

Council dated 30 January 2019

South Hams Motor Club have been running on average 12-14 Public Highway based events per year since 1972, only ceasing for national reasons such as Foot And Mouth Disease. We continue to uphold and work hard to keep our excellent safety record intact. We do this by working with our governing body (the Motorsport UK, formally known as the M.S.A) and the residents along the Public Highway we are using. Our events are subject to strict guidelines from our Governing Body and routes are checked and authorised by their Route Authorisation department, who check for compliance with the various regulations under the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations and Section 13 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The Primrose Rally is a Navigational Rally permitted Time Schedule event, which means the entrants navigational skills are what the organisers are testing, secondary to that, their ability to correctly keep to a time schedule. The time allowed by an organiser for completing a section penalty free cannot be more than a 30 mph average and cannot exceed half the speed limit for that section of Public Highway. Example, a section that consists entirely of National Speed (60 mph) limit roads, cannot have an average speed of more than 30 mph. In fact, the penalty we impose for early arrival is twice the penalty for a late arrival, so it is not in the entrant's interest to do so.

All entrants are subject to the Road Traffic Act at all times including insurance, and further restrictions due to taking part in the event, including stricter restrictions on safety and noise in particular. For example, all vehicles that travel the route are noise tested to comply with the Motorsport UK rules far tighter than MOT rules.

In accordance with the legislation, residents that are on the route are notified, either by personal visit or by information leaflet, so if the resident hasn't received one of these then they are not on the route. If a resident on the route has a particular concern then I ask them to contact us by the information they have on the leaflet.

We are aware of a resident who has a concern from Holloway Barton farm/area which is whilst not in the Dunchideock Parish, we will continue to communicate directly with her to establish a common ground.

Due to the nature of the event, the route and any other event documents are kept confidential between us as organisers, our governing body and the police (and National Parks if we are using their area). Other than sporting reasons, there are legislative and Health and Safety reasons for this, and in some cases a breach of any confidence can lead to events being cancelled/amended.

Moving Forward, from the sporadic communication, I gather the resident's concerns that live near/on the public highway of the event's route are from Webberton Cross, passing the Best Western hotel and the houses along that road towards Underdown Cross. Norman's email refers to here, and it is the more populated and narrowest area of the route we are using in the parish.

As a solution to concerns raised, we offered observed "quiet zones", but I have decided to now put in place a "Neutral section" from north of Webberton Cross (Manstree Cross area), through to the other side of the houses, around Underdown Cross area. This not only removes any sporting aspect to this section, but will be an average speed set to less than 20mph, (in what is a National Speed Limit road) with dipped lights (except for adverse weather conditions) AND a driving standards observer (to ensure compliance by entrants).

We do not have to do the above, but in good faith we are, I trust this will alleviate any concerns about noise or anxiety that the the residents in this section have. and I'm sure I do not need to remind the council and the residents of the parish the legal implications of blocking a public highway.

If the parish council wish to find more information on the guidelines, recommendations etc on these type of events, then please feel free to contact Motorsport UK's Competition and Clubs department, their details are freely available on their website.