TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN 12 October 2019

DARTMOUTH PARKING CONSULTATION SURVEY

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of our Society regarding the current Parking Consultation Survey in Dartmouth being run by South Hams District Society in partnership with Dartmouth Town Council and Devon County Council. Please circulate this response to each of them.

Our understanding is that this survey is part of a two stage approach (1) to gather input and to assess people's expectations and then (2) to analyse the results.

In our view the first part of the current exercise to gather input is, regrettably, inadequate as it fails to be sufficiently directed on grounds of both quantitative and qualitative merit. As such it cannot be considered a valid basis for any objective overview of parking arrangements or needs in Dartmouth.

On Quantitative measures it relates to a short period of time, largely too late for the main regatta and holiday visitors and it is without sufficient residents input. As such it is too narrowly based in time and quantum to be of relevance for a year round survey and analysis.

On Qualitative measures it was focused too narrowly and is weighted heavily towards a brief holiday period. It is probably also limited by having insufficient Dartmouth based or other local residential involvement. As such it fails to take properly into account any annual or seasonal issues for the population of Dartmouth and its surrounding areas regarding parking now or required in future for the real users needs for parking in Dartmouth throughout a normal year.

No adequate account appears to have been taken of seasonal, summer or winter considerations with this minimal snapshot of time.

The targeting of this Consultation survey over a very limited period, in a great hurry and without adequate publicity makes its validity, accuracy and balance insufficient for a proper basis on which to take meaningful conclusions affecting the whole community.

A proper overview of needs and capacity is impossible based on this limited survey.

Bearing in mind that decisions regarding parking in Dartmouth will probably involve several relevant parties at County, District and local level - with each having their own concerns and interests to review and protect for policy and for financial reasons - it seems only fair and reasonable that a more realistic survey be undertaken rather than this limited one. Surely a proper overview is required which this particular survey has failed to achieve.

It cannot provide DTC (Cllr Yardy) with the "robust clear facts that can be used to address the future development of this valuable town asset". Nor, we contend, is it sufficient for SHDC (Cllr Baldry) to "help the partners to plan the future management of the parking service, to make sure that it meets users' needs".

We would ask all parties to note that there have been various other surveys over recent years which will provide additional and wider evidence for a more realistic overview than the current exercise. These include the Dartmouth & District MCTi consultation and the Survey in 2016 for the Dartmouth Neighbourhood Plan . The findings from such other surveys are likely to be highly relevant to a proper quality review of parking needs and to the inter-relationship with other needs and requirements for transport locally, for local health and welfare considerations and for the local economy in Dartmouth.

If these wider considerations are not taken into account at this time to enable a wider overview to be achieved there is a great risk that this limited survey will be seen to have been inadequate and insubstantial. We ask that the "partners" reconsider their whole approach to this key issue as it seems currently to be too narrowly focused.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Brooke