ELECTORAL REFORM SERVICES

20th February 2014

BALCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
LOCAL REFERENDUM

Our report of voting for the above ballots which closed yesterday at noon is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:	1507
Total number of votes cast:	901
Turnout:	59.8%

Question 1

Cuadrilla has made a new application to West Sussex County Council for planning permission to flow test the exploratory well that it drilled during the summer of 2013. This includes security fencing, an enclosed testing flare and site restoration. Further information is available on the Balcombe Parish Council website or from the Parish Clerk. Balcombe Parish Council has been asked whether it wishes to make any comment on this application.

How should Balcombe Parish Council (BPC) respond to this application?

Number of votes found to be invalid/blank	4
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	897

Result

"BPC should support this application"	309
"BPC should oppose this application"	536
"BPC should make no comment".....	16
"I am not sure how BPC should respond" ...	36

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Question 2

In future Balcombe Parish Council may be invited to comment on other applications made to various authorities for planning permission or permits to explore for or extract oil or gas from sites within the parish.

If an application does or may involve hydraulic fracturing (fracking), how should Balcombe Parish Council (BPC) respond?

Number of votes found to be invalid/blank	3
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	898

Result

"BPC should always support such an application"	133
"BPC should always oppose such an application"	548
"BPC should treat each application on its merits"	201
"I am not sure how BPC should respond" ...	16

Question 3

If an application does not involve hydraulic fracturing (fracking), how should Balcombe Parish Council (BPC) respond?

Number of votes found to be invalid/blank	4
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	897

Result

"BPC should always support such an application"	198
"BPC should always oppose such an application"	463
"BPC should treat each application on its merits"	221
"I am not sure how BPC should respond" ...	15

Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the ballot:-

a) was sent the details of the ballot and
b) if they chose to participate in the ballot, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded.

All voting material will be stored for six months.

Yours sincerely

Owen Waite
Project Manager

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