



FFBRA NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY TWO

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

FFBRA Objection to Cuadrilla's Planning Application

FFBRA submitted their objection on behalf of their members on Friday 21 March.

It provides comprehensive and compelling evidence as to why Cuadrilla's request for permission to return to Balcombe to acid wash and flow test should be refused by WSCC. A copy of this objection will be sent to all members. This objection and the full appendices will be made available on our website www.frackfreebalcombe.co.uk.

This has been a tremendous effort by many, many people who have helped with local knowledge, researching, analysing, writing, and editing to produce what we hope will prevent Cuadrilla's return to the village - thanks to everyone for their hard work. And also thanks to everyone who donated to the fighting fund and enabled us to hire a planning consultant whose help has been invaluable.

Public Response to Cuadrilla's Planning Application

An interesting analysis of the responses to Cuadrilla's Planning Application can be found at

<http://investigatingbalcombeandcuadrilla.com/2014/03/17/objections-cuadrilla-application/>

Of the 939 responses, 925 (99 per cent) were objections. There were 13 comments of support and 1 comment classified by West Sussex County Council as "concern raised".

The analysis of the comments found

- Key concerns were water and air pollution, traffic, noise and the impact on wildlife
- More women responded than men
- Responses came from across the UK but about a quarter were from the Balcombe area

Open letter to Geoff Davies, CEO of Celtique

Written by Marcus Adams of Frack Free Fernhurst and available on their website

Dear Mr Davies,

I know your PR company monitors this site, so I am sure that you will see this letter. In The Times (Saturday, February 15th), you referred to me as being an unpatriotic, selfish, Nimby because I am opposed to your proposals to drill for oil and gas in Fernhurst.

I think there is nothing unpatriotic or selfish about having legitimate concerns over the potential environmental and health impacts that this activity could have. In fact, I believe I have a social responsibility to point out these risks; there is strong evidence from studies by Duke, Colorado and Cornell Universities and the American Association of Paediatricians of adverse health impacts on those living near to fracking sites.

Neither are those who oppose your plans, depriving the country of energy security or the economic benefits you claim. Using your own figures, each well (and you claim to want only three or four in production) would, over its lifetime, supply just three days of the UK's oil or gas consumption. I have yet to understand why we suddenly need energy security. Almost all of our gas imports come from Norway and Qatar, both friendly countries, and the USA will start exporting soon. Personally, I would prefer food and water security. As for the claimed economic benefits, not even the Government is any longer trying to claim that domestic gas prices will come down, and any jobs that are created will almost certainly be taken by skilled foreign workers. Meanwhile it is the taxpayers who will have to pick up the extra costs of road repairs and environmental clean ups. The only people who will gain financially are you, Mr Davies, and your US private equity backers.

As for being a Nimby, of course I don't want this to happen within 300m of my house (which would be illegal in Texas), but neither do I want it anywhere. And I suspect that you would not welcome fracking anywhere near your £2.4m home in Buckinghamshire. I believe this is the wrong site for any number of reasons, and 2000 other local residents, visitors to the National Park, the National Trust, CPRE, and our local MP, Andrew Tyrie, who have all submitted objections, agree with me.

You say "the geology is not moving". This may be the one thing we agree on. But you must also be aware that the right geology also covers at least 2/3 of the country. Celtique has four exploration blocks in the Weald over 1000 sq km, so why do you insist on having a site in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in what is currently a tranquil rural location? Mr Davies, you seem to think that the rolling hills and ancient woodlands of our Sussex countryside are fit for one thing only – screening for noise and visual pollution from the fracking sites that you want to pepper them with.

*Yours sincerely
Marcus Adams, Fernhurst*

EVENTS

Balcombe.

Coffee and a Chat, Half Moon Pub, Thursday 27 March 10.30 am to 12.00 noon

We will have a bound copy of our objection to Cuadrilla's application available to read. And of course great coffee, pastries and good company.

Latest Date for Submission to DECC AMEC Consultation, Wednesday 28 March

One to do at home. It need take no more than 10 minutes. The government want your views on their proposed 14th round of licensing for onshore oil and gas exploration.
<https://econsultation.decc.gov.uk/decc-policy/consultation-env-report-further-oil-gas-licensing>

Beyond Balcombe

Sussex Fractivists Co-ordination Meeting

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 19:00 – 22:00

Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD

Public Meeting: A Way Forward

Can we strengthen the campaign against fracking and move towards a national ban as in France and Germany? All Sussex anti-fracking groups have been asked to send representatives. The focus will be on a strategy for Sussex wide action feeding into the call for a debate on the national ban on fracking. Arrive early. Donations on the door. Information stalls. Networking.

Lots of interesting speakers including Marcus Adams (Frack Free Fernhurst), Charles Metcalfe (FFBRA), Miranda Alderton and Katy Fletcher (Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green), Vanessa Vine (Frack Free Sussex), Marina Pepper (Lewes Against Fracking) plus Brenda Pollack (FOE) and Davy Jones (Green party).

Please do go along if you can. This should be an interesting event with many different communities in Sussex representing their own views and discussing how to move towards banning fracking in Sussex.

Wadhurst - Public Meeting on Shale Gas & Fracking

Friday, March 28 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm

PUBLIC MEETING, Shale Gas and Fracking.

Free event- Film, The truth behind the dash for gas.at Uplands Community College, Lower High Street, Wadhurst, TNG 6AZ,

Guest speakers include: Keith Taylor, MEP South East,

Dr Jennifer Huggett, Geologist

Followed by questions and answers. Refreshments available by Wealden Wholefoods

**Forest Row, Vision of Sussex Ten years On,
Saturday 26 April 10.15 am to 4 pm**

Ruskin Hall, by Top Cark Park, Emerson College, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5JX

A day of talks, forum, photos giving a vision of today's Sussex and tomorrow's prospects.
Hosted by Vanessa Underwood. To book lunch contact 01825-790773.

Admission free. Donations welcome.

10.15 am Coffee and introductions

10.45 am Forum

12.45 pm Lunch (or bring your own)

1.45 pm Artwork, Slides, Short film

2.15 pm Ian Crane

3.15 pm Final Plenum with Youth Vision

4.00 pm Tea and Music with Portia Cox and Ben Grove

4.30 pm Optional Free Space for Discussion

Speakers

Ian Crane (Oil Executive)

Wendy Cook (Real Nutrition)

John Twyford (Dairy Farmer)

John Marking (Forestry)

Portia Cox and Ben Grove (Musicians)

David Pinnegar (Physicist)

Others (a lawyer, a conservationist, a water researcher)