

CONTACT clerk@aldcliffewithstoddaypc.org

WEBSITE <https://aldcliffewithstoddaypc.org>

Should you wish to know more about the history of Aldcliffe it is easily found online via our web-site...do take a look.

If you would like to be kept up to date with Parish affairs please contact the Clerk to register your email address.



Looking East to Aldcliffe from river walk

A brief history of your Parish Council

As there have been many newcomers joining our community over the past few years I feel it might be useful to present a short resume of the history of our Parish Council.

Just over eight years ago, following a government relaxation of the town planning rules, a friend came to me with a proposal to create a Parish Council for the area. This was very innovative, as the creation of new Parish Councils was uncommon throughout the whole country.

Lancaster City Council was keen to help us and their officers provided technical help and guidance and eventually five councillors were formally sworn in...a proud but sobering moment as we realised the responsibilities our oath represented.

It was a steep learning curve as we struggled to comply with the legal requirements of our fledgling parish. So we eventually appointed our excellent Parish Clerk, Derek Whiteway, whose lifetime experience of local government has been invaluable in guiding the Council through difficult and complex times.

A number of excellent Councillors have come and gone but all have brought enthusiasm and varied life/work experience to aid our progress. New Councillors will always be needed and Aldcliffe & Stodday parishioners have invariably come forward to volunteer when there is a vacancy; should you be interested let us know.

Over those past eight years there have been some set-backs but there has been many successes with the aid of our own Neighbourhood Plan and the support of very many parishioners.

It took over three years to complete our Neighbourhood Plan, created through extensive consultation with expert planners, reinforced by surveys and questionnaires throughout the Parish. Aldcliffe with Stodday's Neighbourhood Plan is now incorporated into Lancaster City's Local Plan and directly influences local planning decisions.

As a direct result of the creation of the NDP, The Parish of Aldcliffe with Stodday will continue to be a distinct community with the character of the Parish conserved for both the benefit of the local residents as well as for the pleasure of visitors who come to the area to enjoy the Parish's rural character.

Your Parish Council makes a difference.

Nick Webster, Chairman

Summer 2025

INSIDE

DOMESDAY

SMUGGLERS LANE

BINS

POTHLES

CATTLE GRID

TOWPATH PARKING

GREEN SPACES CALL

Stodday is variously recorded as

Stodbae (1200);
'Stodaye' (1246) and
'Stodhag' (1262).

The Domesday book simply refers to it as "enclosure for horses"



Aldcliffe ...The name can be split into two parts - *ald* which roughly means 'old', and *clif* which means 'high ground'. There are many variations Aldeclif (1086), Audecliva (1094), Audeclyviam (1190), Aldeclive (1212), Aidedyff (1341), Aueglyff (1577), Awcliffe (1577), Adcliffe, Aldcliffe, Alclife, Aldclif, Aldlife, Aldcliffe, Aldclffe, Altlife, Auldcliffe,



Lancaster Local Plan 2025, Call for Green Spaces

Aldcliffe Cutting to Deep Cutting – a new Local Green Space for Lancaster

The Parish Council propose that the canal corridor and the sides of the two drumlins that run down to the canal side between the cutting at Aldcliffe and Deep Cutting should be designated as a Green Space that would come within the Local Plan policies of Green and Blue Infrastructure (currently policies DM43 and T3 in the Local Plan 2025). The canal is already a green corridor that links green spaces but designating the banks of the drumlins on either side of the canal as a green space will enhance its effectiveness as green infrastructure. [Drumlins are created by deposition from retreating glaciers]

The land is currently open grassland, that is primarily used for grazing and as such is not particularly biodiverse. However, the fields of the proposed green space are of significance environmentally for those moving through the landscape either on or beside the canal providing open and unpolluted air, free of traffic noise and fumes and urban activity. In particular, the views across the sides of the drumlins give an experience of space and sky, unusual within a city. There are no buildings other than some low level small wooden or metal agricultural buildings and a disused set of stables. On the west side at the top of the drumlin sits Inverlune, a dramatic arts and craft design house from 1910. With its half-timbered tower and gable and traditional dormer windows it is a non-designated heritage asset and a local landmark that overlooks the proposed Green Space.

Walking or riding along the towpath from Lancaster provides a dramatic opening out into the green space of the drumlin sides as you leave Aldcliffe Cutting with its narrow towpath and close banks covered with trees on both sides. Beyond the cutting the stretch of the canal through the proposed green space, there are no sights or sounds of the city which is so near; roads, cars, brick and stone buildings are absent. In their place are grassy fields, with hedgerows.

There has been much support from various interest groups and we shall keep you informed as the proposal progresses.

Updates

Recently–Smugglers Lane has been strimmed of overgrowth for the enjoyment of residents, visitors, dog walkers and ramblers.

This year, the County Council team have kindly listened to the concerns of the Parish Council and have cut back the overgrowth after the Bluebells have had time to flower and seed.

Following much grumbling, County Highways have replaced the yellow grit/salt/sand bin at the top of Aldcliffe Hall Lane.

Regrettably, despite many attempts to resolve the traffic congestion problem along the Canal Bank all our attempts at a solution have been rejected.

Unable to find a replacement 'Lengthsman' we have now retained a commercial company to keep the roadside weeds under control.

Finally, Craiglands Court's corroded cattle grid has been replaced with new steelwork.

FLOODING After many months of persistent persuasion, County Highways have drained the dangerously deep pool of rainwater that overwintered on the corner of Lunecliffe Road near the pumping station. An extensive operation requiring the excavation and replacement of the adjacent drainage system.

Regrettably, the scheduled resurfacing of the heavily potholed road surface of Lunecliffe Road has been postponed whilst United Utilities complete extensive restructuring of their Water Treatment tanks. possibly lasting for two years.

Breaking news,

Two of the deeper potholes have now been patched...not wonderful but just a little better.

