

Dear Clerk,

I write with reference to the on-going closure of Hoarwithy Road.

Unfortunately it continues to be necessary to maintain the closure of Hoarwithy Road due to the continued risk of further rockfall onto the highway, with some boulders estimated to be up to 1.5 tonnes in weight, which is the equivalent of a mid-size car.

We do recognise that Hoarwithy Road forms an important part of the local highway network and we have considered the potential to put barriers in place to catch debris and which would then allow traffic to pass underneath. Unfortunately due to the size of the boulders that remain unstable this is not feasible due to the space that would be required for an appropriately sized fence.

As we are sure you can appreciate, work to stabilise the slope above Hoarwithy Road requires specialist support. In circumstances such as this, the Council needs to work with and is in direct contact with the relevant landowner, who is responsible for resolving the situation and progressing the necessary works to then allow the road to reopen. As a result of previous correspondence between both parties, myself and a colleague met with the relevant landowners yesterday to discuss the current situation and to assist with a way forward.

In terms of the wider community, we have recently received a number of formal complaints regarding the on-going closure of Hoarwithy Road which we have been responding to. At the end of each response, we have provided an opportunity for those who wish to be kept up to date with the matter to do so via email alerts and we have asked them to provide their contact details to Herefordshire.projectcomms@balfourbeatty.com if they wish to take up this offer. Updates at regular, appropriate, intervals will then be issued, and I have asked that you and relevant Ward Members be included on this service.

I hope that this brings you up to speed with the matter but please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Kind regards,
Ed*