



FFBRA NEWSLETTER NUMBER THIRTEEN

FUTURE EVENTS

In Balcombe

FFBRA Members Dinner at Elvira's, Borde Hill, Friday 17 January

Café Elvira, Borde Hill Lane, RH16 1XP (arrival 7.30 pm for 8 pm meal). The food is lovely. £18.50 per person, for two courses plus coffee. An opportunity to get to know fellow members a little better over a meal. To book places, please email kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com or phone Kathryn on 811682. 24 members have booked so far. We do have a few places left and so if you are interested in coming, please contact Kathryn on 811682 or kathrynmcwhirter@btopenworld.com so we can finalise numbers.

FFBRA Information Day, Bramble Hall, Saturday 18 January

Our next FFBRA meeting will be at Bramble Hall, Bramble Hill, Balcombe, RH17 6HR on Saturday 18 January from 11 am till 1 pm and will be a Coffee Stop / Exhibition. Please make a note in your diary. There will be tea, coffee, cakes and children's play area. Please come along and do feel free to bring along non-members. Cuadrilla's new planning application is expected to be made public 17th January 2014. If available in time FFBRA will display information about it in the Hall.

If there is a further delay in making Cuadrilla's new planning application public, then we will display information from their original application to flow test and flare at Lower Stumble which they made in September 2014. WSCC has now made the original application available to FFBRA

Balcombe Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 22 January

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. There will be an update from the Balcombe Parish Council Oil/Gas Working Group.

Beyond Balcombe

Gasland 2, film, 15th January, Brighton University

Free GASLAND 2 film screening at Brighton University Wednesday, 15th January 2014 at 17:00 Huxley 300 Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building University of Brighton, Lewes Road, Brighton.

Fracking Public Debate in Adastral Hall, Keymer Road, Hassocks, BN6 8QH, Wednesday 22nd January, 7.30 pm

Fracking – Helpful or Harmful? Three speakers will each speak for eight minutes and then there will be a question and answer session. The speakers are Anneliese Dodd, <http://www.annelisedodds.org.uk/> Labour MEP Candidate, Nick Grealey (well known pro-fracker, owner of website “No Hot Air” <http://www.nohotair.co.uk/> and Alan Rew (Balcombe resident and FFBRA Committee member). This should be a very interesting evening; it is free and there will be light refreshments provided. Please do go, if you can. Also, if you know anyone in Hassocks (or nearby), please could you tell them about this event and ask them to go. It is important that we spread awareness of fracking across Sussex. Events like this where pro and anti frackers have the opportunity to state their case are brilliant in helping increase public awareness. If you plan to go by train to the venue, the 18.58 pm train from Balcombe arrives at Hassocks Station at 19.12 pm. The Hall is a ten minute walk from the train station in Hassocks

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS

What Time and Day of the Week for our FFBRA Drop In/ Information Meeting Suits You Best?

Please can all members give email feedback as to the best time and day of the week for our monthly FFBRA meetings?

We have held them on Saturdays (usually from 11 to 1) and they have been very well attended. However always having them on a Saturday does mean some people can't attend due to other commitments.

FFBRA would like to do something different in February and March. Could you let me know by emailing suetaylorbalcombe@gmail.com if you would prefer any of the following times/ days of the week?

- Weekday Evening (say 7 to 9) – and do you have any preference as to the day of the Week?
- Sunday morning
- Sunday afternoon
- Or any other time/ day of the week

Everyone who comes to them always comments on how useful the information provided on the displays is – and also how family friendly our

events are. **What else should we be doing to make these events as useful as possible for our members?** Having them every 4 to 6 weeks seems to work well but again feedback on frequency would be welcomed!

The Danger in Being One of the Few Countries in Europe Not to Have Banned Fracking

In the FT on Friday 10 January there is the news that Total of France is to become the first major oil company to explore for shale gas in the UK, with a deal to buy into a PEDL (Petroleum Exploration and Development License) in Lincolnshire.

Fracking is banned indefinitely in France. So this French company wants to frack our countryside because their government has made it illegal for them to do this in their own country.

Lincolnshire is a major farming area for the UK. It is renowned for its wonderful soil. Farming and ancillary businesses are an important part of its economy and a large employer in the area. Tourism is also very important to the economy in this part of the UK and a major provider of jobs and income.

Any drilling or flares will be visible for miles in the Lincolnshire landscape because the countryside is flat and open. To quote their Tourism Board: *“There's a feeling of space, a sense of openness here. Wrapped around Lincoln like a shawl of green lie miles of open countryside”.*

Dec. 12, 2013, Dallas, Texas, passed a ban on drilling for gas within 1,500 feet of a dwelling or school.

This is an interesting development. If the Lower Stumble site in Balcombe was in Dallas, Texas, drilling for gas there would now be banned as Kemp's Farm is about 1,300 feet from the Lower Stumble site. It is the same situation at the Fernhurst site. The nearest home from the Fernhurst proposed drill site is only about 1,100 feet away. Again under the new regulation introduced last month in Dallas, this site would be not be permitted to be drilled for gas. **So much for UK regulation being tougher than US.**

Update on Cuadrilla's Planning Application

I telephoned Jane Mosely on 10th January and was told that she is still awaiting information from Cuadrilla and so it is unlikely that Cuadrilla's application will be finalised and made public before next Friday (17 January).

Once it is made public there will be a six week public consultation period. So Balcombe continues to wait. It should be noted that this delay is caused by Cuadrilla's delay in answering WSCC planning departments' questions which is preventing WSCC finalising their validation process.

Submit an Objection to Celtique's Application

Since the application from Cuadrilla has been delayed yet again, why not spend some time on objecting to Celtique's application to drill in the South Downs National Park. These Parks belong to the Nation so we all have the right to object. What is the point of designating this part of the South Downs a National Park if it can be industrialised?

Now is the time to act. Please do not leave it to everyone else Deadline for this is Wednesday 22 January 2014. Attached to this week's email is a leaflet explaining how to object to Celtique's application. FFBRA will undertake to produce a similar leaflet for Balcombe once Cuadrilla's application is made public.

You can either object online

<http://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=MXND0MTU01X00>

or by writing to Planning Services, SDNPA, Hatton House, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9LU, quoting ref: SDNP/13/05896/CM.

It is important that each objection is personally formulated, expressing your own concerns. Photocopied or template responses may be ignored. Objections should be specifically in reference to this site. Expressing general concerns about issues such as government energy policy will be ignored.

Do not object on the grounds of adverse impact on house prices – unfortunately this is not a valid reason to object.

Your objection can be as long or short as you like. As well as helping a Sussex neighbour, this will be good practice for objecting to the Lower Stumble application from Cuadrilla when we receive it.

Fundraising

In order to fight Cuadrilla's new application we urgently need to raise funds for a fighting fund to cover such costs as planning consultant, legal advice, leaflets etc. Our target is £7,000. If you can help in anyway with fundraising, please get in contact by telephoning 01444 819 329 or by emailing suetaylorbalcombe@gmail.com.

Payment can be by Bank Transfer to
Account Name Frack Free Balcombe
Sort Code 08 60 01
Account number 20317139

Or by Cheque made payable to "Frack Free Balcombe" and mailed to Sue Taylor, Little Meadows, Stockcroft Road, Balcombe, RH17 6LL
(6 houses down from the Oldlands Avenue end of Stockcroft)

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