



## FFBRA NEWSLETTER NUMBER EIGHTEEN

### NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

#### Energy Security and the Myth of Russian Gas

Many figures can be found quoted for the supply of Russian gas to Britain. The probable answer is less than 1%. There are 3 main Western gas markets involved, USA (possibly about to start exporting liquid gas), Britain and mainland Europe. Britain currently does not import from the USA. It may do so in future if the US exports at the right price. We import gas from Qatar (liquefied), and Norway (piped) to make up any shortfall in supply from our North Sea fields. We also export North Sea gas and some of the gas we have imported. We have gas exchange pipes between Europe and Britain and we export or import gas through them depending on market conditions. The Europeans operate a gas pool system and it is almost impossible to tell what the origin of their gas is at any point in time.

We operate with a very small gas storage capability in Britain of less than 10 days' supply. The Europeans have about ten times as much storage capacity – typically just under 100 days. At some point in time we might be found “exporting” Qatari gas from Milford Haven to Europe. On another occasion we may import European pool gas which may contain part Russian gas. **The weak point for gas energy security in this country is, not the source of gas, but the lack of investment in storage facilities.** There is an interesting book “Global Energy Dilemmas” by Michael Bradshaw (ISBN 978-0-7456-5065-4) that discusses these points in more detail.

#### Sources of UK Gas Imports

Pipeline Norway 55.1%  
LNG Qatar 27.0%  
Pipeline Netherlands 14.6%  
Pipeline Belgium 2.7%  
LNG Norway 0.3%  
LNG Algeria 0.2%  
LNG Nigeria 0.1%

The figures above are not percentages of UK consumption as they do not include North Sea gas and also we export gas as well as import it!

## **FFBRA's Comments on Alison Stevenson Article in February edition of Shale World**

Will Fracking in Balcombe Take Place? – Alison Stevenson from Balcombe Parish Council Talks to Shale World

Written by cristina February 3, 2014 in Exploration,



*Alison Stevenson, Parish Council Chair of Balcombe Parish Council, is speaking at the 2014 UK Shale Gas World Congress in Manchester. In the build up to the event we asked her for her thoughts on shale developments in Balcombe.*

### **Christina – from Shale World**

*What is your view about the supportive role that David Cameron is showing towards shale gas developments in the UK?*

### **Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"I don't think his attitude is particularly out of line with other countries around the world. So there should be no surprise on his statements for shale gas developments, especially when you think about the economic benefits and the fears that the government has on energy security. Is he listening to people in the country? I think he is trying to make it easier for them with the incentives that he is offering - whether that would be enough I am not sure."*

### **FFBRA Response**

France, Germany, Holland, and Ireland have banned fracking while our PM is cheerleading for the unconventional oil and gas industry. There will not be economic benefits for the country. The costs to taxpayers and families will outweigh the taxes raised from the unconventional oil and gas firms.

Energy Security – less than 1 % of our imported gas in the UK comes from Russia. Cuadrilla's main shareholder is AJ Lucas (Australian company; mainly owned by Kerogen (Hong Kong based private equity firm) which is funded by CNOOC (third largest oil company in China owned by the Chinese government. How does this provide us with energy security? What incentives could compensate us for pollution of our water supply or our air?

**Christina – from Shale World**

*Will benefits offered to local communities make residents' acceptance easier?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"What we have seen here this summer proves that people with really strong views on shale won't be persuaded by incentives and benefits because for them it will not be worth the risk."*

**FFBRA Response**

People who do not have "really strong views on shale" will also not be persuaded by incentives. Analysis of the reaction to this tactic by the government have shown general distrust of their offer of community benefits. The bigger the incentive the bigger the perception of risk.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*A group of MPs and councils have written a letter to David Cameron asking for 10% share of profits from shale gas sites. Do you support this request?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"10% of the profits could be a lot of money. How long that last? I don't know. Should areas under fracking really benefit to that degree? I don't know. I think local councils will certainly be tempted by the money because it will mean they can still provide services currently being cut. But I am worried that that money would just get into normal budget and won't be used to benefit the community affected. The £100,000 in Balcombe could be good if we can get it every year, but if it is one off, we get £60,000 pound a year anyway. We can probably do a couple of medium sized projects in the village but not much more, if it is one off. The 1% could be £40,000 a year, could be £80,000 a year or more. We don't know because we don't know what the production rate is going to be here. So again we can make no assessment on the 1%. Balcombe doesn't know what the figures are and neither does anyone else."*

