

Comment for planning application WSCC/045/20

Application number	<input type="text" value="WSCC/045/20"/>
Name	<input type="text" value="Jane Fitzpatrick"/>
Address	<input type="text" value="2 Redbridge Cottages, Redbridge Lane, Balcombe, Nr Haywards Heath, Sussex RH17 6PW."/>
Type of Comment	<input type="text" value="Objection"/>
Comments	<p>I strongly object to the application by Angus Energy to return to Balcombe village to carry out further testing for oil. There is no reasoning at all that could ever justify the location of a drill site in the village. It doesn't make sense financially and considering the urgent threat of climate change, it is completely reprehensible and wrong to seek to extract more fossil fuel, especially when violent, toxic and damaging methods of extraction are involved. Balcombe is a beautiful village in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The surrounding countryside and ancient woodland near the Lower Stumble site provide a precious home for plants and wildlife, the biodiversity of which is already under threat nationally. If Angus Energy returns, the resulting heavy traffic, noise and pollution will not only be destructive to the environment but lead to the drilling of further wells (Angus has already talked about two more in Balcombe) and to the industrialisation of the entire Weald with 'back to back wells'. In a short time the whole area would become an oil field. Given the prevailing air flow, the heart of the village is downwind of the Lower Stumble drill site. I live at the same level as the site and it is easy to imagine how my house would be enveloped in toxic gases emitted from the flare, and the drill shaft, and also from site traffic and generators. We would not be able to escape from this pollution nor avoid breathing it in. If Angus Energy recommences its activities, we will have to put up with being poisoned by the air we breathe, or move somewhere else, which I neither want nor can afford to do. Why should Angus Energy be allowed to come into our rural environment and pollute it for its own commercial gain while residents do not have a say in the matter, even though the village voted 'No' to Cuadrilla in 2014? Angus Energy is not going to compensate me when I have to move because their intrusion makes life in Balcombe unhealthy and unbearable. The activities involved in exploring for and extracting oil are completely incompatible with normal life in our rural village and if allowed, our village life will be destroyed. In addition to having our air polluted we will be subjected to unwanted industrial noise from the drilling and from other site activities. When oil is being extracted, the noise from the flaring will be continuous twenty four hours a day and the water we drink will also be at risk from pollutants leaking into surface water from the site. Our narrow roads will be used by heavy goods vehicles and tankers travelling through the village to and from the site, not only transporting equipment, but also carrying chemicals to the Lower Stumble site and contaminated fluids away from it. A greater volume of traffic going through the village will increase the chances of accidents which could be extremely serious when hazardous chemicals are involved. The prospect of having all these things imposed on us is truly grim. We have been living with the continuing threat of having an active oil rig in the village for eight years. Our lives have been deeply affected and we have no peace of mind. We do not want Angus Energy to come back. Please reject the application.</p>
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Attachments	