

**Ide Parish Council
Consultation on Parking and Traffic Access in Fore Street, Ide
September 2020**

1. Letter circulated on paper to residents of Fore Street, The College, Drakes Farm and High Street (from Huntsman to Old Mill), and published in Sept 2020 Ide Times.

Ide Parish Council

24 August 2020

Dear Resident

Parking and Access for traffic in Fore Street, Ide: Consultation

We would like your views please on a proposal to reformat some of the parking spaces in Fore Street. The section where cars park on both sides of the street creates a bottleneck, especially at the western end by the entrance to Drakes Farm, where it is narrowest.

A local farmer and an agricultural contractor have had trouble getting their machinery through; and have asked Devon County Council Highways to consider moving between two and four of the spaces nearest Drakes Farm entrance from the south side across to the north side of Fore Street. They have also asked the Parish Council to support their request. Devon County Highways are agreeable in principle.

Ide Parish Council would support a re-arrangement that preserved the overall number of parking spaces; did not make the corner by The Huntsman more dangerous; did not encourage faster speeds along Fore Street; and did not obstruct the visual splay at the Drakes Farm exit. Watching a tractor and combine go along Fore Street recently, they needed just a few extra critical centimetres to get through. Moving the two most westerly spaces on the south side across to the north side would probably do it.

On the Ide Village website [--> Parish Council --> Parking in Fore Street: Consultation] there are photos of the combine squeezing through; and mock-ups of where relocated parking spaces could go on the north side of the street.

Both councils - Devon County and Ide Parish - want to know what residents think about the proposal before going any further.

If you would like to comment, please email the clerk or chair of Ide Parish Council. We will collate your comments and pass them on to Devon County Council Highways, who are the responsible authority for making a decision and any changes.

Thank you.

Mel Liversage, Clerk
Nick Bradley, Chair

ideparishclerk@gmail.com
ncabradley@gmail.com

2. Responses received from residents - (personal data removed)

2.1.1, 26 Aug

"May I just ask if there is going to be any consideration or at least the amount shown to the local farmers , to the residents of IDE with regards the ridiculous amount of traffic taking shortcuts through the village including very large lorries not only polluting us and knock down our hedges but often with so many cars often stopping residents even getting across the road. In addition cars and vans going dangerously fast as they don't live here so don't care ?"

2.1.2, 26 Aug

"Hi I've literally just sent the last email and a local very young driver of school age has driven a very large tractor through Ide at a ridiculous speed , he could not have stopped for a child . This needs to be addressed before we concern ourselves with helping them with parking . Don't you think ?"

2.1.3, 7 Sept

"Initially I would suggest two cheap options. A clever one way in part of the street that villagers can cope with that [affects] Short cutters and juggernauts and also speed humps . Meanwhile It's a pity we can't ask for the police to do a random speed check now and then in the village, as the word would get around and at least help. I'll keep thinking ."

2.2, 27 Aug

"I live at number 20, the white house with blue shutters in the pictures. I'm all for this. I've thought it was what was needed for a long time. My only request is that the alley in the picture is treated as a driveway because I keep my motorcycle up there and cannot get out if a car is parked across it. I park there because when I parked on the road, I kept finding my bike nowhere near where I left it because someone had moved it so they could park in my space. Sometimes it was left in someone's driveway or sticking out dangerously into the road. Only a few days ago a big lorry was directed into Ide by his Satnav, had problems on the corner by the Huntsman and tried to reverse back down that stretch of road. Half the street was out trying to help him back out of the village. It took him ages. On a regular basis, the farm vehicles have to stop and knock on all the doors to get the cars moved so he can get through. It wastes everybody time. So I say go for it, it's a great idea."

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2.3, 3 Sep

"As a resident of Fore St I would like to comment on the consultation. I agree that it would not be acceptable to reduce the amount of car park spaces in the village. Moving the 2 spaces across the road would significantly affect the 2 houses (proposed new spaces) privacy and I'm

sure you will consider their views carefully. There is a wider issue regarding lack of car park spaces, I would be in support of Permit Parking, with the return of schools we will also see the return of a significant amount of people who park their cars in the village then hop on their bikes or car share, using up spaces for the whole day. It's a really challenging situation as currently despite leaving our cars legally parked, we run the risk of scrapes and damage during the harvest season. Could the contractors be advised to use different access perhaps through Dunchideock?

Hope that's of some help"

2.4, 3 Sep

" I was a little puzzled by this proposal as for 47 years I had assumed that the edges of Fore St were parallel. Probably a silly assumption knowing the village but I got my tape out which shows that at the front of the southside parking area the road width is 6.9m whereas close to the shop it is 7.6m hence the logic behind increasing constriction in a westward direction. The width at the beginning of the third parking position is 7.2m.

