

Ian Thwaites
CEO, Level Water
13 January 2023

Dart10k Swim - proposed changes for 2023

Dear Residents of Dittisham Parish,

I am writing from the charity Level Water, which now owns and runs the Dart10k swim. We are a charity that provides one-to-one swimming lessons for children with disabilities. All proceeds from the event now go to the charity, to help more children with disabilities learn to swim. The Dart10k Swim is planned for 2/3 September 2023.

This year we are requesting a logistical change to the event plan in Dittisham, and are working to minimise disruption of this plan to residents. Swimmers have previously parked on Cott Farm, and have been able to walk from the Ham to Cott Farm after the swim. We are unable to use this parking field in 2023, and so are planning to use a field on the Raleigh Estate, accessed from Laphorne Dip. This is 2.5km from the Ham with 160m vertical ascent. We would like to provide a shuttle bus service from the Ham to the Raleigh Estate parking field after the swim. We are proposing that 6-800 of our attendees will walk (via Rectory Road) each day, and the other 600 will be able to access a shuttle bus.

This option is important to keep the event accessible - for people with disabilities, those with young children or elderly relatives, or those who are too tired after a three-hour swim to walk uphill for another hour. To minimise disruption in the village, we will no longer turn or load any coaches outside the Church. This will now all be done in the Ham car park.

There are two main impacts of this proposed change:

- parking suspensions in the village
- a one-way system operating on the main road to Hemborough Post

Weekend parking suspensions will be minimised to those necessary to maintain a smooth flow of traffic. We plan to suspend 3-4 spaces on Higher Street near the turning bay; 4-6 spaces around the main junction outside the pub; 20-30 spaces along one side of Riverside Road between the pub and Ham Lane. Residents will be informed early and often about the details of the suspensions, and are encouraged to move their cars to alternative parking (particularly the Level car park and the far end of Riverside Road) before the weekend.

The one-way system will operate between 12:00 - 16:00 on Saturday 3rd September and 12:30 - 16:30 Sunday 4th September. Traffic will be held at Laphorne dip and in town at Higher Street, Riverside Road and the Level when the road is open in the other direction. The direction of flow will change every 10- 15 minutes during the one-way period.

We are sorry for the inconvenience and are deeply grateful to Dittisham for supporting the event. We are investing heavily in planning and on-the-day management to minimise the disruption to residents and are keen to work closely with residents to improve our plan.

Very best wishes,
Ian Thwaites, CEO, Level Water