

## DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

5 October 2018

**JOINT RECREATIONAL EVENTS POLICY**Report of the Assistant Access & Recreation Officer

Recommendation:   **That Members approve the policy for Recreational Events**

**1      Background and Introduction**

- 1.1    The purpose of this report is to provide members with information on the development of a joint Recreational Events Policy that has been developed by the Authority in conjunction with Dartmoor Commoners Council (DaCC) and Dartmoor Common Land Owners Association (DCLOA).
- 1.2    The Authority has a well-established system for managing large scale recreational events on Dartmoor for events of over 50 people on foot or 30 horses or cyclists. Our policies for managing large scale events are set out in the Authority's Recreation and Access Strategy, supplemented by guidance for event organisers on our website. The Recreation and Access Strategy is being revised as part of the review of the National Park Management Plan.
- 1.3    The Authority recognises the contribution that recreation events can have on health and well-being for those taking part, often raising money for charitable causes. We are also aware of the impact large scale events may have on local communities, farmers and the special qualities of the National Park. Officers are often balancing these sometimes competing interests.
- 1.4    The number of events being notified to the National Park Authority increased by 41% between 2009 and 2013 with a total of 75 events in 2013. Since then the number has remained relatively stable at 60 events per annum. Recent data indicates that the number of participants per event is increasing and a trend towards more running and cycling, fewer walking, and more commercial events. The trend is that events are becoming larger in size with over 19,000 people participating in events in 2017.
- 1.5    The Authority operates an Event Notification System which aims to ensure that events are well managed; that they minimise any potential negative impacts on the environment, communities living and working in the National Park and other users and contribute positively to the rural economy. The proposed events are assessed by Authority officers and externally through major landowners and commoners associations. A flowchart showing the current process is shown at Appendix 2.

**2      Joint Recreation Events Policy**

- 2.1    A joint Recreation Events Policy has been developed following increasing concerns from landowners, farmers and some local communities of the cumulative impact of large scale recreation events and the disturbances and impacts that they can cause.

The joint policy can be found at Appendix 1 and has been developed to provide clarity for event organisers on the prior notice needed to effectively consider proposals and, the criteria used for assessing notifications. It clarifies the expectations on both sides; what we expect of organisers and what they can expect from us. Members will note that the policy ensures that event organisers will be given a clear explanation if their event is not supported.

- 2.2 The Authority enjoys a positive working relationship with event organisers and we have appreciated the way they have embraced the current guidance, often changing their events in response to advice. All partners continue to welcome well managed recreation events and this is the basis for this policy.
- 2.3 The current notification system and guidance for event organisers has been used as a basis for the policy but there are a number of changes to address concerns raised. The **key** changes that the joint policy addresses are summarised as follows:

**Lambing Season and Ground Nesting Birds** - The Authority's longstanding policy, (reflected in the Recreation and Access Strategy) is not to support events taking place between 1 March and 15 July unless they are wholly confined to existing tracks with dogs on the lead. Our ecologists and other partners consider that this date should be extended to 31 July. The national restriction for open access land requires dogs to be kept on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July to avoid disturbance to livestock and ground nesting birds. This is also the message we use in our new campaign Love Moor Life.

The new policy proposes that events will not be supported between 1 March and 31 July.

**Night Events** - There have been specific concern raised about the impact and growth in night time events; there are particular concerns about the impact on stock and on communities being disturbed after dark. The new policy proposes a presumption against night events; however, all night events notified to DNPA will be reviewed and considered on a case by case basis to assess potential impact.

**Dogs** - Particular concerns have been expressed about dogs on events and how they can be controlled when there are large numbers of participants and potentially dogs and particularly for running and cycling events. This has not been included previously and the proposed policy states that event organisers should discourage dogs at their events. If organisers wish to allow dogs on a recreational event, the organisers will be required to provide details as to how dogs will be managed at the event. Dogs will not be allowed on running, cycling and horse-riding events.

