

Traffic, parking, yellow lines, narrow streets ...



'Car Park' - Playing Fields
 In reply to a query, it was explained that the Council is not allowed to use any part of the area for car parking. This is part of the agreement with Wadebridge and Padstow Rural District Council which sold the land at a nominal price to St. Endellion P.C.
 March 1983

I was more than pleased to read that St. Endellion Parish Council is opposed to the adoption of 'Pay and Display' car parking as currently exists at Boscastle. Let visitors be duly warned that at the automated facilities, a certain N.C.D.C. employee's pursuit of pleasure amounts to attaching 'Cornwall'
 July 198



Church Hill
 It may have been a good summer for some - but not for those who live on Church Hill whose homes have suffered more than usual from knocks and bangs. When will the authorities make it clear to drivers of large vehicles that they must under no circumstances drive down the hill? The signs are, obviously, quite inadequate and some major damage will occur unless something is done.
 August 1982

Runaway
 The new bench at the top of Rose Hill was demolished on Thursday 17th. June by a car whose hand-brake failed while it was parked.
 June 1982

AT LAST
 As Trio goes to press, posts are being put up for the village direction signs - which have been the subject of discussion since 1986!
 November 1995

LIMITED ACCESS CAUSED BY ILLEGAL PARKING
 (Copied from a letter to Peggy Richards from A.D.O. Marshall, reprinted with permission.)
 Thank you for your recent call regarding access problems which emergency services may encounter at Port Isaac. The fact that any emergency vehicle may be delayed in attending an incident by the indiscriminate parking of others causes us great concern. Unfortunately the Fire Authority has no control over the enforcement of parking restrictions, and I would advise contacting the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary who are the enforcing body.
 Port Isaac has seen its share of tragedy in recent years, and it would be a shame to see another, possibly caused by the delay of an attending emergency vehicle. I personally support any legal initiative to ensure the clear passage of vehicles through Port Isaac.
 May 1998

THE BUS JOURNEY
 Today, I took the bus into Wadebridge. The journey is always an experience in itself and this time I remembered my camera, because only from your high seat on the bus can you see the views. I sat near the front because I wanted a good vantage point for my photos.
 We started off exactly on time. There were only three other people on board at this point which created a friendly atmosphere with the driver chatting whenever he had the opportunity and pointing out landmarks. He was very cheerful and patient with passengers boarding or leaving.
 The day was windy with threatening rain and the waiting passengers seemed glad to get on board out of the weather. Some of the older ladies were wearing woolly hats which seemed a very sensible idea. As we drove along, the driver waved to people as we passed.
 I only had a £20 note for my fare so I was asked to pay later on - quite refreshing - later, another passenger also had a large note and was asked to pay on the return journey.
 I was impressed how the bus went to one point in Rock to turn round specially to pick up passengers who would otherwise have been off the route. A man got on here and the driver said 'You'll put me out for the rest of the week now - your usual day is Friday!'
 On the return journey a grandmother was taking her four-year old granddaughter to afternoon school and the driver waited while grannie saw the little girl into school and rejoined the bus.
 As a white haired man with a beard and a navy blue peaked cap was about to get off the bus he said 'Thanks driver, for keeping the rain off.' The driver replied 'I keep trying - my wife says I'm very trying.'
 I managed to get a picture of Polzeath from the top of the hill and the driver slowed down for me so the bus wouldn't shake the camera. We seemed to be flying - we could see the whole vista of the beach with the rollers coming in.
 I wonder where else you could go on a bus journey like this.
 Betty Shenton (Port Isaac long stay visitor).
 May 1994

PC still looking at traffic problems
 The Traffic, Parking & Roads Committee of the Parish Council is meeting regularly. It has discussed increasing the parking facilities at the Playing Field. This would help towards the increased car parking needed for the village and would also generate income for the Parish Council.
 The following recommendations have been made to Cornwall County Council's Transportation & Estates Department:
 • Speed limit to be established in Trewetha, 30mph preferred
 • 30mph roundels to be marked on road surfaces as appropriate
 • 30mph signs at the entrance of Port Isaac to be moved further round the bend towards Trewetha
 • The distance that yellow lines lead into estates at junctions to be checked, particularly into Silvershell Road ...
 April 1988