With that information it would seem sensible to move two and preferably three parking spaces to the north side. In order to make a more comprehensive job, it would also make sense to remove the parking space on the bend opposite the shop and hall as a poorly parked vehicle in this position causes a lot of congestion on this bend with its restricted visibility. My ideal therefore would be to remove three spaces from the north side and the one on the bend and add four spaces on Fore St south side. I appreciate that this would make it harder for traffic to turn into and out of Drakes Farm but these situations are always a balance to produce the least bad solution.

My thanks to the Parish Council for taking this initiative. We have had our door knocked on many occasions by farmers wanting to know who owns whichever car it is blocking a way through."

2.5, 6 Sep

"I think ONE parking spot is sufficient to be moved from the south side to the north side of Fore Street."

2.6, 6 Sep

"I would like to voice my objection to the proposed change of parking in Fore Street. Firstly, I believe that by removing the two parking spaces on the south side of Fore Street and relocating them on the north side, would create a license for vehicles to come at speed through the village, whereas at present, it does tend to slow traffic down.

Secondly, there is not space to add parking for **two** vehicles, on the north side of Fore Street, as there is a dropped curb and we have vehicular access to our alley, as does 16a Fore Street.

Therefore, I would like to suggest the following as a potential solution:

Narrowing the pavement on the north side of Fore Street, which would widen the road sufficiently to allow large vehicles to pass without problem. However, should this prove too expensive, I propose an alternative option.

As the current parking on the north side of Fore Street, outside no 12/14, is overly large for two cars but not quite large enough for three, increasing this area by half a car's length would allow for three cars to park comfortably. This would facilitate losing one space outside number 15 on the south side of Fore Street, closest to Drakes Farm, which would allow for large vehicles to pass through without problem, whilst still retaining a degree of traffic calming and not encroaching on the drop curb.

Additionally, to add 3/4 spaces to the north side of Fore Street would make leaving Drakes Farm and the Huntsman's corner extremely dangerous.

Finally, on a purely personal note, I am concerned that by adding the parking spaces to the North side of the Street, whilst removing them from the South side, would encourage larger vehicles to park outside of our property, thus blocking out a considerable amount of light to our living room, which to date has been a lovely bright room.”

3. Replies to residents (not required in every instance)

3.1

Thank you very much for writing. You make the point well about Ide's traffic blight.

When the problem of large vehicles getting stuck in Fore Street came to the Parish Council last autumn, we suggested to the farmer, who lives in Ide Parish, and their contractor that they could access their fields via Haldon and Dunchideock. We investigated the regulations about vehicle width. And we held site visits with Helen Frankpitt, Devon County Neighbourhood Highway Officer, in October and February, to seek the County's advice as the responsible authority.

We were informed by the farmer that the alternative route was not acceptable due to the dangers to and from slow moving vehicles on the A38 at Haldon Hill.

Devon Highways explained that, while exceptionally wide loads require special planned arrangements with escorts, this does not apply to agricultural vehicles travelling through Ide. Because parking on the highway is not a legal right, we could not insist on parked cars in Ide only having to provide a certain maximum width to pass.

In the wider context of the hazards of too much traffic, after the 20 mph speed limit through the village was introduced some five years ago, the parish council investigated a proposal for an electronic flashing sign to show drivers their speed and ask them to slow down if speeding. The price of £2,800 plus VAT per sign was out of our range, given the Parish Council's annual precept payment from Teignbridge District Council of just over £6,000. But this is something we could re-visit, perhaps with a view to a targeted fund raising effort.

In a separate proposal two years ago, prompted by concern over the safety of children walking along High Street to and from Ide School, we held meetings on site with Devon County Highways

to investigate the benefits of a pedestrian pavement running along the west side of High Street between the steps by Coronation Gardens and The Huntsman. It was thought to be feasible, although there was concern that removing car parking spaces would encourage vehicles to drive faster, and put further pressure on parking. In the end, the high estimated cost - more than £100k - was the stumbling block.

We have had one recent traffic related success in the long running campaign to enforce the existing restrictions along Doctors Walk and Balls Farm Road. These roads are actually in Exeter City, but Balls Farm Road is used as I'm sure you know by people who live in Ide cycling and walking to school and work in Exeter. Under emergency Covid 19 pandemic measures, Doctors Walk is soon to be physically blocked to traffic turning off Ide Village Road with the aim of cutting right back on traffic using Balls Farm Road as a rat run.

If you have a specific proposal you would like the Parish Council to consider, do please let me know. Our next meeting is on 16 September; deadline for agenda items is 9am on 7 Sept. And for my part I will raise again the idea of an electronic speed sign at that meeting."

3.2

"Thanks for writing. We'll pass your comments on to Devon Highways; and highlight the point about your alleyway."

3.3

"Thanks for writing. Your idea of just moving the one space across from south to north, enlarging the partial space, is new and one which we should ask Highways to test. The other issues you raise are also of great practical relevance. I'll make sure they are raised when we discuss this on 16 Sept at the Parish Council meeting; and are included in our feedback to Devon Highways."

END