Dear Sir, Madam

As many of you are only too aware, during snowy & icy conditions the parish of Dartmoor Forest, and in particular the villages of Princetown and Postbridge, are visited at night, by car drivers who use the conditions to race their cars, perform stunts and drive significantly in excess of safe, legal speeds. This anti-social behaviour endangers the people, property and peaceful existence of the parish.

Earlier this year, to try and understand the scale and impact of the issue, the parish council surveyed local residents and received over 40 responses which show how much disruption and concern this behaviour caused. The parish council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

In June of this year, the parish council then presented the results to representatives of Devon County Council Highways, West Devon Borough Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall. The objective was for them to understand the impact of this anti-social behaviour and explore what could be done to significantly reduce this behaviour.

Devon and Cornwall Police explained that they will always try and attend to reports of this behaviour, however there are often many other urgent calls that they need to prioritise. However, they stressed that all incidents should be reported to either 999 or 101 as it helps build a picture of how many incidents there are. It is also relevant to note that the number of police officers, for the Tavistock and surrounding rural areas, has been significantly reduced over the past few years.

West Devon Borough Council reported that they have had some impact in reducing anti-social behaviour in other areas, by issuing ‘Community Protection Notices’. These are written warnings, issued to drivers of vehicles reported to be causing nuisance, anti-social and sub-criminal behaviour. These letters advise drivers that if there are further complaints then offenders may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 or be prosecuted in Court, fined up to £2,500 and get a criminal record. If they are prosecuted through the court’s consideration would be given to applying for a Criminal Behaviour Order. They could also be excluded from a designated area between certain times.

The parish council believe that this approach may have some affect in reducing anti-social behaviour in our area and need your help. We really need all incidents of dangerous driving to be reported to the Police and to the parish council who will work with West Devon Borough Council to issue ‘Community Protection Notices’.

What we would need is for residents to record the details of the offending vehicle, time, date and behaviour, location and willing if necessary to make a statement.
For example; Black Audi A3 – registration FG08 GDA was seen on 12th February at approximately 10.30pm driving at excessive speeds down Tavistock Road, Princetown and braking suddenly with the use of the handbrake.

The parish council recognise that at night, in the dark it may not be possible to obtain that information.

**We must stress we do not want anyone to place themselves at any risk or danger.**

However, if it is safe to do so and possible to do so, then this information should be given to the Police on 101 and emailed to the parish clerk on clerk@dartmoorforestpc.net. This information will then be passed on to the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at West Devon Borough Council to start the process of issuing ‘Community Protection Notices’.

As a checklist we need the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make and model of vehicle</th>
<th>✓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration number</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of offending behaviour</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name and contact number of person reporting incident</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For too long the local community has had to suffer from this behaviour and we all want it to stop. The parish council recognise that there are no easy solutions but believe this approach will have an impact and would welcome your support and cooperation.

The parish council have also started discussing the potential of CCTV and whether this would have an impact. A further update will be given at a parish council meeting.

If you have any questions on this please do not hesitate to speak to one of the parish councillors or contact the parish clerk. All contact details can be found here: [http://www.dartmoorforestpc.net/about-us.html](http://www.dartmoorforestpc.net/about-us.html)

Yours faithfully,

Steve Cox
Parish Clerk