**FFBRA Response**

Where is Alison getting the figures of £40,000 or £80,000 per year from as 1% of the profits? It implies Lower Stumble's profits to Cuadrilla will be between £4 million and £8 million per year. Terry Smith's article in the FT last week has pointed out that the drop off rate in unconventional geology is very fast so we should assume no long term benefits. . Even if the village were to receive this for local projects, it would not begin to compensate residents for the loss in house values. (for example 700 houses X average price £400,000 X 10% drop in price = £28 million). It would more likely be used towards the cost of road repairs.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*What is the public acceptance of oil and gas drilling in Balcombe?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*It is very difficult to say because we don't have a good enough picture yet. We haven't polled on all scenarios. But certainly there is a division in opinion here. We had a poll 18 months ago and that showed that 85% of people in Balcombe were against fracking, but we only had a 33% response. What we didn't ask was - are you for exploration without fracking? - So we don't yet know what the percentages are for that . So unless everybody votes here on a wider range of questions, I won't be able to give you a definitive answer. What is sure is that the debate is alive and kicking!"*

**FFBRA Response**

The question is about the public acceptance of oil and gas drilling in Balcombe – her response is to rephrase it as “are you for exploration without fracking?” which is not the same question. Exploration without fracking is the current tactic being used to soften up opinion in Balcombe to accept the presence of an oil industry in the village.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*What do you think oil companies and the government should do better in terms of community engagement?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"I think companies and the government need to do more preparation work before drilling, to explain people in a very organised way what it is going to happen in their community. From what I have seen it here - and in another couple of communities that I have visited - I am not sure that things have been explained well enough. Cuadrilla did a very good opening session here in Balcombe, but they have only done one. If they want to avoid objections they need to talk one to one with people to counter the vast amounts of disinformation available."*

**FFBRA Response**

Cuadrilla have attended two meetings in Balcombe. At the first in the Victory Hall, they proposed fracking for gas and placing a small electricity generator on top of the well. At the second meeting in Bramble Hall they had changed their Chief Executive and were drilling for oil.

Balcombe residents should be informed about visits made to other communities if these were made in Alison's capacity as Balcombe Parish Council Chairman. What

exactly does she mean by the “vast amounts of disinformation available”? There is the implication being made that the disinformation is not from Cuadrilla.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*Will a solution between the two sides be found?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"No, never..... the arguments will continue until we have 20 years of incident free fracking under our belts!"*

**FFBRA Response**

You could equally respond to this by saying “the arguments will continue until we have one serious incident.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*What are the actions that Balcombe parish council is planning next?*

**Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"We are waiting for the planning application for the flow test element of the exploration that started this summer. It should be ratified any day now, but we have been hearing that for the last three months. As soon as we have that, we will have another poll. We hope we will have a bigger response rate to get a better idea of opinions in the village related to oil explorations and extraction."*

**FFBRA Response**

The only way we will have a clear idea of the opinion of the village relating to oil exploration and extraction in the village will be to have a poll that asks a straightforward question:

“Do you want oil and gas exploration and production in the village?” Yes or No.

The current poll’s three questions and twelve possible answers are too confusing and open to different interpretations. A bigger response rate will not help a poorly worded poll provide clear information.

**Christina – from Shale World**

*Talking about last summer’s protests, some journalists said the majority of protesters involved were activists and not residents. Is that true?*

### **Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"Yes a lot more people were from outside the village. There was a real mix of causes and backgrounds here."*

### **FFBRA Response**

Christina's question is a clever use of a non sequitur. Most of the protestors were from outside the village is true but it does not follow that most of them were activists. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non\\_sequitur\\_\(logic\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non_sequitur_(logic)).

The "wedge" technique is frequently used by PR representatives of the oil and gas industry. To force the "wedge" in Balcombe the technique is to describe all opposition to oil and gas drilling as "protesters" and to describe them as activists. For information about how "wedge" techniques are used see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedge\\_issue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedge_issue).

People know that if this industry comes to Balcombe, it will be coming to their area next and they want to stop it before it gets established. People came to Balcombe from all over the country both to protest and to understand the issues.

### **Christina – from Shale World**

*Will fracking in Balcombe take place?*

### **Alison, BPC Chairman**

*"In Balcombe there is no shale gas. It is oil here in a limestone. Although we saw all those protests against fracking, Balcombe is a bit different. It is not necessarily the case that they will need to fracture in Balcombe. They will probably do just horizontal drilling. The original planning application actually says it is unlikely hydraulic fracturing will be necessary in Balcombe. Balcombe may not receive any of the benefits or money promised by the government. We would have seen the biggest protest the country will probably ever seen against a shale gas which is not here and if they don't frack, we won't see a penny. But no fracking is what people here voted for."*

### **FFBRA Response**

It is not true to say in Balcombe there is no shale gas. We are probably sitting on top of an enormous amount of it. Currently Cuadrilla tell us they are targeting just one small layer which is oil bearing micrite. Above and below that layer are huge amounts of shale. Their original application in 2010 for which Cuadrilla received planning permission was to frack for shale gas. This was before the Lancashire earthquake caused by Cuadrilla raised public awareness of fracking, and before fracking for shale gas was banned across Europe. The geology has not changed since 2010. And Cuadrilla have a thirty year lease for the land at Lower Stumble.