Pedestrian Crossing, Trewetha Lane
 A County Council official had visited Jane Scown, Head Teacher, Port Isaac School, but no Parish Councillors were invited. Mrs. Scown pointed out that the crossing was not only needed during school hours. A 'flashing light' crossing under school control was offered. This showed the need for a crossing was recognised, the Parish Council, however, did not think it would meet the original requirements. Further pressure will be put on the County Council for a full-time crossing. Councillor Harvey Lander will be involved, and another meeting requested.
 June 1993

FORE STREET
 Before long somebody is bound to get run into by one of those thoughtless drivers who seem not to think about other people and drive through the village at incredible speeds; there are no pavements where pedestrians can take refuge and more often than not the road is dangerously narrowed by ramps of illegally parked cars. When it rains it is even worse as there are torrents of ankle-deep water running down the street - especially at 'Harbour Shop' Corner. Perhaps Fore Street should be closed to pedestrians as they are obviously a great inconvenience to the motorist.
 Robin Penna.
 August 2015 referring to 1988

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Dear Sir, I wrote to Trio in May concerning the intended use of our cliff path as the access road to the new houses to be built there. I have also written to many officials, and people in authority. Now, in response to your item last month I should like to give readers an idea of the sort of response I have received. The Chairman of North Cornwall District Council says the points regarding access to the site were carefully considered by the Planning and Development Committee, and from research of the car park deeds 'it would appear that the access road is still in the ownership of the original estate with rights of passage having been granted to subsequent purchasers of land served by the road'. As for possible conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, and general detriment to the area caused by motor vehicles, 'the Planning Committee did not consider these objections of sufficient weight to warrant refusal of the application'.
 I leave it to readers to judge for themselves. It would 'appear' that the road is still in the ownership ... do they know who it belongs to or don't they? I hope 'general detriment' includes the possible destruction of the path's surface by large building lorries, cement lorries, etc. As for conflict between pedestrians and vehicles ... need I say more? No doubt the village will wait until the bulldozers actually

move in before they take any action. We must put a stop, now, to this terrible desecration of our lovely, peaceful cliff path.
 Jack Hoskin

Dear Sir, The more I sit and think about the disaster of making the Cliff Path from Fore Street into a road, the more I feel we must press to stop it happening. It is a favourite walk for both villagers and visitors, being one of the few places one does not have to worry about vehicles or their fumes polluting the air. I have spoken to many visitors who feel that it would take part of the reason away for their coming to Port Isaac, as it is a favourite walk to and from the village and still unspoilt, they can walk at their leisure and not have to keep their children from the path of vehicles. Also we elder folk find it is lovely to have this Cliff Path, enjoy the views and clean air not polluted by petrol fumes. So please leave it as it is - quite unspoilt.
 Mrs. E. Ferguson.
 Robin Penna.
 July 1987

Why shouldn't the path be used as a drive? It is the natural approach to the site where the new houses are going to be built, and would seem to have been intended from the start as a cart track.
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a solution has to be found ...

Traffic - something's got to be done!

Following the Harbour Commissioners proposal to close the beach car park in 2010, St Endellion Parish Councilors, Chair Barbara Bell, Vice Chair Andy Penny and Cllr Martin Bell met Cornwall Council (CC) officials on Friday October 30th. Dugald Sproull represented the Harbour Commissioners. CC was represented by Brian Doney, Area Highways Manager for the East Region, Paul Allen, Regional Engineer and Graham Holland, Area Parking Manager. Martin Bell gave *Trio* this report from that meeting:

