

Highways

Traffic Calming Working Group

Many thanks go to the working group members for their help in distributing the leaflets, which have now been delivered to all homes in Porlock to advertise the consultation questionnaire. Posters are also being displayed on the village notice boards and various shops/locations around the village.

Response has already been good, with 20 online questionnaires completed within the first 48 hours and the Visitor Centre and Library had to be restocked with hard copy questionnaires within the first 72 hours. We would like people to complete the questionnaire online if possible, and the deadline for completion is November 24th.

Site visit with Somerset Council Parking Services Manager

Cllrs. Colson and L Thornton met with the Somerset Council parking services manager on 27th October, to discuss a range of parking related issues, as follows:

- The yellow kerb ticks on the High Street were reviewed and their removal will be subject to a statutory traffic order in the New Year. Meanwhile, Somerset Council will review what can be done in the meantime to enable deliveries to be made to local businesses, without fear of enforcement of the loading/unloading restrictions.
- Converting the courtesy disabled parking space on the High Street into a statutory space was discussed, and will be added to the statutory traffic order in the New Year. A time restriction of 1 hour for blue badge holders was agreed as being practical.
- Two additional free, 15 minute shopping parking spaces were requested for Doverhay car park, and four new ones were requested for Central car park. Somerset Council will review this and come back to PPC.
- Clearer signage for the electric vehicle charging points in Central car park was requested and Somerset Council will review this and revert.
- The lack of signs displaying parking restrictions for the yellow line outside Highbank Cottages/Splatt Barn Cottage was discussed. Somerset Council will review and revert.
- Free parking days in the car parks in the run up to Christmas to boost trade was discussed, and we requested early notice so that the dates can be advertised to support Christmas shopping and the Late Night Shopping event. Somerset Council explained that the practice wasn't uniform around the previous District Councils and it has been a challenge coming up with a single approach for this year. However it was confirmed that the intention is to do the same as last year, which would mean free parking days in Porlock.
- We questioned why Doverhay car park is only designated short stay, while parking for longer than 2 hours is possible in Central car park. The issue being that shoppers can be put off by being restricted to only 2 hours parking in Doverhay car park Somerset Council will review extending parking at Doverhay and we also discussed renaming Central car park to something more descriptive, for example "shoppers car park" as a way of encouraging more use of the car parks by visitors and shoppers, plus better signage advertising the car park and the pedestrian access to the High Street.
- We observed that a sign was missing near the hardware store which indicates the permitted parking duration in the parking spaces along this section of the High Street. Somerset Council will review and revert.

Other matters

Screening has been requested on a very bright street lamp on the Drang, to stop light pollution into the neighbouring gardens and houses.

The street lights at West Porlock are now working.

The vegetation encroaching on the parking and turning area at the end of Crawter Drive has been cut back and further work to remove the undergrowth has been requested via the Somerset Council Highways online portal.

A request to the Highways Steward to clear a number of road signs has been made. PPC is gaining more clarity about how to request works to be done.

Ongoing:

- Missing sign on High Street by the Castle directing cars and pedestrians to Central Long Stay car park
- Financial support for maintaining areas devolved from SWT and permission for volunteer maintenance of some areas
- Idverde bin emptying SLA
- Signage for OSC/Parish Room – to confirm opening times going forward before replacing sign
- Further notices requested last month from the Dog Warden have still to be installed by PPC