

## Statement from John Porter

Cabinet members, I am a resident of Melbury Abbas. I find it unacceptable that you are making decisions on the complex and controversial matter of the Hollow without any reference to the Parish Council and only one day's notice to make very restricted response to the Paper provided to you. No such decisions should be taken until a proper consultation process has been undertaken.

The Paper has omissions and errors.

The opening statement that the banks are unstable is unproven. Last winter included unusual levels of rainfall and strengths of wind but the Hollow was unaffected, as it has been during the 25 years I have lived here. The instance of the barrier being displaced followed DC's use of heavy machinery for stump grinding. The concrete barriers lacked their intended tight linking bolts. Properly installed, the barrier would largely contain such a fall with minimal spill onto the roadway.

The Paper's statement about serious injuries or death is not backed by any report - a fall *could possibly engulf a small car* was stated but that was before the robust barrier was installed. Reference to a critical risk cannot be justified. If that is DC belief, why is the road not closed?

The Paper refers to the proposed work having a major positive impact on transport. What is that impact, please? There is similar reference to a major positive impact on the environment yet environmental reports on habitat and trees refer to hundreds of trees being cut down and licences being needed to legalise the negative impact on legally protected wildlife.

You are being asked to increase the sums available for this work by about 78% by redirecting funds from the Highways budget but no indication is given of which Highways activities will be adversely affected by this "reprofiling". What further increase will be sought by the intended start date? Which Highways tasks are judged less important than this?

Dinah's Hollow is a unique example of a very special form of landscape, developed over centuries. The proposed work would destroy it with no route to regeneration. The old designation Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was completely accurate. Councils have a responsibility to protect such Areas. I hope you will fulfil that responsibility and avoid wasting further money on this project.