

# **Ide Parish Council**

Discussion paper for Council meeting 15 July 2020

Access for traffic and parking in Fore Street, Ide

## **1. Background**

1.1 A local farmer, Mrs Jenny Tuckett, and an agricultural contractor, Mr George Greed, wrote to the Council last autumn about problems negotiating the narrow space between parked cars in Fore Street when moving large machinery to fields between Ide and Dunchideock. There have been occasions when they have had to delay, causing a hold up to other traffic, to get a car moved; or have had to turn back and take the long route around Haldon Hill. They

1.2 We have also had anecdotal reports from residents of lorries and other large vehicles having trouble getting through.

1.3 The Council has, perhaps surprisingly, had no complaints or reports from the emergency services, recycling waste bin lorries, or the bus company.

1.4 The gap is especially narrow if two large vans park opposite each other. If the drivers are non residents who have parked there and gone on elsewhere, there is no chance of moving the vehicles.

1.5 Mrs Tuckett wrote to Devon County Council, the responsible highways authority, asking that they re-format the parking restrictions to move parking spaces from the south-east side of Fore Street (odd numbers) to the north-west side (even numbers). She and Mr Greed asked for the Parish Council's support in their representations to Devon County Council.

1.6 Ide Parish Council discussed possible solutions and risks at its meeting in November 2019; reported back to Mrs Tuckett and Mr Greed; and asked Helen Frankpitt, Devon CC Neighbourhood Highway Officer, for expert advice.

## **2. Request from farmer and contractor**

2.1 Ms Frankpitt visited the site on 19 Feb 2020 with councillors Swain, Bishop and Connett, and reported to Ide Parish Council that DCC would not recommend painting white line parking bays, nor moving all parking spaces across to one side of the street. She advised home leaflets and windscreen notices.

2.2 Following further consideration based on the parish council's discussion and advice from Ms Frankpitt, Mrs Tuckett and Mr Greed suggested that moving four parking spaces (between numbers 9 and 15) across to the north side from number 18 westwards would free up the narrowest point of the bottleneck.

## **3. Advice from Devon CC Highways**

3.1 Ms Frankpitt replied on 6 May 2020 that she had no issue with this proposal of moving four spaces across; but would want to know that the scheme had local support before proceeding further.

#### **4. Observations by Ide PC**

4.1 Ide PC had suggested to Devon CC that moving only four spaces might not solve the full problem of car congestion at the eastern end of Fore Street; and that we would want to be sure that safety - in respect of speed or visibility - was maintained in this new format. We were happy that it would preserve the number of parking spaces; and it would answer the request and probably deal with the problem that the Mrs Tuckett and Mr Greed had brought.

4.2 In response, Devon CC saw solving congestion near the hall, shop and memorial as a separate problem; and did not see an overall risk to safety from this four space proposal. In further conversation with Mrs Tuckett in June 2020, she was also clear that their vehicles do not get stuck by the hall or shop, but further west, along by numbers 9-15; and that moving four spaces across should solve it.

4.3 Ide Parish Council have no powers in decisions about or enforcement of on-street parking; but we do have a consultative role in supporting or opposing proposals.

#### **5. Discussion**

What are the views of Ide Parish Council on the proposal from Mrs Tuckett and Mr Greed that Devon CC move four parking spaces from the stretch by numbers 9-15 Fore Street to the north side east of number 18?

Is this a proposal we would support?

NCAB 9 July 2020