**Charter** - The Policy includes a charter that all event organisers will be asked to follow and sign up to.

**Donate for Dartmoor** - All event organisers will be asked to provide a donation of £2.00 per participant per event for the Donate for Dartmoor scheme (see 4.3 for more details). Previously we have asked for a donation of £1 per participant and Members will recall that this is where the Donate for Dartmoor scheme started as £ for the Park.

### **3 Consultation**

- 3.1 The joint policy was initially developed by the Authority in partnership with the Dartmoor Commoners' Council and Dartmoor Common Land Owners Association. A workshop involving event organisers was held over the summer to discuss the development of the policy, seek views and answer concerns. The policy was also distributed to event organisers unable to attend for comment.
- 3.2 A copy of the joint policy was sent to 30 event organisers. Five responses were received. Key comments included:
- A minimum donation of £3 is too high and would result in an increase in entry fees to events, limiting the accessibility of events for participants;
  - Extension of ground nesting bird dates creates a long closed period and fails to treat users of the Park on an equal basis and limits the time period for holding orienteering events;
  - Concern over a blanket ban on night events.
- 3.3 The joint policy has been endorsed by the Dartmoor Commoners' Council and the Dartmoor Common Land Owners Association.
- 3.4 The Dartmoor Access Forum held a sub-group meeting in September to consider the proposed policy in detail. Following discussion, the Forum members present agreed to support the policy.

### **4 Comments from event organisers**

- 4.1 Concerns have been expressed from an organiser of an annual orienteering event that has taken place on the open moor in previous years between the 15 and 31 July. This is an event that does not follow established paths or tracks and would be unlikely to be approved under the new policy.
- 4.2 Night events – presumption against all night events is considered to be overly restrictive.
- 4.3 The suggested donation of £3.00 per participant towards Donate for Dartmoor is considered to be too high and that £1.50 would be more appropriate. This has been where it has been most difficult to get a consensus. We have decided to ask for a donation of £2 for each participant. It is of course still a voluntary scheme.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There is a staff cost in running the event notification system. We will be actively promoting Donate for Dartmoor to all event organisers and participants as a way to 'put something back'.

### **6 Conclusion**

- 6.1 Dartmoor National Park continues to be a popular venue for event organisers wanting to host large scale recreational events for fundraising purposes, for personal challenge or for commercial purposes. Officers often have to balance the opportunities and benefits that large scale events provide to experience and enjoy the

National Park, with the potential impacts on local communities, farming, erosion and wildlife.

- 6.2 Adoption of this joint policy will provide a framework and greater clarity for both event organisers, DNPA officers and other interested parties when considering events.
- 6.3 The joint policy consolidates the existing policy framework and guidance for event organisers and provides a clear position on key areas of recreation event planning. We hope that it will form a basis for continued positive working relationship with event organisers.
- 6.4 The policy builds on our Love Moor Life Campaign; it is about encouraging and promoting sustainable use of the National Park for the environment and for people living and working in the area.

JEN MANNING

### **Background Documents**

Recreation & Access Strategy 2011 – 2017

**Attachments:**    **Appendix 1 : Joint Recreational Events Policy**  
                          **Appendix 2 : Flowchart**

20181005 JM Joint Recreational Events Policy

## RECREATION EVENTS POLICY

Dartmoor National Park Authority, Dartmoor Commoners' Council and  
Dartmoor Common Land Owners' Association

### 1 **Dartmoor Event Notification system**

#### 1(a) **All events of over 50 people on foot, or 30 horses or cyclists, must be assessed through the Dartmoor Event Notification System before the event takes place.**

The Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) administers this system which is supported by the Dartmoor Common Land Owners Association and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council. The details of the event will be passed to the landowner(s) and the local commoners.

#### 1(b) **All events must be notified to DNPA no less than eight weeks prior to the event.**

- If the event is not notified to the Authority within the timeframe, DNPA, landowners and commoners **will not** support the event going ahead;
- Events **should not** be advertised before notifying and having support of DNPA and the relevant landowner(s). ;
- Event organisers **will be required** to use an agreed format for presenting maps and information.