- The Parish Council's main concern was the loss of up to 100 beach parking spaces (at lowest tide) at a time when the existing Port Isaac off-street parking is insufficient for the number of visitors drawn to the village by the Doc Martin TV comedy series.
- Preliminary plans for a 200+ space 'park and ride' car park at Trewetha were shown to the meeting and discussed, the CC officers preference for additional parking being on the Parish Council owned playing field.
- Barbara Bell suggested that a limited number of long term spaces might be provided on the playing field to help fund the provision of better recreation facilities but CC would have to agree to restrict their New Road car park to short term parking only.
- Martin Bell reminded CC officers that they were the parking authority, not the Parish Council and suggested Cornwall Council look again at the possibility of extending the middle and lower levels of their New Road park into the former Castle Rock Hotel garden - which they were offered on lease two years ago - and also provide an additional row of spaces along the lowest level, on the top of the coastal slope. Martin Bell estimated these extensions, plus long term parking relocated to the playing field could generate an additional 110 spaces in the village, replacing the maximum number of spaces that would be lost by the beach parking closure.
- CC officers were unable to commit themselves to supporting the Trewetha 'park and ride' proposal, saying this was outside their remit.
- CC officers asked if the lower part of the playing field - the former BMX cycle track area and beyond - could be turned over to visitor parking.
- Andy Penny said that at a recent public meeting about the future of the playing field, the use of part of it for parking was the main topic of discussion. Martin Bell said it was a contentious issue within the parish because half of those who attended the public meeting didn't want the playing field used for parking; they thought the land should be preserved for future generations of the village's young people.
- Martin Bell continued, if CC expected the Parish Council to provide extra short term parking on the playing field instead of CC enlarging its own New Road car park, it should be prepared to fund the Parish Council's development of the playing field onto the adjoining field and the provision of new facilities.
- Barbara Bell said she was very reluctant to lose part of the Parish Council's green space.
- Graham Holland said he was unwilling to expand CC parking because the current demand for spaces was being generated by the 'Doc Martin' series and when that ended he expected demand to fall.
- He said an investment decision would have to be made at a higher level within his Council as he was only responsible for day to day operations.
- The possible restriction on vehicular access to the harbour once the beach car park was shut, limiting access to residents and businesses and excluding visitors, was also discussed and Brian Doney said he would carry out a survey of potential on-street parking spaces.
- It was agreed that the Parish Councilors would report back to their members and consider the issues with Brian Gisbourne, elected Cornwall Council member for the St. Endellion division, before requesting a meeting with Cornwall Council's Director of Transportation and Estates.



November 2009



The new car park seems to be the topic on everyone's lips; it's even inspired Trio's new poet laureate to write about it!

*The topic of this season is the problem with the cars
And everyone's an expert
If you listen in the bars*

*It seems that some are moaning
That the new park spoils their view ...*

*So maybe they could tell the council
What they ought to do?*

In time there could be trees in place

*To hide the cars from view
And in the field next door
Perhaps a supermarket too?*

*And then we'd get the street lights
To blot out all the stars*

So we could moan about all that

Instead of all the cars

But though the beach has closed

And folk can wander round at will,

They won't eat many pasties

If they have to climb that hill!

Richard Cook

August 2010

Summer parking in Port Isaac

As you are all very well aware, parking in Port Isaac this summer has been as bad as ever.



The parish council will be debating 'overflow parking' as an agenda item at their next meeting on September 8th at 7pm at the primary school.

The PC is aware of the problems, we need the solutions!

We have more cars coming into Port Isaac than we have spaces for. So what do we do? There maybe space for additional cars at the bottom of the new car park but this is unlikely to be enough to remedy the problem .

Are there landowners that would make suitable land available for July and August? How far out the village is too far? St Endellion? Or should we put signs up when we are full?

Your comments and ideas please. We know all the negatives, let's have the positives. Before we can think about restricted areas we have to know where we are going to park all these cars.

Andy Penny
County Councillor
September 2014

PARKING ... TRAFFIC ... PARKING ...

