

**From:** [Jill Sutcliffe](#)  
**To:** [PL Planning Applications](#)  
**Subject:** Planning application WSCC/045/20  
**Date:** 24 September 2020 11:22:00  
**Attachments:** [balcombe Objection.doc](#)

---

Dear Sir/Madam, please find attached an OBJECTION by KKWG to an application by Angus Energy at Balcombe.

Yours faithfully,

Jill Sutcliffe, Dr,  
Chair KKWG  
Ingrams Farm, Wisborough Green  
RH14 0JA, W Sussex

# **KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'**

## **KKWG Objection**

**Planning Application WSCC/045/20 –  
Lower Stumble Exploration Site, off London  
Road, Balcombe, RH17 6JH;  
Pumping out of drilling fluids and well flow  
testing**

Prof Stephen Hawking:  
*“We Are Close to the Tipping Point  
where global warming becomes irreversible”*  
July 3rd, 2017

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

Mr Chris Bartlett,  
Planning Dept.,  
West Sussex County Council.

By e-mail to [planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@westsussex.gov.uk) September 24, 2020

Dear Mr. Bartlett,

Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green, KKWG, in West Sussex is a constituted not for profit residents' organisation formed in 2013. Its aims are to:

- i. to engage with planning applications, public inquiries and any other statutory processes to protect the parishes of Kirdford and Wisborough Green and surrounding areas against any development of onshore oil and gas Exploration and or possible Exploitation/Extraction
- ii. to bring together residents of both parishes [and their supporters] to actively campaign against any form of exploratory drilling and related/subsequent oil and gas activity throughout all of Sussex and the Weald
- iii. to work in partnership with like-minded organisations in order to protect and enhance the local environment and community ensuring that any proposed development is sustainable and appropriate for the area by establishing the evidence and following the latest research in relevant topics.
- iv. Members of the group have participated in drawing up the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plan, ensuring its conformity with national and local plans and with regard to the NPPF, 2012; and again since CDC has been given a larger housing allocation, 2019-2020. This voluntary role includes the group considering what we want for the future of the Parish of Wisborough Green, West Sussex; carrying out a series of consultations with local residents; future proofing our policies and ensuring that they conform to District, County and national policies.

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

## Introduction

1. I am writing to you on behalf of KKWG, Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green concerning a planning application made by ANGUS ENERGY at Balcombe

<https://westsussex.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/WSCC/045/20>.

2. This item first came before WSCC Planning Committee to be discussed and decided on March 24<sup>th</sup> and your Officer's report recommended **REFUSAL**.
3. The grounds sited included the lack of conformity with the WSCC/SDNP Joint Minerals Plan policy M7(a) and M13; NPPF paras 170/172 given the absence of any compelling need for major development to explore for hydrocarbons within the designated area of the High Weald AONB; no Net Biodiversity Gain and minimal local economic benefit.
4. This repeated application aims to carry out virtually the same major programme of works as before in substantially the same manner, except for a proposed increase of 50% hydrochloric acid to be used in EWT.
5. Hydrochloric acid is not easy to handle and safety precautions are a **MUST!** This acid has a sharp, irritating odor and is highly corrosive, meaning, it damages most things it touches.
6. The question has to be whether, or not, the company has provided sufficient reasons to put the application before the Committee or for you to change your recommendation.  
We recommend that the application should be REFUSED.

## Climate change

7. This is now the age of the Climate Emergency (as declared by the UK government) and of the Biodiversity Emergency (declared by the IPBES, May 2019)
8. 2020 should have been the year of action. 'COP26' now takes on major significance, as the next major UN Climate Summit – and with the UK as hosts in Glasgow starting in November, 2021, delayed on account of the impact of Co-Vid virus.

Chris Stark, Chair UK independent  
Climate Change Committee, Dec 2019

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

9. National UK policy, Climate Change Act 2008, the Paris Convention 2015 and the UK government commitment to zero emissions by 2050 means that this site, should be closed, capped and restored. Winning the fight against climate change requires the elimination of carbon-based fuels from our energy systems. WSCC expressed concern about the issue in 2020.
10. What are the scientists saying? The world's leading climate scientists have warned there is only 10 years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.
11. The authors of the landmark report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) say urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which they say is affordable and feasible although it lies at the most ambitious end of the Paris agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5C and 2C.

## Chief scientific advisors

12. Prof. Sir David King said he's been scared by the number of extreme events related to climate change, and he called for the UK to advance its climate targets by 10 years.
13. In his role as scientific advisor to the UK government King was outspoken on the subject saying "I see climate change as the greatest challenge facing Britain and the world in the 21st century" and "climate change is the most severe problem we are facing today – more serious even than the threat of terrorism".
14. In 2000, Sir Bob Watson stated: The overwhelming majority of scientific experts, whilst recognising that scientific uncertainties exist, nonetheless believe that human-induced climate change is inevitable.

## Climate Change scientists

15. Prof. Kevin Anderson, Universities of Manchester and Uppsala, Sweden: Actions on Climate change and the reduction of emissions are incompatible with Onshore Oil & Gas developments.

