

Balcombe Parish Council

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1st August 2013

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 COUNTY MATTER MINERAL APPLICATION

Application Number: WSCC/063/13/BA
Location: Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site, London Road, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6JH
Proposal: Amendment of condition 2 of WSCC/027/10/BA to allow additional time to complete the drilling and testing programme and restore the site.
Applicant: Cuadrilla Resources Limited

Dear Sir

Thank you for your letter, dated 18th July, inviting this Council to comment on the above proposal.

It is accepted that this Council did not appreciate the full implications of Cuadrilla's original planning application in 2010 and, in consequence, it failed to make any comment at that time.

Since then it has sought the views of the residents of the village. A large majority of those who responded indicated opposition to the original proposal, and gave the following reasons for their opposition.. Increase in road traffic through the village; pollution of water supplies; impact on the environment; risks, but no benefits, to Balcombe; too many unknowns; impact on the AONB; effect on property values; tremors, landslip or subsidence; ethical considerations; effects on the railway infrastructure..

In accordance with this majority view this Council now opposes the current proposal to allow Cuadrilla a further six months too undertake operations on the Lower Stumble site.

Nevertheless, if the County Council is minded to grant the application, it must be subject to the unequivocal condition that in accordance with the application, the original planning consent notwithstanding, no hydraulic fracturing (fracking) may take place within the additional time.

Yours sincerely..

Alison Stevenson
Chairman