

# Dartmoor Forest Parish Council



Parish Clerk: Mr N K Tigwell,

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Acting Inspector M Sloman  
Devon & Cornwall Police  
Exeter Road  
Okehampton  
EX20 1NN

12 February 2015

Dear Inspector Sloman

## 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.

Your patrol officers have been involved on a number of occasions and Dartmoor Forest Parish Council is grateful for these interventions. Additionally, your Neighbourhood Team have requested residents to report all incidents on 101 and try to obtain objective evidence such as car registration numbers, photographs and videos. Although the Parish Council support this in principle it is not encouraging residents to put themselves at risk to obtain evidence.

The 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 Devon and Cornwall Police take the following, relatively low cost actions:

Maintain a more active presence on the moor during snow and ice, in particular in the hours between dusk and midnight to detect and deter irresponsible 'boy racers' and disperse any gatherings.

Be more ready to take enforcement action. Residents have reported overhearing some impressive 'telling-offs' by officers but the Parish Council is unaware of any arrests, prosecutions or the impounding of vehicles which have a wider deterrent effect owing to the publicity they attract.

Maintain a more active presence on the moor when snow is on the ground to move on irresponsible parked cars, in particular between midday and 1600.

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 accidents and inconvenience 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