## Excellent Objection Letter from Balcombe School Governor



### Balcombe CE (C) School

London Road, Balcombe, West Sussex, RH17 6HS

Chair of Governors: Jeff Thompson

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

[www.balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk)

15 February 2014

Strategic Planning  
West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
Chichester, West Sussex  
PO19 1RH

Dear Sirs,

Re: Planning Application WSCC/005/14BA

*Temporary permission for exploration and appraisal comprising the flow testing and monitoring of the existing hydrocarbon lateral borehole along with site security fencing, the provision of an enclosed testing flare and site restoration.*

In response to the Planning Application from Cuadrilla Balcombe Limited at their Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site, this letter outlines the reservations and additional information that the Board of Governors are requesting to ensure the safety of the children and staff of Balcombe school. By way of background, Balcombe School is a Church of England Primary School located in the village of Balcombe, approximately 1 kilometre from the exploration site and situated directly on the main road through the village (B2036). We have approximately 140 pupils in attendance daily and employ over 25 staff. We are responding to the consultation as part of our safeguarding obligations for the pupils and staff.

We would like to focus on the issue of transportation of materials by Heavy Goods Vehicles on the B2036 which is adjacent to the school. In addition, in front of the school is also the intersection for traffic joining the B2036 from Haywards Heath (ie a major commuter route for travel north to join the A23/M23).

The application (Section 3.4, page 10) explicitly states that "All heavy goods vehicles associated with the proposed development will access the site via Junction 10a of the M23 motorway and not from the south via Cuckfield". Further, it also states (Section 5.2.3, page 27) that "This application is not accompanied by a Transport Assessment since the likely traffic movements associated with it are not expected to be significant and will, where possible, avoid peak traffic flow periods. The site benefits from good highway access and visibility from the B2036, and HGVs will be routed so that they access the site from the north, thereby avoiding the village of Cuckfield to the south."





# Balcombe CE (C) School

London Road, Balcombe, West Sussex, RH17 6HS

Chair of Governors: Jeff Thompson

Telephone: (01243) 850111

Fax: (01243) 850112

Email: [office@balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk)

[www.balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk)

This will entail at least 210 HGV movements past the school, with 69 of those movements (Appendix B – Testing Operations and Transport Loads) occurring during the Flow Test stage which entails transport of waste, including hydrochloric acid. These 69 movements are scheduled to occur over a 14 day period (Table 3.3, page 9). Each of these will pass directly adjacent to the school, where there is an open, outside educational area in the front of the school for two classrooms of children, separated from the roadway by a rail fence and a pavement. The classrooms themselves are only approximately 5 metres from the roadside.

There is no indication that any of the HGV movements will occur outside of school hours. Therefore it must be assumed that the majority, if not all, of these movements will occur while the school is attended by pupils and staff. Further, the application goes on to state (Section 4.5, page 19) that "All waste materials, including wastewater and fluids, ... from the exploration well testing operations would be removed by licensed operations and disposed of at authorised waste treatment facilities that are permitted to accept and treat the waste." However, there is no explicit mention of the management or monitoring to be established for the transport of the waste from the site to such a facility, nor does the application provide any detail of the emergency procedures in the event of accident or spill.

Alternatively, the HGV movements could be redirected south on the B2036 to connect with the B2115, which passes to the north of Cuckfield (a route that avoids significantly built up areas and populated buildings such as schools). Given the proximity of the school, and that outdoor areas which will be used by the children are located at the front of the school, next to the B2036, the Governors have the following questions and concerns:

- What are the detailed management and monitoring controls over transport of materials to the site and from the site to the external processing facility, including any speed restrictions?
- Is it confirmed that the 210 HGV movements includes return journeys and will the HGVs be escorted by vehicles equipped to deal with emergencies?
- Will the travel plans preclude transport of materials through Balcombe on the B2036 during periods when children and staff are in attendance at the school, or alternatively redirect the transport to occur south of Balcombe on the B2036 by connecting with the A23 via the B2115?
- What are the emergency procedures in place for a spill that occurs next to a heavily occupied location, such as the school?





