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## Filming to start soon as the Doc returns to 'Port Wenn'

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 09:30

GRUMPY GP Doc Martin is set to return to the narrow streets of Port Isaac later this year.

This week ITV announced it has commissioned a new series of the popular show and that filming could start as early as April.

Martin Clunes will return in the role as title character *Doc Martin* in the new eight-part series to be filmed in the village and other parts of Cornwall.

Although scripts are still having their final tweaks it is thought that the new season will find the Doc struggling to maintain his life as a GP and contemplating leaving the village, after his wedding day disaster with school head-mistress Louisa.

At its peak in 2007 *Doc Martin* attracted an audience of more than nine million viewers.

Since filming began the village, renamed Port Wenn for the show, has seen an influx of tourists. Although many agree that it is good news for the economy some residents have raised concerns that the extra visitors are causing traffic chaos.

In August last year a public meeting called about parking issues resulted in more than 30 people protesting to St Endellion Parish Council.

The village's roads have been filled with vehicles, some parking dangerously, with visitors from as far afield as Australia flocking to the real life setting of the drama.

Locals said many tourists have been leaving their vehicles by the children's play area between Garrick to Trewetha, which poses a danger to young users.

The parish council is hoping to join in discussions with the production company about future filming and any financial contributions it may be able to provide to solve some of the parking issues including the possibility of opening a new car park at the top of the village.

A spokesman from *Doc Martin* said: "Although the show has been commissioned, the scripts are still being drafted and many staff do not officially start work until next week. We are not sure where and when we will be filming as yet but as soon as we do will be liaising with St Endellion Parish Council if required."

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