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**Cuadrilla**

18 October 2017

Dear Resident,

### **Lower Stumble, Balcombe Update**

I am writing to update you on Cuadrilla's Lower Stumble exploration site near Balcombe.

As you might remember, I wrote to you in May of this year to let you know that Cuadrilla intended to submit a new planning application for our Lower Stumble Exploration Site to the south of Balcombe in the autumn.

Cuadrilla was granted planning permission for the site in May 2014 to flow test and monitor the existing oil exploration well, which was drilled in the summer of 2013. We were unable to undertake the permitted testing works before that planning permission expired, primarily due to the length of time and resource it has required for us to commence operational activities in our Lancashire exploration licence area. There have also been changes to the environmental permitting requirements for the Lower Stumble site which required additional assessment and we made a new application to the Environment Agency to vary our environmental permits accordingly. The Environment Agency ran a public consultation on our proposed permit variation and are now going through their own determination process to assess them.

Against this background, Cuadrilla has now prepared a new planning application which we will be submitting to West Sussex County Council next week. The new application will cover the same work-scope of work as the previous planning permission: a flow test of the existing exploration well, plugging the well with cement, and fully restoring the site. It follows new ecology surveys and environmental assessments undertaken this summer.

As discussed in previous correspondence with the community this existing exploration oil well requires no hydraulic fracturing because the rock is naturally fractured. The flow testing we are looking to undertake will measure the rate at which oil flows from the well.

Once the application has been submitted, West Sussex County Council will conduct a consultation on the application, and will contact both statutory consultees, local residents, and the parish council. You can provide your comments on the application as part of this process.

As always, we remain committed to engaging with the local community and should you have any questions about the application, please do not hesitate to contact Cuadrilla's West Sussex community information line on 0800 0086 766. You can also email us at [enquiries@cuadrillaresources.com](mailto:enquiries@cuadrillaresources.com).

Yours sincerely



Francis Egan  
CEO