#### 1(c) **The event will be assessed against a set of criteria including:**

- Impact on farming operations and other businesses
- Ecological and environmental impacts
- Archaeology
- Path condition and erosion
- Potential impacts on other visitors (e.g. parking)
- Clashes with other events and number of events using the area/routes
- Timing of events
  - The moorland lambing, calving, foaling and main bird breeding season is 1 March to 31 July - this is when sheep, cattle, ponies and ground nesting birds are most prone to disturbance. During this season we will not normally support events involving more than 50 people on foot or 30 horses or cyclists (*unless confined to hard, wide tracks with dogs on leads*).
  - We will not normally support events on Bank Holiday weekends to avoid congestion and conflict with other users.

**1(d) All events will be passed to the relevant Safety Advisory Group (SAG).**

The SAG looks at events from a Health and Safety perspective and the overall planning of the event. They will expect to see:

- an Event Management Plan;
- a risk assessment; and
- the appropriate level of public liability insurance for the event.
  - All event organisers are advised to have public liability insurance for their event to a minimum value of £10 million.
  - Should a landowner have an alternative requirement they will notify the event organiser; either directly or via the DNPA.

**1(e) Event organisers will be advised if their event is:**

- Supported
- Supported with conditions
- Not supported (*Event organisers will be given an explanation if their event is not supported*).

**1(f) Organisers may be asked to postpone their event or implement a “plan B” if ground conditions are such that damage is likely to be caused. (Organisers will be notified from the outset if the DNPA or landowner feels this is necessary).**

**2 Well Managed Events**

2(a) All event organisers will be required to sign a Code of Conduct for Events and provide a monitoring report at the end of each event. A feedback form will be provided to the event organiser if the event is supported.

2(b) All event organisers will be required to attend an annual briefing session as a pre-requisite to support from the DNPA, landowners and commoners.

2(c) If an event organiser cannot attend the annual briefing they will be required to watch a film that covers the event notification process, what to consider when organising and running an event and how to minimise impacts to farmers and local communities.

2(d) **DOGS** – Event organisers should discourage dogs at their events. If they are allowed the event organiser will need to outline clear reasons why this is appropriate and clarify how dogs will be managed during the event. Dogs will not be allowed on running, cycling and horse-riding events.

### **3 Night Events**

There will be a presumption against all night events on Dartmoor, whatever the size. Events will be considered on a case by case basis and be dependent on the level of anticipated impact, including disturbance to stock, wildlife and local communities. For a night event to be supported it must have full support from all consultees.

### **4 Admin Fee and Donate for Dartmoor**

For large and/or very complex events, requiring a lot of officer time, the Authority reserves the right to charge an administration fee. Landowners reserve the right to charge a fee for land use (where applicable) and administration at their discretion.

**All event organisers are expected to support Donate for Dartmoor**, details of which are available at [www.dartmoor.gov.uk/donate](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/donate). Donations will be used to help maintain Dartmoor's network of footpaths and bridleways and to support conservation projects on the moor.

### **5 Monitoring of Events**

A selection of events will be monitored by National Park staff and/or by local farmers/ commoners and common land owners, with a particular focus placed on sensitive sites and routes. Monitoring information will be shared with the event organiser and if issues arise, support for future events by the same organiser may be withheld.

#### **Ten Tors – an exception to this policy**

The Ten Tors expedition has taken place on Dartmoor since 1960. There are many challenging walks in Britain today, but Ten Tors is still the only event catering solely for young people. Its original aim to encourage participation from all backgrounds is still important today. Many young participants will remember the event with pride for the remainder of their lives and for some it can be a life-changing experience.

The event does not fit with the policy outlined above due to its timing in the middle of May. Many discussions have been held about the possibility of moving the date but it does not work with the school calendar.

The event organisers work closely with the National Park Authority, landowners and farmers to ensure that the event is well managed and has minimal impact on breeding birds, lambing and the environment. The routes are periodically reviewed to ensure that the physical impact on Dartmoor's landscape is minimised.

