Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 17 November 2026

Item 9 Bus turning circle
Update on correspondence with Devon County Highways and Tally Ho! Bus. Consider actions.

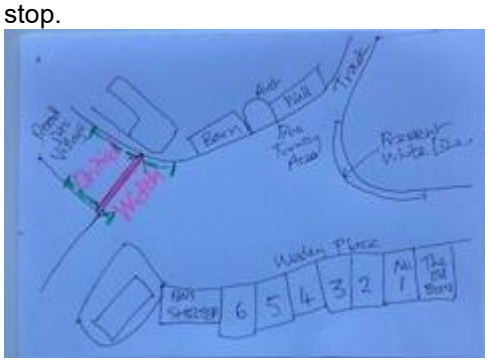
Quick read:

- Devon County Highways has suggested drawing up proposals for a time-limited parking restrictions around the bus turning area: **"No Waiting Between 08:00 and 16:30".** This could help ensure that the turning area remains available for buses when required, whilst still allowing parking outside of those hours for residents and visitors.
- Double yellow lines at the pinch point ahead of the bus stop are not advised as this has the potential to cause parking problems elsewhere in the village
- Any proposals drafted then go through an approval process, via the Highway and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC), including public consultation on proposals, before approval.
- Tally Ho! has approached the County Council to completely withdraw the service due to the lack of patronage at Harberton Shelter. This would allow the company to use larger, higher capacity vehicles to be able to cope with the higher demand between Totnes and Salcombe. There are proposals for a smaller vehicle to service the little villages in the future
- There won't be any changes until at least May so any improvements that you can implement would be great (i.e changes in behaviour and increase in passenger numbers).

Full correspondence:

Devon County Highways Proposal

The Clerk has discussed the issue with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, forwarding a sketch submitted by a resident and viewed by the parish council that proposes yellow lines in a pinch point from residents about yellow lines around the bus turning circle and at a pinch point ahead of the bus stop.



The Neighbourhood Highways officer responded with the following points and proposals:

Concerns:

I'm a little confused as to what the desired outcome is for the bus turning area.

My understanding from previous discussions was that the aim was to protect the turning area itself. However, the attached diagram appears to show the existing lining around the turning area, with the proposed new restrictions instead being located at the highlighted pinch point.

My concern is that introducing parking restrictions at the pinch point may simply displace vehicles elsewhere within the village, potentially creating new issues rather than resolving the

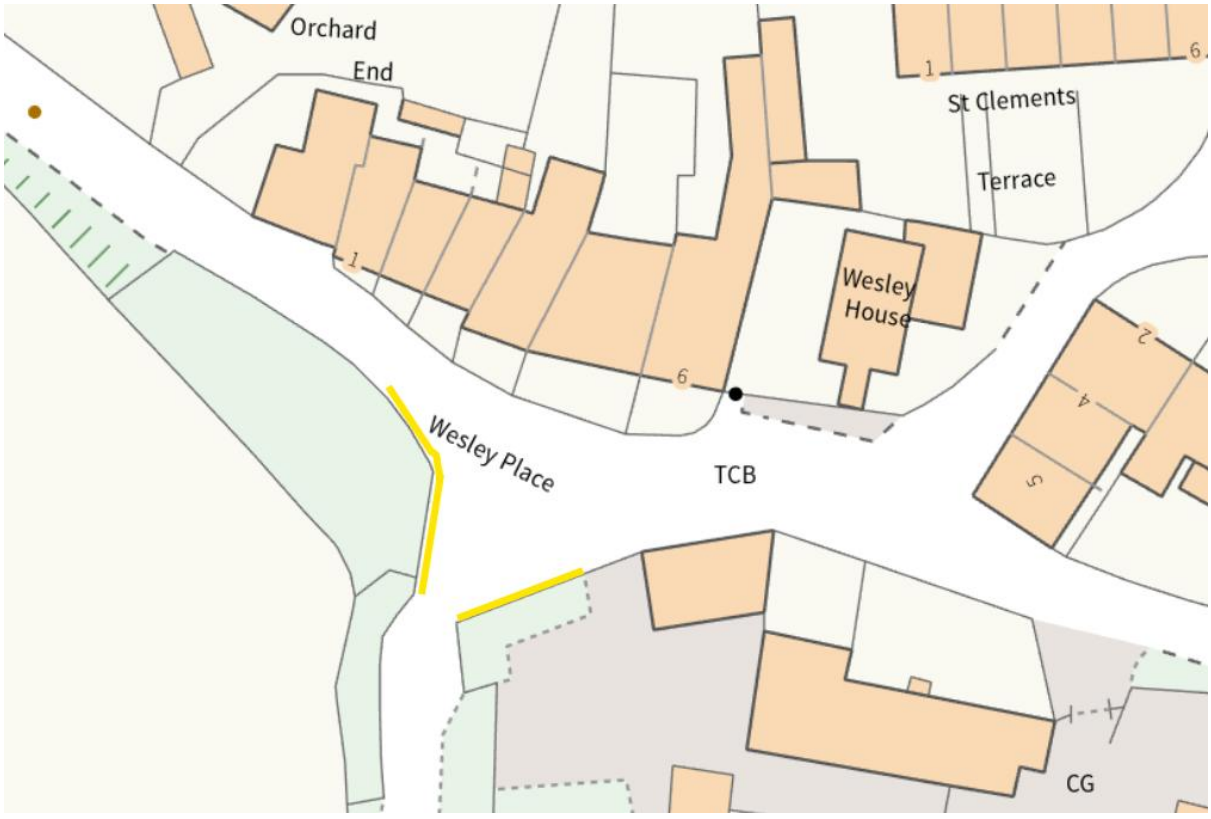
existing one. There is always a risk that additional restrictions can have unintended consequences and become more of a hindrance than the problem they were originally intended to address.

