Comment for planning application WSCC/046/23

Application number Name

WSCC/046/23

Geoff Barnard (on behalf of (

Address

Type of Comment Comments

FLAT 2, THE PLOUGH, CHARLTON STREET, CHARLTON STREET, STEYNING, BN44 3LU

Objection

On behalf of Greening Steyning - of which I am co-Chair - I would like to strongly object to this proposal to extend the permission for drilling at Broadford Bridge.

Greening Steyning is an energetic and committed climate action group covering Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding. We are 9 miles away from Broadford Bridge so regard it as, if not our own 'back yard', the next door one.

Approving this application will leave the door wide open for further exploration at the site, which UKOG clearly hopes will yield economically viable hydrocarbon reserves. This makes zero sense given the national imperative to cut carbon emissions and accelerate the transition to net zero.

Nor would it be compatible with West Sussex County Council's own climate change strategy, which states as its vision: "In 2030, West Sussex County Council is carbon neutral and climate resilient, using our limited resources wisely. West Sussex County

Council has enabled positive actions and behaviours across our county to mitigate and adapt to climate change".

Approving this application would be the very opposite of 'enabling positive actions and behaviours' and would completely undermine the County Council's aspirations to be a leader on climate action.

The suggestion that the extension will allow UKOG to investigate the potential for geothermal power is patently nonsense, and just a cynical smokescreen to justify the continuation of their stuttering hydrocarbon drilling ambitions. Were they serious about this, they would have included more detailed proposals on how such a scheme would work.

I would urge the County Council to be bold and set a principle here - no more hydrocarbon drilling in West Sussex. Anything less would be an abrogation of the Council's duty as a responsible local authority working to meet our vital net zero targets.

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Attachments