

## **Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan – Environmental Focus Group**

### **Section 6.** Considering the impact of development on the character of rural roads.

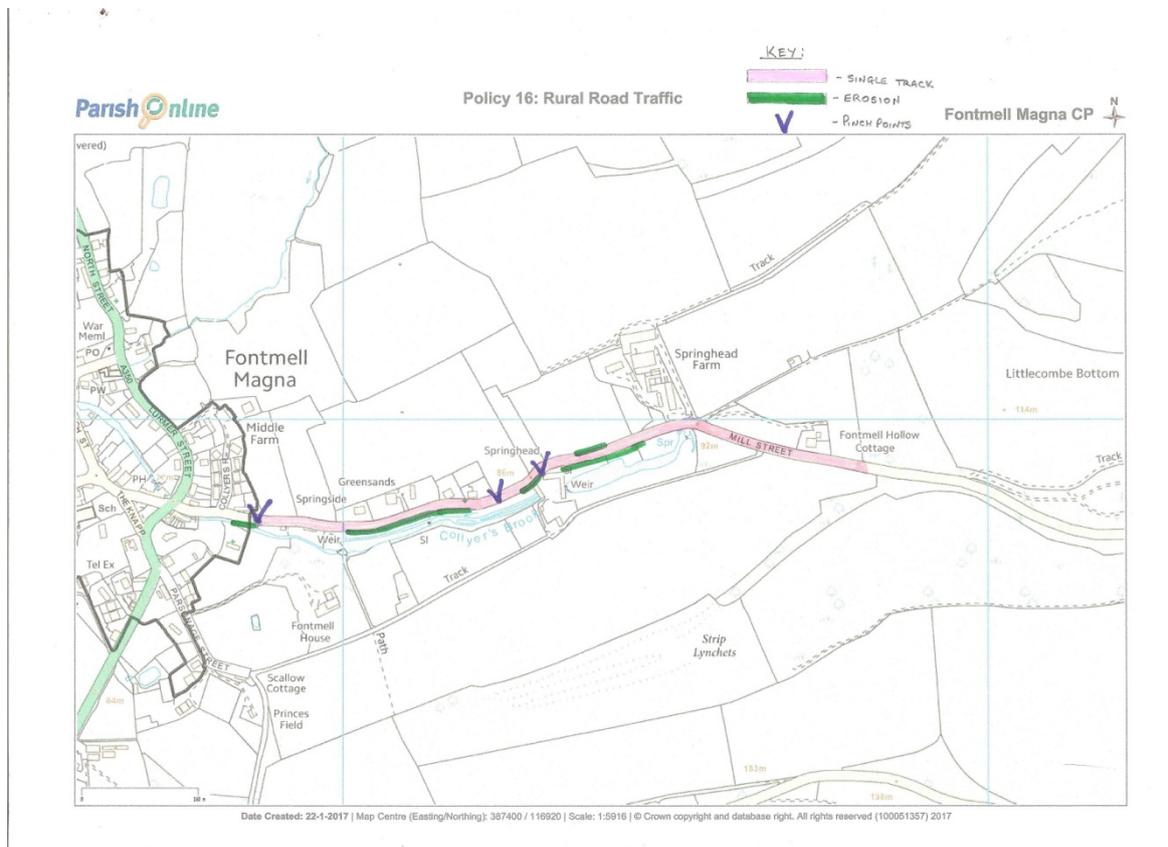
Running east out of Fontmell Magna, Mill Street is notable for being the most rural road in the village. It is bordered by Collyers Brook, the Middle Mill ponds, Springhead gardens, mature hazel hedging and other species-rich margins. It is therefore of special significance to the parishioners who use this to walk to the approach to Fontmell Down. It can be described as one of the most attractive lanes of any village in the area. Anyone regularly walking this lane has the opportunity to see brown trout, kingfisher, little egret, many other bird species and even the occasional otter – all possible because of its rural character.

Mill Street is a single track road from Collyers Rise, near the A350 junction, to the wooded area as the road rises up the hill toward the C13. This section lies wholly within the Fontmell Magna Conservation Area and the AONB. There are no pavements or footpaths for pedestrians along this section.

Official passing places on this stretch have not been constructed. Some of those that exist utilise residential and agricultural entrances, and others which have formed as a result of larger vehicles eroding the edges. These passing places are not wide enough for a standard car to pass a tractor, lorry or any vehicle of such a size – *See attached picture:*



The pinch points and damaged areas are shown in the *accompanying map*:



Certain parts of the road have had kerbs laid to prevent further erosion e.g. along the section bordering the Listed building at Springhead. However, larger vehicles ride up over this kerb and continue to erode the verge – *See attached picture*:



At Middle Mill ponds, a similar problem occurs – *See attached picture:*



By the Sheep Wash area between No. 33 and The Old Rectory bridge, continued use of the verge has damaged the road edge and created a hazardous drop – *See attached picture:*



Once a quiet road, Mill Street has suffered the same fate of many country lanes which is to be increasingly used as a result of drivers relying on satellite navigation. This is exacerbated when either the A350 or C13 are closed.

**Policy: To avoid development along Mill Street because of further damage created by increased traffic levels, compromising pedestrian safety and degrading the rural character of this route out toward the AONB.**