With so many rumours flying about, everybody seems very confused about what is happening on the parking problem front. First of all the Parish Council voted at its meeting on January 11th "that the PC secure part of the playing field for temporary/ overflow parking to be in situ for Easter 2010." This was proposed by Andy Penny and seconded by Mrs B Bell and the proposal was carried by six votes with one abstention.

Then at the February meeting, Andy Penny proposed to temporarily move the play equipment to create this temporary parking but this was turned down, with eight members of the Council voting against the proposal. At this same meeting, Barbara Bell proposed the creation of a 100 space car park in the second field (currently used for grazing) and this was carried. However, Andy Penny then tabled an amendment to this to include the accommodation of an additional 100 cars in an overflow area and this was turned down.

Confused? Losing the will to live? Well, don't be. Things seem to now be getting sorted and Parish Council Chairman, Barbara Bell told *Trio*: "At an extraordinary meeting on February 22nd the Parish Council voted to assume the management of the proposed car park project including the planning application, funding and appointment of contractors to ensure compliance with applicable local government regulations and audit rules. A fee proposal to submit a planning application, provide cost estimates and manage the subsequent works from MOR Design (who are already working on the playing field project) was accepted. A formal request for support and advice of the Head of Finance, March 2010

PARKING ... TRAFFIC ... PARKING ...

Let's grab this Good Fairy with both hands

When the beach car park closes every day as the tide comes in, we all see the effect this has on the upper part of the village. Day visitors drive around and around, lost and confused, and then dump their vehicles outside of your houses in Tintagel Terrace, Hartland Road, Mayfield, Silvershell, Trewetha Lane, New Road, Lundy Road and Hilsons. When the beach car park is permanently closed, this will become a permanent problem for the residents of Port Isaac. The vehicle blight will be inconvenient, unsightly and dangerous for everyone. This is wholly unnecessary and avoidable.

Our current Parish Council, who are faced with the unenviable job of trying to find a solution to this, is one of the smallest and most impoverished in the county. All parishioners suffer through it's lack of funding and, under current conditions, it is obvious that this situation will not improve. So play equipment will deteriorate, benches will need painting, hedges need cutting etc etc - all the day to day things that we niggly the Parish Councilors to put right need to be paid for throughout the parish, and they plead to us that they have no money.

Wouldn't it be unbelievable if the good fairy came down and waved her magic wand and put it all right? Well, for once these things don't just happen in fairy tales. By using a little of our ingenuity and enhancing the Parish Field, all the parish can benefit. ... Provide the children with a much larger play area with equipment/benches on the lower side of the football field (where, incidentally, the play equipment was before). This has the immediate advantage of being safely away from the increasingly busy road, out of the prevailing winds, and having the benefit of the finest view of any play area in the county for those accompanying their kids. Use the section of the field that runs alongside Trewetha Lane for parking; it will provide the Parish Council with a substantial income that would at least triple their current one.

Of course, if the good fairy also said that come this summer, you can use the field next door which is also yours, for even more play area and equipment and parking than you could possibly imagine you would ever need, and it could all be self funding, you would think that she was joking. But no, it's true. It is not a joke. This is the incredibly fortunate situation that we are in. St Endellion Parish Council would then be in a healthier financial position to spend on projects across the parish, so that all parishioners benefited, not merely those in Port Isaac.

There are, I know, moves afoot to provide a car park on land not owned by the Parish up at the hamlet of Trewetha. That idea does not address our dilemma. Because this is so far out of the village, visitors will simply drive past in the hope of finding somewhere closer to park, and we will end up with exactly the same situation as we have now - traffic chaos and parking all around the residential areas. Plus, the Parish Council will lose the heaven sent opportunity to substantially increase it's income and improve the facilities it can offer.

We cannot prevent change, it happens. It is often imposed on us, as in our current circumstances. All we can do is embrace it as an opportunity to improve things for ourselves. If we do not compromise on the use of the parish field, we will end up with the worst of both worlds - an increasingly poor parish, a village blighted by cars, and an angry community still moaning that 'something should be done'. Surely, no one in their right mind wants to go on like that?

