

From: [Malcolm Kenward](#)
To: [PL Planning Applications](#)
Subject: WSCC/040/17/BA - Objection
Date: 30 November 2017 23:20:10

I object to planning application WSCC/040/17/BA, for the following reasons:

1. The application proposes that all HGV traffic to and from the site at Lower Stumble, will travel from the M23 and along the B2036 through the village. All this traffic will therefore go past the Primary school, resulting in increased pollution.
2. The HGV vehicles will be transporting toxic substances both to and from the site. An accident involving any of these vehicles could be disastrous, especially if close to the Primary school.
3. Children from the age of 4 to 11 attend the school; it is known that they are more susceptible to impacts from pollution.
4. The application includes proposals for a flair to burn off excess gases from the site, for 24 hours a day over a period of 14 days. This will lead to increases in both air and land pollution. The prevailing wind will blow such pollution towards and over the village, resulting in potentially adverse consequences for the health of the residence of Balcombe. And that pollution will inevitably find its way into our water system as the rain washes it into the ground.
5. Should the flair go out, or should any flammable gas leak from the site and drift over the railway line, sparks from the electrical contacts could cause a catastrophic accident which could also lead to closure of the main London to Brighton railway line.
6. In 2013 Cuadrilla's activities exceeded the permitted noise level. This noise could be heard during the night where I live, in Deanland Road. Action was only taken about this when villagers purchased their own sound monitoring equipment and advised the Council of the level of noise exceeding that permitted.
7. The land near to the site is farmland and is used for cattle, which will be at risk from pollution from the site. There are records of birth defects in livestock close to fossil fuel extraction sites in the USA.
8. There are many public footpaths around Balcombe, which is a popular area for walkers, who will be at risk from the pollution from the site, including any local animals and birds for example.
9. In 2013 a green colouring was seen in a stream near to the site. To my knowledge this was never adequately explained, although I understand that a green dye is used by the industry when detecting for leaks.
10. There may be problems related to the original well drilled in the 1980's. The integrity of this well should be determined before any further work takes place on the site.
11. There have been negative incidents at every unconventional onshore oil and gas site in the UK. This illustrates that the companies involved are failing to operate to the necessary standards and that government agencies are inadequate for ensuring they do so.
12. The village poll conducted by the Electoral Reform Society in 2014 shows that any oil or gas company is not welcome in our Parish, which is completely within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Balcombe does not want to 'host' any fossil fuel company within its boundaries.

The above issues raise the following questions:

1. What restrictions will be imposed on the traffic going past the School to ensure there is no increase in the level of toxic substances at the School?
2. What air monitoring will be put in place specifically at the School to provide an early warning for the teachers?
3. What air monitoring will be put in place around the site, especially within the village, to provide an early warning to villagers of excess levels of pollution?
4. What restrictions and what monitoring will be put in place with regard to ensuring that the noise levels from the site remain within the level permitted?
5. What restrictions and monitoring will be put in place to ensure the farmland and any livestock are not exposed to contamination from the site?
6. What restrictions and monitoring will be put in place to ensure nearby water courses are not contaminated by activities on the site?
7. What measures will be put in place to ensure that our emergency services can cope with any adverse consequences from activities related to the Lower Stumble site?
8. What monitoring will be put in place to ensure our water supplies are not polluted from activities at the site?
9. Does Cuadrilla have the financial resources to cover all adverse consequences from their activities at the site, for the foreseeable future?

At a time when climate change is an issue that needs urgent and immediate action, it is sheer folly to proceed with the extraction of yet more fossil fuels. We are told that this is needed for energy security. However, all life is dependent on clean air, clean water and food that is safe to eat, yet the activities of this industry put all of these at risk. The government's recent white paper on Industrial strategy makes many references to 'clean growth', something which this industry cannot deliver and compromises.

It is time for our Councils to stop blindly following central government policies where these are clearly not in the interests of the citizens they represent.

Mr Malcolm Kenward
Troy Cottage
Deanland Road
Balcombe
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH17 6LX
[REDACTED]