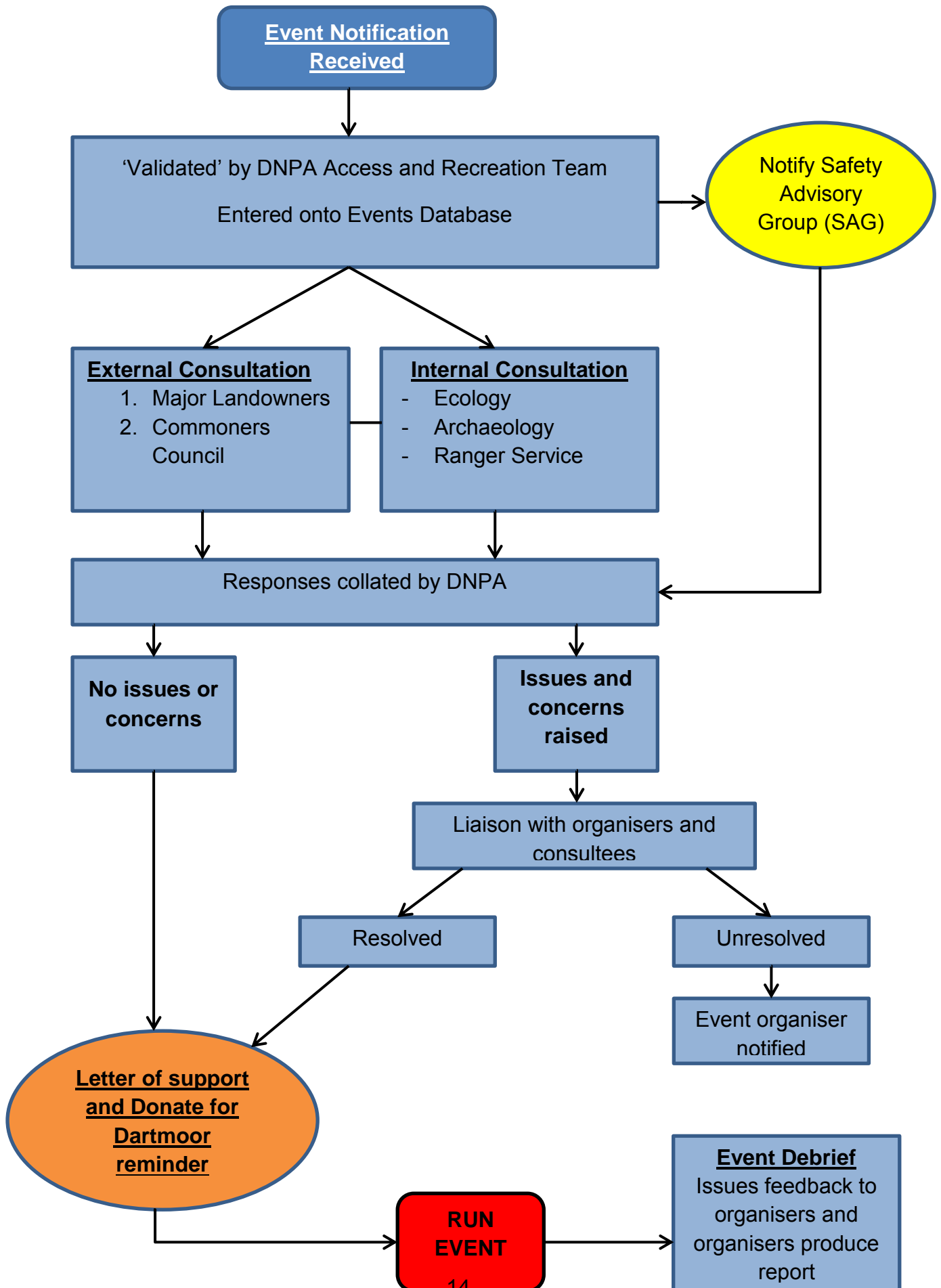
The event is closely monitored and the young participants together with their supervisors are made fully aware of the sensitive and fascinating environment that they are exploring. On balance, it is regarded that the event provides a positive contribution to Dartmoor for the benefits that it offers to young people - the future ambassadors for this special place.

