

DCC Liaison – Parking and Drainage - Paula Burton-Perrett 8/9/21

Village Parking

In January 2021 Ide Parish Council (IPC) reviewed village parking, recognising that parking is a sensitive issue and very difficult to solve as there are all but no options to increase the parking for the village.

Previous papers presented to the council identified parking pinch points around the village. We know that parents parking at pick up and drop off have an impact on the village, but the school also plays a vital role in village life and has had more than enough to manage during the pandemic. So, IPC decided to take a pragmatic and measured view, only reporting persistent parking that is considered dangerous, to the relevant authority - Devon Highways.

Based on this decision, we reported parking on the pavement at the entrance to the village by cars and vans to Devon Highways via email to Devon Highways in April 2021. Sadly, no response has been received, but we do know that there have been resourcing problems throughout the last year.

In the meantime, some contractors have continued to park on the pavement blocking the village entrance, obstructing the view on the junction of the C60 and on one occasion preventing the Environment Agency from carrying out scheduled maintenance and drainage clearance on the watercourse. In the absence of any formal action from DCC, IPC contacted the heating contractors' office and asked for the vans to be removed. The contractors' office was extremely helpful and I'm pleased to report that they haven't parked on the pavement since.

Maintenance of Drainage Channels

IPC maintain the drainage channel and grid in the field behind Blacksmith cottage on the northern edge of the village near the war memorial. This clearance is carried out annually around November and is part of our scheduled maintenance. This is the only drainage which IPC have assumed responsibility for.

During the winter months and sometimes at other times of the year when we get very heavy rainfall, Ide can be a victim of surface water flooding. Although we have an emergency plan, having a plan won't prevent flooding, but we can alleviate the impact of heavy rainfall by helping water to leave the village through maintenance of drainage channels both down the High Street and adjacent sloping lanes.

We report all blocked drains to Devon Highways, when we find them and when we know they're causing a problem. In January 2020 we reported the blocked drain at the bottom of Pole House Lane to Devon Highways it was causing flooding on the C60. DCC inspected and accepted responsibility for clearing the drain - raising a works number but also letting us know they have a maintenance backlog.

During the May storms debris from Pole House Lane blocked a resident's drive. We cleared the drive and gained assurance from Devon Highways that the drain would be cleared. We have pursued this issue and I'm pleased to report that the drain was cleared late August.

IPC continue to pursue other issues but in the most recent email received from the Highways officer reporting successful drainage clearance, they have asked that any outstanding issues for their

attention get logged through the helpdesk. We will re-report parking and ask for clearance of the high street drainage channel via this route.