



### URGENT: DCC Withdraws Objection - We Need Your Help

On 14 December 2011 the Dorset County Council (DCC) Cabinet agreed their Soundness Consultation response to Hampshire County Council's (HCC's) proposals regarding the Purple Haze site – see <http://www1.dorsetforyou.com/Council/COMMIS2009.nsf/MIN/FB7433D716668A5D8025795F003204A6?OpenDocument>

**Only one DCC response stated the draft Hampshire County Council (HCC) draft Minerals & Waste Plan was unsound** – in broad terms “... at present the Plan does not contain the necessary level of flexibility to deal with potential future increased demand [ for minerals] above their proposed apportionment and on this basis could be considered **unsound**.”

The Cabinet also resolved that the response to HCC's consultation should be endorsed, “*subject to greater emphasis being placed upon the specific concerns about the potential negative impact on the hydrology of Ebblake Bog and the need for detailed assessments to be carried out*”.

Other issues, regarded as significant by campaign supporters and the subject of 4,100+ objections sent to HCC, were considered by DCC to be capable of being managed out by mitigation at a later Planning Application stage or by the ever expanding list of necessary “Development Considerations” for the proposed site – for details of the considerations see page 134 onwards at <http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/2118901>.

The campaign team disagrees with the DCC Cabinet position of relying on mitigation & development considerations, which aligns with HCC's opinion, and said so in its Soundness Consultation response: <http://www.no2purplehaze.co.uk/Documents/HCCSoundnessConsultationFoRFResponseFINAL16DEC11.pdf>

Little mention was made in the DCC Soundness response of the impact HCC's plans could have on local residents and the amenities in Moors Valley Country Park enjoyed by many. Even DCC's own ecologist had expressed some doubts about the plan. The campaign team reluctantly noted, however, that this was probably the best position that could be achieved and so welcomed DCC's indirect support of its residents and the users of a major Dorset tourist attraction.

It was therefore with dismay and disbelief that the campaign team learnt, from papers published ahead of the HCC Minerals & Waste Plan Public Hearing, that **DCC has withdrawn conditionally their one & only hard objection to HCC's proposals** – see detailed reasons at <http://consult.hants.gov.uk/file/2176426>.

**Where does this now leave Dorset residents who are in danger of losing well-loved amenities and also the many visitors to Moors Valley Country Park that contribute to the county's economy?**

While local County, District & Town Councillors have demonstrated their continued opposition to HCC's plans as currently presented, campaign supporters feel that the County Council should have maintained its opposition on soundness grounds. Not to do so gives the impression of the Council not appreciating the real concerns of local residents over the impact this proposal would have on our community. Residents feel betrayed and that the rug has been pulled out from under them at the last minute with no public statement setting out the reasons for the change of approach.

This really isn't good enough and is, in the campaign team's opinion, a very poor example of how local democracy should operate – and while it may be too late to lobby DCC to submit adequate opposition to HCC, **it's not too late to tell DCC how we feel about their recent actions.**

**What can you do to help?** By 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012, when we will submit it to DCC, please Sign & Share our petition at <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/forf2dcc>