

## **BALLS FARM ROAD & VEHICLE USE**

## **Paper 7**

Following a number of incidents flagged to us by Ide Primary School, we (Nick) arranged a meeting with Devon and Cornwall Police, Devon County Council (DCC), Ide Primary School and ourselves to see for ourselves the extent of the problem on Balls Farm Road.. It took place on 7th May and the Police agreed to undertake patrols and Devon CC to look at signage.

The first patrol took place on 18th June and was followed up with a second visit on 8th July. MPC Tim Walsh from the Police made the following observations:

### **June 18th, 0800-0900**

Legitimate vehicle use of BFR: 5

Vehicles breaching the order: 4

Cars turning around on Little Johns Cross Hill: 0

Pedestrians, cyclist, runners and dog walkers using BFR: 35

Kids on bikes going to Westexe: 2

Kids walking to Westexe: 5

Vehicles on school run to Ide, using Twisted Oak c/park: 15

### **July 8th, 0800-0900**

Legitimate vehicle use of BFR: 12

Vehicles breaching the order: 4

Cars turning around on Little Johns Cross Hill: 0

Pedestrians, cyclist, runners and dog walkers using BFR: 27

Kids on bikes going to Westexe: 3

Kids walking to Westexe: 5

Vehicles on school run to Ide, using Twisted Oak c/park: 12

The figures show no change between the two dates in terms of the number of vehicles using the route inappropriately. Because the signage is somewhat obscured by foliage, Tim is taking no action. However, Chris Rook from Devon CC has indicated that it will review and update the signs before September.

We have also shared the work being done by Police on the village Facebook page so people can be aware of what the law is on Balls Farm Road and that the Police are taking enforcement action. This response to the post was largely positive.

There will be another visit early in the next academic year and I have raised the possibility of the patrol taking place 1400-1500.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank MPC Tim Walsh for his engagement on this and his willingness to tackle what has been a challenging issue for us. I know his efforts are appreciated by many in the community - including many cyclists, walkers and staff at the School.

MT / July 2024.