Jon Cleave

February 2010



The new Car Park saga continues ...

And the car park still remains the topic everyone is talking about (although the proposed closure of the Roscarrock Hill Public Toilets gave it a run for its money this past week!). On March 20th "TV 'Doc' gets new car park" made the front page of the *Cornish Guardian*, with a further mention of the proposed Port Isaac Car Park on page 34 and another article on page 36. Local opinions vary but with Easter looming, and at the time of writing, the Trewetha Lane car park remains closed and this is clearly going to cause problems.

To put things into context, Andy Penny attended the March 11th Parish Council meeting and submitted a report to *Trio*. Here are the main points of that report:

- There was a large public contingent at the meeting, in the main to ensure that the playing field was not commandeered as temporary parking until the new car park is finished - it is not.
- Andy Penny and others again made what seems the sensible suggestion of postponing the construction of the new car park until the end of the summer and using it as it has been used for the past couple of years. There seems to be several reasons why this cannot happen and construction on the new car park should have already begun - it hasn't - with a view to completion by July 4th.
- Our County Councillor, Brian Gisbourne, said that he was now concerned about the car parking situation said, "You cannot leave tonight until you make a decision".
- Local landowners are to be contacted to see if they can accommodate some temporary short term parking.
- 25-30 temporary parking spaces will be available for parking on the playing field hard standing.

Whilst the *Cornish Guardian* concentrates on the cost by CORMAC of £397,000 to build the new Car Park and an additional £40,000 spent on consultant's fees, a lot of locals are more immediately concerned with where visitors are going to park over the next three months, particularly as filming on the next series of *Doc Martin* is about to begin, bringing an additional influx of cars, plus three Bank Holiday weekends. The loan and costs are a fait accompli - it's how life in Port Isaac will be over the next few months that is causing a lot of worry. Hopefully next month's *Trio* will have better, more positive news. In the meantime, the following letters have been received in response to the *Cornish Guardian* coverage.

April 2013

Let's not lose our historical perspective...

August 1967 - Car parking problems in Port Isaac. Matter discussed by parish council alongside the usual pressing issues [dog mess, plaques on benches, lifter, dog mess, uncut hedges, lack of funds, the toilets, dog mess etc].

December 3rd 1967 - World's first heart transplant.

December 23rd 1968 - Apollo 8 orbits the moon.

February 13th 1969 - First human egg fertilised in test tube.

April 9th 1969 - Maiden flight of the Concorde.

July 21st 1969 - Neil Armstrong is the first man to step on the moon. Neil was a Port Isaac boy who had served on the parish council for some years, finally resigning in exasperation at the impossibility of finding a solution to the car parking problem.

April 9th 1970 - The Beatles split, following years of success with hits such as 'She Loves You', 'Yellow Submarine', 'Hey Jude' and 'Ticket to Park and Ride'.

July 31st 1971 - Astronauts drive 'moon buggy' on the surface of the moon, but return to Apollo 15 after failing to find anywhere to park.

January 26th 1972 - Britain joins EEC (now the EU), PM Edward Heath promises economic prosperity and a car park for Port Isaac.

January 23rd 1973 - Vietnam war ends.

1974 - 1977 - Bad hair and flares...

1977 - present... the Falklands War, Fall of Communist Europe, mobile phones, PCs, the internet, E mail, the rise of Islam, cheap flights, texting, the credit crunch, and of course, the turn of the millennium...

2010 - a proper car park for Port Isaac?
I think it may be a bit tricky...

February 2010

There can't have been many times over the last 40 years that the Parish Council has received a round of applause and unanimous approval and compliments from the members of the public present at the meeting - but on July 12th it did! I say 40 years because that's the figure that is constantly quoted about how long the village has had traffic problems and needed alternative parking to the beach.



