic to and from the estate. It should also be noted that deliveries lorries are now more frequent and of course much larger, and many of these do at times, have problems. We have observed some of these having back out of Dolben into West Street as they cannot proceed up the hill due to parking on both sides of the road. Not least of all is the number of trade visitors, albeit mostly during the daytime who cannot park on West St, park in Dolben on the grass verge at the bottom, on the pavement on the west (even) side or opposite other parked vehicles, there by restricting access and obstructing the clear flow of traffic to the estate.

To my certain knowledge, on at least two occasions, the refuse collection service has had to be delayed due to indiscriminate parking. On occasions, visitor parking, notably dog walkers and cyclist visiting Stanwick lakes, use Dolben as free car parking, which at times does cause problems with congestion, particularly on the hill, when using both sides of the road but it must be recognised that these motorists are acting well within their legal rights.

We would also point out that there have been occasions when the Fire and Ambulance services have also had problems negotiating the hill and getting access to the wider estate due to parking issues. I recall on one occasion, the Fire Brigade woke us at 3.00am to ask us move the car parked outside the house; on confirming I was not the owner and had no knowledge who was, six of the crew bodily lifted the car and put in on the pavement.

We would also bring to your attention, the problems with access to the estate during adverse weather conditions particularly during freezing and snowy conditions when a number of accidents have occurred with car slipping out of control down the hill taking my wall twice, and the two walls opposite in West St on at least two occasion each. The problem also occurs in the opposite direction when cars having to use single file up and down the hill with little or no traction have cause traffic build-ups and in snowy conditions, cars just being abandoned. In the past, in conjunction with others, I have gritted the hill in such conditions, but now due to age and infirmity, I am unable to do so. I would also point out that the grit bin which was provided by the highway authority for the sole purpose of gritting the hill and junction is regularly raided by personal and commercial users.

Bearing in mind that both roads are classified as 'estate roads' being only 20ft wide with vehicles (especially commercial vans and lorries) parked on the carriageway there is only a single vehicle width left for traffic to pass along the whole of the length from West St to Mansfield St. In the main, the passage of traffic is due to the consideration of drivers and in other ways helps to keep the speeds down. On the down side, a clear passage from West St to Mansfield Street might encourage drivers to accelerate up and down the hill.

In making the forgoing comments, it is acknowledged that these are in the main intermittent, but never the less are indicative of underlying problems and not necessarily exclusive to this estate.

You rightly make note in your letter, that the Parish Council does not have the statutory powers to make Road Traffic Orders, but it does have a significant role in their support, but I suspect, without which, the Highway Authority would be reluctant to act. At the present time, you refer only to 'verbal complaints' and if there a case to pursue this matter further, statistical data will need to be provided and, in our opinion, your simplistic

'yes or no' survey will not suffice as the basis to justify the making of an order, without the underlying implications of the subsequent effects being fully assessed; this does not imply that we do not support the need for some form of traffic management system. We would be interested to learn the criteria used by the highway authority when assessing the need for traffic orders and indeed whether they have yet been consulted.

Whilst acknowledging the PC is not the Highway Authority, it does have the power to undertake or commission surveys to be undertaken and if there is a general consensus within the membership to seek a resolution to the traffic problems on the Dolben estate we would support such a decision. In our opinion, the terms of reference of any such study should include the access to the estate from the junction of West St to and including the junction to Alfred St. it should also ascertain the location of the ownership of vehicles being parked as many are not residents of the affected roads. Note should also be taken of the legal aspect of parking across pavements causing obstruction and cars being parked against the flow of traffic without light during the hours of darkness, noting that this is not an exclusive list.