# Balcombe C E (C) School

London Road, Balcombe, West Sussex, RH17 6HS

Chair of Governors: Jeff Thompson

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] : [REDACTED] .uk  
www.balcombe.w-sussex.sch.uk

- In the absence of a Transport Assessment, has either the Applicant or the appropriate West Sussex Council authorities conducted a risk assessment to explicitly consider the risks associated with contact with materials being transported should a spill occur, and if so, can it shared with the school leadership?

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we would request that assurance be provided in respect of the above questions before the planning application is granted and that, if it is to be granted, it is done so in a way that stipulates that HGV movements do not occur past the school during periods when the children and staff are in attendance, either by placing constraints on the timing of movements or by altering the route to avoid Balcombe Primary School.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Jeff Thompson  
Chair of Governors  
Balcombe CE (C) Primary School

Cc Francis Egan  
Cuadrilla Resources Ltd  
Cuadrilla House  
Stowe Court  
Stowe Street  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS13 6AQ



## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **In Balcombe**

#### **Cuadrilla's Planning Application is Live**

The new application from Cuadrilla is now live and can be found on <http://buildings.westsussex.gov.uk/ePlanningOPS/loadFullDetails.do?apllid=1634>

The public consultation period is until 13 March 2014.

Their application is described as being for "temporary permission for exploration and appraisal comprising the flow testing and monitoring of the existing hydrocarbon lateral borehole along with site security fencing, the provision of an enclosed testing flare and site restoration".

#### **Cuppa and a Catch Up at the Half Moon Pub, Balcombe**

Thursday 20 February, 10.30 am at the Half Moon Pub. We have decided to make these a regular event. They will happen every Thursday morning from now on. A chance to share ideas and meet like-minded individuals. Enjoy a delicious coffee (or tea) in relaxing surroundings.

#### **FFBRA Information Day, Bramble Hall, Saturday 1 March**

Saturday 1st March from 11am to 1pm at Bramble Hall. Come along and have a cup of coffee (or tea), a chat, and sample our delicious home-made cakes and other goodies. There'll be lots of useful information, help with the forthcoming Cuadrilla planning application, and a play area for children with toys. We're very friendly, and welcome all Balcombe residents. To find out more, contact us by emailing [members@frackfreebalcombe.co.uk](mailto:members@frackfreebalcombe.co.uk) or telephoning 01444 819 329.

### **Beyond Balcombe**

#### **Wealden Against Fracking, Information Meetings**

A newly formed anti-fracking group is hosting a series of public meetings in the Tunbridge Wells area. Films and talk including guest speakers. The final one of the trilogy will be on Saturday 22nd Feb at Colkins Mill Church TN20 6BT (guest speaker Sue Taylor, Balcombe resident)

#### **Balcombe Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 19 February 8 pm**

Next meeting will be held in Bramble Hall, Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR. Oil / gas related subjects are usually discussed between 8 pm to 9.30 pm (so you can leave before the end of meeting; also you can enter the meeting at any time). The public can ask questions to the Chairman in the Public Participation section.

The agenda includes the following items which may be of interest to FFBRA members

- Update on voting rights for new residents in current Cuadrilla application ballot.

- Update on Balcombe Parish Council's involvement in Shale Gas World
- Report from Oil Exploration Working Group Leader
- Residents' Meeting Issues from February (Haywards Heath Road Traffic)  
To agree goals to be achieved in the next year leading up to the election 2015.

### **Great Expectations, 27, 28 February and 1 March**

Michael Hall School Theatre, Kidbrook Park, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5JA  
(01342 8922275)

Nothing to do with Fracking but one of our younger members is starring in the dramatisation of this famous novel by Charles Dickens so please support.

Thursday 27th February/ 730pm Friday 28th February 730pm/ Saturday 1st March  
230pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £7 & £4 students £18 for family of four

Car sharing from Balcombe can be arranged by telephoning 01444 811 845

### **Shale Gas World 13 to 14 May 2014**

The UK's number one shale gas conference and exhibition

Exchange Hall

Manchester Central

Speakers include

- **Alison Stevenson, Chairman Balcombe Parish Council**
- Andrew Austin, CEO IGas
- Francis Egan, CEO Cuadrilla Resources
- Dan Byles, MP and Chair of the Unconventionals APPG British Parliament
- Duarte Figueira, Head of Office of Unconventional Oil and Gas, DECC
- Angela Knight, CEO UK Energy

The main sponsor for this event (gold sponsor) is Halliburton.

More information can be found at: <http://www.terrapinn.com/conference/shale-gas-uk/index.stm>

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