



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Elizabeth Ord
Inspector
c/o Planning Services, North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall, Northallerton
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17th July 2018

Bar Elizabeth

MWJP examination: Consultation on Select Committee on Planning Guidance on fracking - Report

I serve on the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee and support the conclusions of its report into planning guidance on fracking, which calls for strict guidelines to control development and protect the countryside. The report raises concerns regarding Government proposals to bring applications under the National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime, which would contradict the principles of localism and exacerbate mistrust between communities and the shale gas industry.

The Committee Chairman, Clive Betts MP, agreed to my proposal to hold an inquiry; I felt it was important that Parliamentarians have a clear understanding of the potential impacts of shale gas exploration. North Yorkshire County Council, together with North York Moors National Park and City of York Council have developed an excellent Minerals and Waste Joint Plan (MWJP) that includes strong protections for the landscape. These include a maximum density of well-pads, clear prohibition of surface developments in AONB and the National Park and also buffer zones around these areas. I believe that the report is supportive of the MWJP, as am I.

I believe it is Mineral Planning Authorities that have the knowledge of their areas needed to judge the impacts of fracking. I am pleased the Committee agreed that Mineral Planning Authorities are best placed to understand the local area and how shale gas development can best take place. I am concerned that these proposals could allow for a range of fracking related activities without a need for planning permission, if they are treated as permitted development.

Do let me know if you need anything further.

Kind regards,



Kevin Hollinrake MP