



City of York Council

11 JUL 2018

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6th July 2018-07-06

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Haxby and Wigginton Against Fracking (HAWAF) with regard to the Governments intentions to make fracking well sites Permitted Development and to take decisions regarding these well sites away from local authorities passing the decision making on to Westminster in an attempt to speed up the fracking planning process.

Our concerns cover a variety of areas firstly if this is allowed to happen it could lead to a one size fits all approach of unrestricted drilling and fracking in all shale areas. In essence it would mean that the shale gas industry would be able to erect a drilling rig more easily than you or I could erect a conservatory in our own back garden.

It was recommended at the recent Minerals and Waste Plan for North Yorkshire by the Planning Inspector Elizabeth Ord that there should be a set back distance of 500m for shale gas sites from homes and buffer zones around national parks these could be completely ignored if planning consent is taken away from local authorities, indeed it would appear that a fracking well site could appear at the bottom of anyones garden with hardly any notice or warning whatsoever.

Bearing in mind that this industry has no social licence and opposition to it is growing all the time with even a number of Conservative MPs expressing concern over the recent moves by Government to ignore local opinion, we feel that this possible change to planning laws is an attack not only local democracy but on the whole of the democratic process under which this country is allegedly governed.

Surely local authorities have more understanding of the impact such an industry will have on their local areas than those that rule from Westminster and know little, if anything, about the ecology or the environment about the area to be affected, and therefore should have the final say on such a contentious matter?

I would appreciate your comments regarding the above.

Yours Faithfully#

Christine Daker (Mrs)

On behalf of Haxby and Wigginton Against Fracking.n