

SOUTH HUISH PARISH COUNCIL PARKING PROJECT

February 2022

OVERVIEW

1. Project Background and Description

- i** Every year the Parish Council receives complaints related to vehicle usage and parking.
- In July 2021, the Parish Council resolved to undertake a survey open to Residents, Businesses, Visitors, and other Homeowners to ascertain the scope of the issues with a view to implementing improvements in line with the survey feedback.*

2. Survey Scope

- i** The survey was made available online, hard copies were included in the Parish Newsletter and further hard copies were available at both Hope Cove and Malborough Post Offices. The survey was mentioned in the Parish Council minutes as well as being promoted online and in the Parish Newsletter. The survey was open from July 2021 through to 30th September 2021. During this period over 130 responses were received as well as several communications that were forwarded directly to the Parish Clerk.

3. Outcomes

- i** The biggest concerns raised were as follows
- 77% Inconsiderate parking blocking emergency vehicles including the lifeboat.
 - 78% Inconsiderate parking making travel hazardous for road users.
 - 65% Lack of enforcement re dangerous parking
 - 67% There is a need for double yellow lines around junctions and pinch points allowing some on road parking.
 - 28% Consideration should be given to the addition of double yellow lines around Beachcomber.
 - 67% Parking is a problem confined to the height of the holiday season.
 - 37% Increased parking for boats/trailers is required at the height of the season.
 - 40% Additional parking for employees is required.

4. Top Priorities

- i** We asked what our top priorities should be when looking to make positive changes:
- More enforcement for vehicles not parked in accordance with the law.
 - Provision of more parking during peak season for visitors/trailers/boats.
 - Double yellow lines to prevent obstruction and dangerous parking.
 - Resident parking and the creation of affordable employee parking ranked at the same level.
 - Several comments were made regarding the existing management of the Hope Cove privately owned car park.

5. Other Comments

i *The responses shown in the Outcomes and Top Priorities were clearly the preferences, however, the following should also be noted.*

- Less than 1% had no concerns re parking in the parish
- 13% deemed there to be no requirement for more double yellow lines in the parish.
- 5.4% felt that no additional parking was necessary and visitor parking was a minor inconvenience for living in a popular coastal village.
- 7.7% did not believe there was a requirement for more boat/trailer parking.

6. Observations

i *The immediate observations from the results are as follows:*

- Many of the people connected with the parish are reliant on the farming and tourism trades for their livelihood. Any proposed solutions to the parking issues must not negatively impact on these trades.
- It is essential that we do our best to reduce inconsiderate and dangerous parking, however, if we are to do this through the addition of double yellow lines, we must also be prepared to offer suitable additional parking elsewhere.
- The problems occur during peak periods including school and bank holidays. The results show that temporary additional parking during these times would be accepted.
- If the additional parking extended to include trailers/boats, this element of the tourism industry would be allowed to develop, bringing further financial benefit to the parish.

7. Additional Considerations

i *Prior to any further action the following considerations must be made:*

- What are the views of Devon Highways?
- What level of additional enforcement could be offered? Who would pay for this?
- Where could additional parking be provided? For what period during peak season could parking be offered? Would this include boat/trailer parking? Would the landowner agree? What would the costs be for the provision of parking? Many of the suggestions were in favour of the field used for previous HC Weekend parking.
- Who would be responsible for the costs of the proposals to be implemented? Highways or the PC? To progress this project, it is probable that the PC would need to fund many of the costs.
- Additional parking would need to be offered prior to the implementation of new double yellow lines. If new lines are put down before more parking is available, the impact on the parish would not be acceptable both from a safety and financial perspective.

8. Implementation Plan

i *In an ideal world the following would be implemented:*

- Locate and agree a site for additional vehicle/boat/trailer parking.
- Obtain approval for temporary parking and open the new parking area for peak season.
- Re-establish the short-term parking in front of the Post Office and confirm use of the Fisherman's car park for short term parking with a maximum of 20 minutes.
- Update all existing double yellow lines, plus the addition of lines at junctions, pinch points and around Beachcomber.

- Obtain additional enforcement from Devon County Council.

9. What next?

i *The Councillors must now agree what steps they want to take.*

A small group of parishioners have expressed a wish to be involved and there is the potential to create a sub-committee to work through the issues and report back to SHPC with the realities of what can be achieved.