

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Mr N K Tigwell,

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Ms Joanne Rumble  
Communities Officer  
Dartmoor National Park Authority  
Parke  
Bovey Tracey  
Newton Abbot  
DEVON  
TQ13 9JQ

12 February 2015

Dear Jo

## DISCOURAGEMENT OF IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVING IN COLD WEATHER

As you will be aware, during the recent period of snow and ice there were problems across Dartmoor Forest Parish and other areas of Dartmoor with: blocked access through poor car parking; drivers performing 'doughnuts' in car parks, road junctions and on the main roads; drivers taking cars onto the open commons; animals killed on the road; elderly residents in Royal Court, Princetown were too frightened to leave their homes; residents were kept awake at night; and in Princetown a young girl was hurt when struck by a racing car that mounted the pavement in a side road.

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council considers this perennial problem to have been significantly worse this year and was particularly acute in Princetown with the greater risk of a fatal accident. Consequently the Parish Council is keen to take measures to prevent or discourage future recurrence or escalation of this irresponsible behaviour. To help achieve this aim the Parish Council requests the Dartmoor National Park Authority make the following, relatively low cost infrastructure developments:

Make provision for the High Moorland Visitor Centre car park to be closed by means of a locked chain during the hours of darkness in snow or icy weather, similar to the arrangement at Haytor. This would prevent the 'boy racers' congregating in the car park and, hopefully, using Princetown roads as a skid pan/race track. The Parish Council is happy to administer a key and exercise judgement when the car park needs to be closed. The lead for this will be Cllr Mark Renders, Postmaster at Princetown Post Office.

Place granite stones or a suitable earth bank around the car park above Dunnabridge Farm to prevent cars accessing the open commons at this point to use the moor as a 4x4 trials area.

Another more costly measure DNPA may wish to consider should funding be available is the positioning of a CCTV to cover the car park and the erection of appropriate signs to warn off potential malefactors.

While these measures alone will not solve the overall problem, they form part of a range of proposals the Parish Council is discussing with several authorities and will go a long way to mitigate the risk of future inconvenience and accidents to our parishioners. You are requested to give favourable consideration to these proposals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Tigwell'.

Nigel Tigwell  
Parish Clerk