

In relation to its obligations under climate change legislation, ESCC, in a vague and probably legally unenforceable (1) 'Undertaking' (CD 9/33) has indemnified Hastings BC and Rother DC against any future responsibility from meeting national or regional targets.

ESCC, in its climate change strategy for East Sussex (Core Document 7/17, Sept 2009), sets out its own aspirations in this area. However, no implementation plan has yet been produced. Therefore ESCC's commitment to pay 'whatever it takes' to meet national obligations amounts to an unacceptable blank cheque to be paid at some point in the future by an unsuspecting public.

(1) FoE head of Legal e-mail

Our initial position was that this expensive road will not provide the economic benefits claimed, and its overall environmental cost is unacceptable. Nothing we have heard over the last three weeks has altered this view.

The environmental argument has been long since won. Numerous submissions have focused on the 'specialness' and the irreplaceable nature of the Combe Haven valley.

From the emotional pleas of a young resident, to the profound and detailed views of naturalists and botanists, via the passion of local farmers and Crowhurst villagers, we know that the Combe Haven valley must be saved.

The certainty of environmental degradation is in great contrast to the uncertain delivery of the economic benefits claimed.