New car park now open!

by the time you read this the new car park at the entrance to the village should be up and running ...

Parish Council Chair, Barbara Bell tells *Trio* all about it

If I hear another person says 'All you've got to do' about Port Isaac's new car park, I will throttle them. It's not that simple. Obtaining council planning permission is difficult to say the least because car parks anywhere are a blot on the landscape and in our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a tenfold one. That is why parish council members employed a professional landscape architect to produce a design for a 135 space car park that was acceptable to council planners. Parish councilors and members of the public had a number of opportunities to question the design as it evolved and a few did.

It has always been parish council policy that a permanent car park should not burden our Council Tax precept payers. If the new car park generates insufficient revenue to repay the Public Works Loan Board loan we expect Cornwall Council, which earns £130,000 per annum from its New Road car park, to guarantee to make up the difference. After months of wrangling there was a breakthrough on 28 May at negotiations between senior highways officials and a team of parish councilors when the vital principal of underwriting our loan repayments was conceded. It coincided with a very clear statement the same day to Cornwall Council transportation leader Graeme Hicks from the Chair of the Port Isaac Harbour Commission that the harbour board had received a Department of Transport guidance on health and safety that compelled it to close the harbour car park to visitors.

July 2010

October gridlock down Fore Street



page 5

proposal to close Beach Car Park

November 2009

Trio sent a copy of the October issue to Cornwall County Council and NCDC for them to comment on the plans that were included for reorganising the playing field and adding a car park. These are the replies received ...

Cornwall County Council

... The County Council are aware of the traffic issues and concerns raised by the Parish Council and many residents recently. We have replied to everyone who has contacted us explaining the current situation from the County Council's point of view.

Firstly, the request for additional parking restrictions (yellow lines) along Trewetha Lane and the side road junctions is acknowledged and has been placed on my divisional request list for such similar schemes in the area. The request list will be discussed with the elected members of the new single Cornwall Council after April 2009. At present we have no details of budgets or processes to deal with these types of scheme requests within the new single authority.

Secondly, the request for improved traffic management in the lower part of the village is a subject which has been discussed for many years. The major issue is the parking in the harbour. Whilst this is allowed to continue then there will always be tourist vehicles driving up and down Fore Street causing conflict with other highway users.

A scheme to restrict vehicular access in the lower part of the village could be investigated. However, it is acknowledged that additional off-road parking would be required elsewhere to cater for the displaced vehicles from the harbour. Again the proposal for such a scheme will be placed on my divisional request list.

The County Council are willing to work with all parties to assist in assessing solutions to these particular issues.

Paul Allen

Divisional Surveyor, Cornwall County Council

North Cornwall District Council

... I am pleased to offer my views on the matter and these are based purely around operational practicalities rather than the official view of NCDC.

I do agree that parking in and around the village is becoming increasingly more difficult. Officers in my team have, over many years, been in regular contact with the parish council and other organisations, about issues within the village including parking/ congestion. We have tried to identify suitable sites for extra parking provision but costs and access to suitable land have been inhibiting factors.

The suggestion you have received from a villager looks again at the potential use of the playing field. This seems a sensible suggestion and would certainly help the situation, particularly if 100 cars could be accommodated and there is no loss of existing facilities in this locality.

As you know, we service the recycling banks located in the existing main car park and there are operational difficulties involved. Relocating these banks to an alternative car park site would reduce the movement of heavy traffic in the busy main areas and 'free' up additional car park spaces in this car park. I have discussed the matter recently with the Chairman of the parish council and did agree with him that there is merit in establishing additional parking at/near to the playing field site.

Obviously such plans would need to be considered by the NCDC Planning Department and County Highways and it is not for me to comment here.

We will of course keep you abreast of any developments and if there is an opportunity to re-locate and enhance the recycling facilities we would be keen to examine this further.

Mike Beckett
Head of Operational Services, NCDC

November 2008

Has Cormac sub-contracted out the work on the new car park?



April 2013