

DCC have now confirmed that they are proceeding with their proposal for a pay and display parking scheme on Exeter Road.

Despite requesting evidence from DCC as to why this scheme was being proposed we had no response to our letters dated 22nd July and 19 September 2023 (copies of which are below).

Braunton Parish Council took this matter up on behalf of Love Braunton at their meeting on 23rd November 2023 with DCC Highways when this proposal was discussed but again no evidence was given.

The no response to requests for evidence is disappointing but not unexpected as we believe that DCC has no evidence of need for this scheme in Braunton village. They certainly couldn't promote the DCC data we obtained via a FOI submitted by one of our members.

This FOI submitted in September 2023 shows that only 170 parking tickets had been issued in the past 5 years for Exeter Road and that DCC's Civil Parking Enforcement Team, had received zero complaints relating to overparking on the A361 in the last five years, whilst their Customer Relations Team only had 33 complaints in the last five years, but none of these related to overparking.

We are also concerned about the lack of communication by DCC with the Parish Council, its residents and elected representatives on a proposal that has potentially an impact on our high street businesses.

Researching publicly available DCC documentation we found that there has clearly been no detailed analysis or evidence to support the proposal made 9 November 2022 and the Impact Assessment approved by the Scrutiny Committee 22 September 2022 is a very poor example of robust consideration and review. Links to these documents are below:

- *The review of parking management (including pay & display) in key communities was reported to Cabinet in 9th November*
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=133&MIId=4462&Ver=4> (Item 238).
- *Prior to that report officers discussed proposals with Scrutiny Commissioning Liaison Members, those discussions were reported to Scrutiny on 22nd September*
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=427&MIId=4486&Ver=4> (Item 72).

It is noted that a Councillor on the Scrutiny Committee is an elected representative at both County and District level, but it seems that details of this proposal were not shared with their fellow councillors who represent Braunton at local government level.

The outcome of this process to date is that the community faces a possibility of a scheme being imposed on them based on no evidence of need or thorough scrutiny and certainly no meaningful consultation with residents or their representatives.

DCC are now putting their proposal out to public consultation because they must. It is a tick box exercise that does nothing to reduce public cynicism in local government - both at county and district levels.

Love Braunton mails to DCC Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport and DCC Highways Officer

From: Love Braunton <connect@lovebraunton.org>
Sent: 19 September 2023
To: Christopher Rook <christopher.rook@devon.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor Pru Maskell <Pru.Maskell@devon.gov.uk>; Meg Booth <meg.booth@devon.gov.uk>; Tracey Lovell <tracey@brauntonparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Proposed On Street Parking Scheme for Braunton

Dear Mr Rook

We have not had a response to our mail to you dated 22nd July 2023 which requested the evidence that DCC had to support the scheme being proposed.

It may be that in the two months since our request for evidence you are now in a position to provide data that supports the proposed scheme.

However we are also aware, following Braunton Parish Council meeting on the 12th September, that your intention is to go out for public consultation despite the lack of evidence as to why the scheme is being proposed.

So we ask again:

Do you have evidence that supports the scheme?

If yes please provide it

If no why is this scheme being advanced?

A prompt response would now be appreciated.

Kind regards,
Love Braunton

From: Love Braunton <connect@lovebraunton.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2023
To: Christopher Rook <christopher.rook@devon.gov.uk>
Cc: Councillor Pru Maskell <Pru.Maskell@devon.gov.uk>; Meg Booth <meg.booth@devon.gov.uk>; Tracey Lovell <tracey@brauntonparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Proposed On Street Parking Scheme for Braunton

Dear Mr Rook

Thank you for your mail response 3rd July to our letter to Ms Booth dated 21st June. As advised in our acknowledgement of your mail, we have now considered your response which raises the following concerns.

Whilst you answered our questions in general terms there is a lack of evidence as to why Highways and the Economy team have identified Braunton as requiring an on street parking scheme.

The traffic congestion referred to in response to question 4 is not to do with parking facilities but more to do with the geographic location of Braunton village on the road network and the documented increase in vehicle movements.

There appears to be no data to illustrate that the current parking arrangements are not already facilitating the short stay/high turnover in the high street locations which you claim is the objective of your proposal. Also current the arrangements do not incur the cost of introducing and administering a Pay and Display scheme.

We note that this proposal was put before DCC Cabinet on 9th November 2022 who approved it and an allocated budget of £250K. Not an insubstantial amount for a proposal where no decision has been made, costs identified or benefits to be realised as you state.

It would be helpful if the evidence upon which the proposal was made is shared with residents and businesses who are likely to be impacted by such a scheme so that they are better informed ahead of an intended public consultation.

In respect of the monies paid to the Parish Council your response is in general terms and lacks specifics for monies paid to the Parish for cutting road splays and there is no indication of the value of subsidy required for the 303.

We look forward to hearing further from you.

Kind regards,
Love Braunton