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Sent: 04 December 2014 09:11
Subject: Provision for Motorhomes in Cornwall

Dear Councillor Biscoe, (and Councillors),

My name is Tom Perry, my telephone number is 01724 418444 and I'm interested that you're thinking of re-assessing the parking of motorhomes in Cornwall.

When comparing Cornwall with a similar area in France it is easy to find the right area - Department 29; Finistere. It doesn't need a Linguist to easily interpret Finistere as Land's End. There's been more than one comparison and one of the most colourful and interesting is the one produced by and for Cornwall County Council and you can read it at

<http://www.inspiringwork.org/Media/Default/documents/cornwallfinistere-comparison.pdf>

The economy of Cornwall is described in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Cornwall from this we can glean the importance of tourism to the County. The same source tells us that Cornwall is one of four UK areas that qualify for poverty-related grants from the EU (European Social Fund). Cornwall needs a source of income - all the income it can get.

Tourism income in Cornwall, we are told, amounts to 24% of GDP. This is a little surprising in view of the particular aspect of tourism I ask you to support. Motorhoming as a source of income is not only ignored in Cornwall; it is suppressed almost viciously. One important fact about motorhome tourism that is almost always overlooked is that this form of tourism is not seasonal. We are a source of income throughout the year. Motorhome tourism is a spontaneous activity needing a minimum of external support. We are far distant from the estate car with a mattress in the back.

The different attitudes to motorhome tourism, in Cornwall and Finistere, can most clearly be seen in the tolerance of the two councils responsible. Motorhomes are self contained in that they carry all the conveniences of home without needing external assistance and therefore do not need campsites - all we need is a place to park overnight and there are plenty of these places. There are plenty of publicly owned car parks in Cornwall and in Finistere which are otherwise sparsely populated during the dark hours.

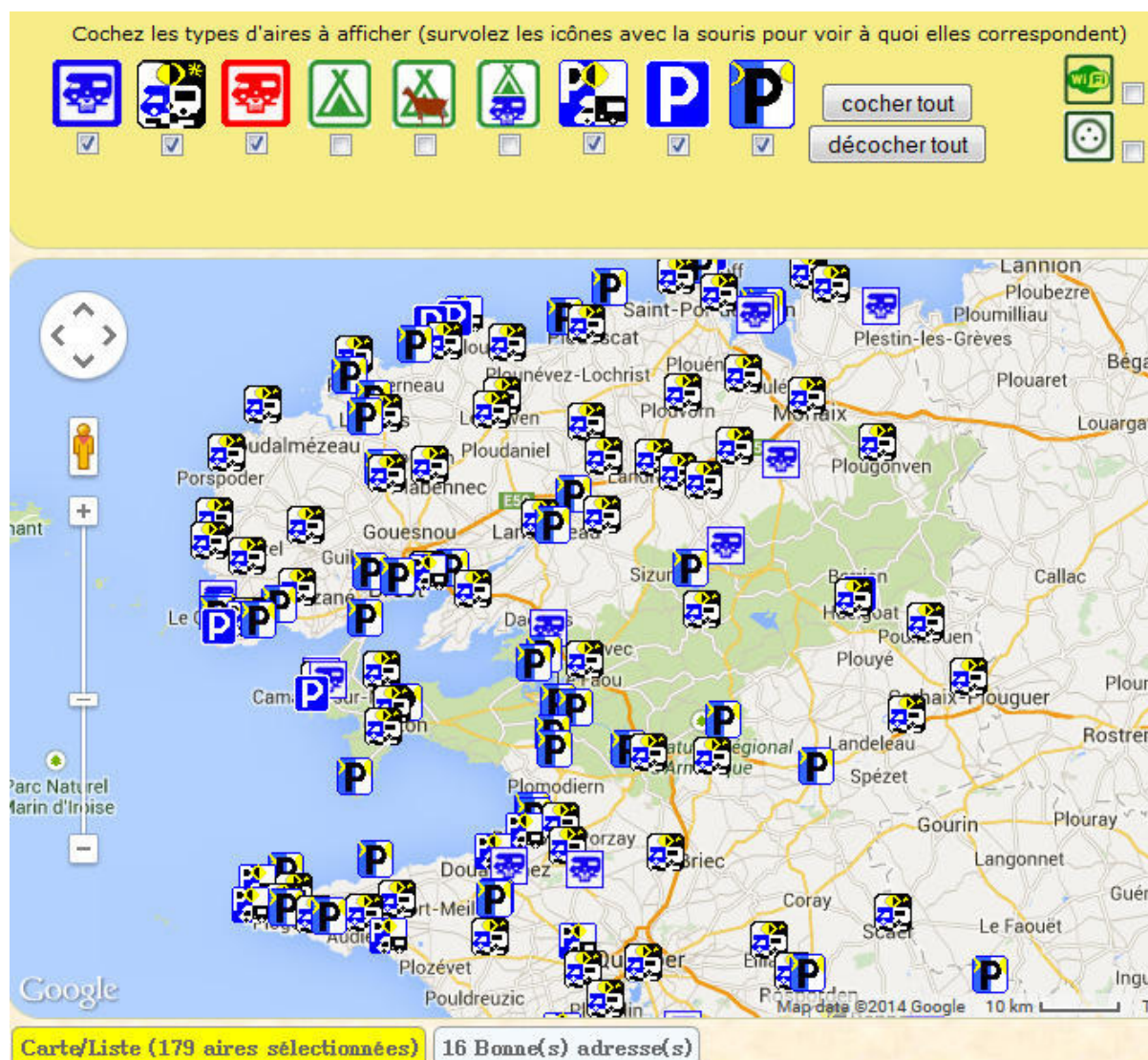
Let's look at a comparison. First a map. You could almost superimpose the two areas.



Then a few statistics:

	Finistere	Cornwall
Area (Sq Miles)	2600	1376
Population	886500	536000
Pop Density	340	389
No O/N Parking Places	179	None

Cornwall has just about half the land area of Finistère but has about two thirds the population. This makes the population density not so much different - about 13% greater in Cornwall. Yet councils in Finistère permit overnight motorhome parking in **one hundred and seventy-nine** locations. Cornwall permits **none**.



The map above is taken from <http://www.campingcar-infos.com/index1.htm> We live in an on-line world.

The flags shown on the map are only for permitted overnight parkings. Many of these locations also provide services (waste disposal, fresh water, sometimes electricity) but campsites, though they exist in large numbers, I have not shown. I don't show them because the campsites attract a different, seasonal, market - traditional campers with tents and caravans. I can show them if you'd like a comparison - there are at least 74 of them.

Let's imagine. A motorhomer, me perhaps, gets as far as Plymouth in his motorhome. He has a choice of hopping onto a ferry to Roscoff in Finistere, or of driving into Cornwall. Which does he sensibly choose? A couple of weeks in Cornwall wondering where he will be able to park without official disapproval (or worse, interference) or cross to Finistere where he can spend his couple of weeks travelling unhindered and where councils will welcome him? My choice is easy. A couple of weeks in Cornwall trying to find somewhere safe to spend the night or Finistere where I am welcome to stay at a different place every night for six months. Your decision would be easy too.

Finisterre gains a deal of tourist income; Cornwall loses. The loss must be in the £millions because I'm not alone. There are around a quarter of a million motorhomes registered in Britain. Finistere wants them and the income they bring, Cornwall doesn't. I'd like you to reconsider Cornwall's attitude to the overnight parking of motorhomes.

Tom Peil