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

**16.** Prof. Corinne Le Quere, University of East Anglia "Despite the critical importance of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for understanding global climate change, systems are not in place to monitor global emissions in real time, "nor, for that matter is methane being measured which is a more dangerous gas to climate change than carbon dioxide."

**17. Independent Climate Change Committee**, Chris Stark, Chair  
Independent advice to government on building a low-carbon economy and preparing for climate change

6 resilience principles concerning Climate Change and building back after the C-Virus have been sent in a letter to the Prime Minister by the CCC. These are:

- Use climate investments to support economic recovery and jobs. The CCC has previously identified a detailed set of investments to reduce emissions and manage the social, environmental and economic impacts of climate change. Many are labour-intensive, spread across the UK and ready to roll out as part of a targeted and timely stimulus package.
- Lead a shift towards positive, long-term behaviours. The Government can lead the way to new social norms that benefit wellbeing, improve productivity and reduce emissions. This includes actions to support home-working, remote medical consultations and improve safety for cyclists.
- Tackle the wider 'resilience deficit' on climate change. Strong policies are needed to reduce the UK's vulnerability to the destructive risks of climate change and to avoid a disorderly transition to Net Zero. They must be implemented alongside the response to COVID-19 and will bring benefits to health, well-being and national security.
- Embed fairness as a core principle. The benefits of acting on climate change must be shared widely, and the costs must not burden those who are least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are most at risk as the economy changes. Lost or threatened jobs of today should be replaced by those created by the new, resilient economy.
- Ensure the recovery does not lock-in greenhouse gas emissions or increased risk. As it kick-starts the economy, the Government should avoid locking-in higher emissions or increased vulnerability to climate change in the longer-term. Support for carbon-intensive sectors should be contingent on them taking real and lasting action on climate change, and all new investments need to be resilient to future climate risks.

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

- Strengthen incentives to reduce emissions when considering tax changes. Revenue could be raised by setting or raising carbon prices for sectors of the economy which do not bear the full costs of emitting greenhouse gases. Low global oil prices provide an opportunity to increase carbon taxes without hurting consumers.

## Criteria for decision making:

**18.** 6 "stress tests" were discussed by the All Party Parliamentary Group, Oil and Gas in Parliament, APPG on which a decision on Onshore Oil&Gas development should logically be based drawn up by Professors Peter Strachan and Alex Russell, Heriot Watt University

- **social licence or public support** – very low, Public Tracker Results of the Wave 33 survey for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) May 2020, Opposition to fracking has reached a record high of 45%, according to a quarterly government survey of public attitudes. Support for fracking fell to a new record low of 8%. Just 1% of those surveyed strongly supported fracking.

- **economic benefits** – none and less in the current situation as the price of oil has fallen and currently UKOG shares are valued at less than 1p. In the US, fracking is proving to be a boom and bust industry. At a recent Oil and Gas UK Business Breakfast, Martin Gilbert the Chief Executive of Aberdeen Asset Management also said that fracking is a debt-laden industry.

A KPMG '*Economic Impact Assessment and Scenario Development of Unconventional Oil and Gas*' report, written for the Scottish Government, revealed: "If oil and gas prices were to remain at historically low levels, it would be unlikely that Unconventional Oil and Gas resources could be developed economically."

- **indirect economic effects** – none and it damages other industries such as tourism, the agricultural, food and drink sectors, and even the banking sector.

- **public health and environmental impacts**, it is too early to report on these in the UK but US Compendium 6th edition drawn up by Concerned Health Professionals contain over 1500 research papers showing the harm done. For the sake of brevity the results are: 84% of the literature on health revealed public health hazards, elevated risks, or health impacts; 69% of the literature indicated positive associations or actual evidence of water contamination; and,

# KEEP Kirdford and Wisborough 'Green'

87% found elevated air pollutants and atmospheric concentrations of pollutants.

- climate impact – clear and irrefutable from gas escaping and burning of the fuels – oil or gas.

- **energy security** – DBEIS report on *The Clean Growth Strategy Leading the way to a low carbon future*, April 2018 contains no reference to Onshore Oil & Gas ie they don't contribute to it

Prof Peter Strachan and Alex Russell

## Regulator – Environment Agency

**19.** *"So, we know the problem. We also know the basic solution. We need to mitigate the damage from climate change, by reducing or stopping the human activities which are causing it. We can do that in particular by cutting our emissions of greenhouse gases".*

Sir James Bevan, CEO, Environment Agency  
October 24th, 2019

## Principle of Sustainable Development, NPPF

**20.** Due to the location of the application site, in the countryside, the proposal is not considered to constitute sustainable development, nor would the proposal contribute to the achievement of sustainable development which lies at the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, 2019; and it does nothing to contribute to Net Biodiversity Gain nor to the need to move away from the use of fossil fuels.

In view of the evidence and the declarations of the Climate Emergency internationally, nationally and locally, West Sussex County Council Planning Committee should **REFUSE** this application