The clerk replied to indicate that the turning circle itself has been the main focus of the issue, but that parking in the pinch point had meant the bus had prevented the bus from accessing the bus stop. The Highways Officer maintained the view that putting yellow lines in this location had the potential to increase poor parking elsewhere in the village, and that temporary use of the banner would likely have a better result.

Alternative proposal:

Would it be worth considering time-limited parking restrictions around the bus turning area instead? Looking at the timetable, there only appear to be four pick-up and drop-off periods each day. A restriction such as **"No Waiting Between 08:00 and 16:30"** could help ensure that the turning area remains available for buses when required, whilst still allowing parking outside of those hours for residents and visitors.

I have attached a potential layout showing how the lining could be arranged. Let me know if you would like me to progress a proposal along these lines.



Before we take the proposal any further, I think it would also be worthwhile confirming that the bus operator is satisfied that the arrangement would allow their vehicles to complete the manoeuvre safely and efficiently. We should also check whether there are any plans to amend the service timetable in the future, as altering the restriction times once a Traffic Regulation Order is in place can be both time-consuming and costly due to the legal process required.

The clerk met with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and an engineer on site, where photographs and measurements were taken to include with a submitted plan, and to scope resurfacing repairs between the junction and the green lane, as lining on the current surface would be problematic.

Response from Tally Ho!

Email of 20 October 2026

Thanks for touching base and the efforts you have gone to.

Unfortunately, as you have already stated people are still parking without consideration in the turning bay and the road condition is getting worse. Our vehicles are still being damaged because of these issues and being delayed and I can't see a permanent solution to stop them doing this.

Due to the lack of patronage at Harberton Shelter I have approached the council to completely withdraw the service and in turn would allow us to use larger higher capacity vehicles to be able to cope with the higher demand between Totnes and Salcombe.

I know this is not what you wanted to hear but there are proposals for a smaller vehicle to service the little villages in the future.

Reply from the Clerk 21 October 2026

Oh no, this is terrible news!

Have you already registered this view with Devon County Council? There are still things that the Parish Council can do - the parking banner hasn't been installed yet and the double yellow lines are in process.

There is a lot of public support for people to take action to change behaviours.

Tally Ho! Reply of 21 October 2026

As an Operator we have made our views known to the council but nothing has been agreed as of yet.

Its good you have public support but unfortunately this doesn't reflect on the passenger numbers using the service. There won't be any changes until at least May so any improvements that you can implement would be great.