## Charter for Recreational Events on Dartmoor

I have attended a DNPA briefing session and/or watched the on line video	
I have read and understood the Guidance for Event organisers	
I have submitted my event to DNPA at least eight weeks in advance of the date of the planned event	
I have not advertised my event prior to the support of DNPA and landowners	
My promotional material includes a link to the DNPA website and I will ask all participants to watch and/or read the content relating to Dartmoor's special qualities and land management	
I have provided a detailed map using the on-line mapping tool. I will respond in a timely manner to requests for further information	
I have selected routes that are acceptable to DNPA, landowners and commoners and are not subject to undue wear or disturbance	
I have identified appropriate car parking, toilets and an event centre	
If allowing dogs on the event, I have outlined in my application how they will be managed	
I will support the local economy promoting local businesses for accommodation, food and drink. I will use local suppliers for any services or goods (including local food and drink) provided for the event	
I am responsible for the health and safety of my event and participants. I have completed a risk assessment (and Event Management Plan if appropriate)	
I have public liability insurance to a minimum level of £10m. I will provide a completed indemnity form if requested to do so by the landowner or DNPA as applicable	
I will provide the appropriate number of marshals to ensure that the event runs smoothly and to minimise disturbance	
Any agreed route markers, signs and other temporary infrastructure will be non-toxic and non-permanent, they will be erected no more than 24 hours before the event takes place and removed no longer than 24 hours after the event	
I will brief all participants at the start of the event, highlighting key issues	
I will ensure all litter is removed from the route immediately after the event	
I will provide feedback to DNPA about the number of participants and any issues that arose on the day. I will provide before and after photographs of the start and finish of the event	
I will provide a donation equivalent to at least £2 per participant for the Donate for Dartmoor scheme.	



## Event Notification Process



DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK PLANNING AUTHORITY

5 October 2018

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS, SECTION 211 NOTIFICATIONS  
(WORKS TO TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS)  
AND HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICES  
DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

Report of the Trees and Landscape Officer

Recommendation : **That the decisions be noted.**

**TPO APPLICATIONS**

**Teignbridge**

**Ref: 18/0025                      Becky Falls, Manaton                      SX 7607 8005**

Application to fell conifer and broadleaved trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions;

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. Replacement planting of 12 native broadleaved within the crown spread of the originals during the first planting season following felling.

**Ref: 18/0028                      Moorland Hotel, Haytor                      SX 7679 7725**

Application to crown lift two Western Red cedar trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions;

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. All works are carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

**West Devon**

**Ref: 18/0023                      4 Sampford Gardens, Horrabridge                      SX 5215 7011**

Application to fell two ash trees. Consent was granted subject to conditions;

1. Five working days' notice to be given to the Authority prior to the commencement of approved works.
2. Replacement planting of two half standard silver birch within the crown spread of the originals during the first planting season following felling.

## **SECTION 211 NOTICES**

### **Teignbridge**

**Ref: 18/0020                      Manaton Village Green                      SX 7496 8127**

Notification to reduce an extended branch on a sycamore tree. The works are necessary to prevent further branch failure.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0022                      16 St Lawrence Lane, Ashburton                      SX 7568 6979**

Notification to reduce a cypress tree. The tree is damaging an adjacent wall and may damage an adjacent property.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0029                      The Wilderness, Ashburton                      SX 7596 7003**

Notification to fell several semi-mature trees and remove lower limbs from four other trees. The trees are hidden from view and have no public amenity value.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0030                      Primrose Tea Rooms, Lustleigh                      SX 7852 8122**

Notification to fell two cypress trees. The trees are in poor condition.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

### **West Devon**

**Ref: 18/0021                      Townsend House, Lydford                      SX 5122 8504**

Notification to coppice three ash trees. The trees are in poor condition.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0024                      The Clitters, Mary Tavy                      SX 5048 7947**

Notification to reduce two ash trees by 3m. The trees dominate an adjacent property. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0026                      St Olaves Cottage, Murchington                      SX 6873 8824**

Notification to fell a poplar tree. The felling will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

**Ref: 18/0017**

**The Hey, Throwleigh**

**SX 6677 9068**

Notification to coppice a beech tree. The works will have minimal impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

A Tree Preservation Order has not been made.

BRIAN BEASLEY