

For information a letter recently sent to The Independent newspaper by a Balcombe resident.

Balcombe,
West Sussex.
6th. August 2013

Dear Sir,

I must take issue with your columnist Dominic Lawson on some of the points raised in his article in today's paper on Fracking.

Fact 1. Minor point, but may indicate the quality of the research that has gone into the article, we are not a town but a small village with a population of under 2000.

Fact 2 The exploration company Cuadrilla has secured the right to drill at a totally unsuitable site less than half a mile from the village. It is proposing to drill two shafts, a vertical one down to 3000 feet and a horizontal one much nearer the surface going out for up to a mile.

Fact 3 I spoke to Cuadrilla's information staff last week, I asked several questions of the person who answered their help line who rang me back with the answers after seeking advice from 'Experts' within the Company. I was told that they intend to raise the pressure in the horizontal shaft to 3500 pounds/square foot, just below that required for fracking and if the results were promising, would seek planning approval to frack. As we have found previously Mr Egans comments do not always line up with his company's statements

Fact 4 The objections to the use of the site for this purpose is felt very strongly by a large proportion of the people who live in the village. A door to door poll of all the houses carried out by villagers last week revealed that over 80% were against the project. Last Saturday over 200 villagers 'Strolled' down to the site to meet the other protesters and thank them for their efforts.

Fact 5 A point that is not worthy of Mr. Lawson is his mention of a statement from an 11 year old child supporting fracking. Earlier this year the primary school organised a debate on the subject as an educational exercise and of course one group marshalled the arguments for the process and the other against it. I know this as my grandson took part. To quote a child's 'opinion' (she was presumably put into the pro group), in this way illustrates the paucity of the article's arguments .

Fact 6 The energy situation is that we have a roughly 30 year gap to cover before safe, clean nuclear fusion power stations come on line and we can move towards a carbon free world. There is unprecedented international cooperation currently taking place with scientists from the USA, Europe, Russia, China and India working together to bring this project to fruition .

We do not have to ruin the environment with a proliferation of fracking wells to cover the gap, there are alternatives.

I have often enjoyed reading your articles in the Independent Mr Lawson, but in this one your sources have let you down..

Yours faithfully,