

Celtique Energie World Limited

17 September 2013

Dear neighbour

Submission of exploratory drilling application near Kirdford and Wisborough Green

I am writing to update you on our proposals for a temporary exploratory drilling well site near the villages of Kirdford and Wisborough Green, and to notify you of the submission of a planning application to West Sussex County Council.

As you will be aware, Celtique Energie, a British oil and gas exploration company, hosted a two-day public consultation event at Kirdford Village Hall to introduce ourselves to the community and present our plans for a temporary well site located in a field adjacent to Northup Copse, south of Kirdford Road. The objectives for our proposals are to target conventional oil or gas reserves in the Kimmeridge Limestone and Great Oolite formations and to take log and core data in the Kimmeridge and Liassic shales.

We were pleased with the response to our exhibition, which saw 154 members of the public attending over the two days. Our project team members had a number of informative conversations with local residents, who helped to further our understanding of the site and the local area. Following the consultation we also met with Kirdford Parish Council and Wisborough Green Parish Council to discuss the proposals, which provided us with further useful feedback.

Steps to address concerns over traffic impacts

The main issue that has been communicated to us by those who provided us with completed feedback forms and voiced by representatives from Kirdford and Wisborough Green Parish Councils has been that of traffic and vehicle movements to and from the site.

As we outlined at our public exhibitions earlier this year, the number of two-way traffic movements to and from the site during normal activities will peak at 35 a day during construction – a less than 3% increase on existing levels on Kirdford Road. However, we recognise the importance of this issue to local residents and have looked to respond constructively by including a number of traffic calming measures in our application to address public concerns. Measures that Celtique will introduce include:

- Restricting movements to and from the site to avoid peak movements in the morning, evening and during the local school run; and
- Stipulating in our contracts with contractors that they must honour Celtique's commitments to the local community and arrive on site during the agreed times.

In addition, Celtique is considering the following measures, subject to further discussion and agreement with West Sussex County Council:

- Temporary traffic lights on Kirdford Road to regulate the movement of Heavy Vehicles moving into and out of the site;
- Temporary speed restrictions along Kirdford Road; and
- Restrictions on parking beside the cricket field.

Hydraulic fracturing

We are aware that there is significant interest locally over the role of hydraulic fracturing at our proposed well site. We wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate that the primary objective for our proposals is to target conventional oil or gas reserves in the Kimmeridge Limestone and Great Oolite formations and to take log and core data in the Kimmeridge and Liassic shales. This would involve tried and tested methods similar to those successfully used to drill wells in Sussex in the 1970s and 80s, which continue to operate safely alongside local communities.

It is important to stress that this planning application **therefore does not involve the use of hydraulic fracturing**. Furthermore, we have given public assurances that this specific well will never be hydraulically fractured at any point in the future.

However as we have consistently stated, as part of our planning application we will be drilling through shale formations encountered in the well. This would allow us to confirm what potential (if any) these rocks have for commercial production. Should this data prove positive, we may wish to explore these formations further, which could include the use of hydraulic fracturing at a new well on this same site. However this would involve a separate planning application to drill a new well, additional permits from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Environment Agency, and most importantly further consultation with the community.

If you are interested in reading about the subject of hydraulic fracturing in further detail, we would recommend reading the following documents:

- Department of Energy and Climate Change, 'About shale gas and hydraulic fracturing (fracking)', (July 2013): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-shale-gas-and-hydraulic-fracturing-fracking>
- Royal Academy of Engineering/Royal Society, 'Shale gas extraction in the UK: a review of hydraulic fracturing', (June 2012): http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal_Society_Content/policy/projects/shale-gas/2012-06-28-Shale-gas.pdf

Further details on planning application

Having reviewed the feedback we have received and finalised our environmental studies, we have now submitted a planning application to West Sussex County Council. The council's planning officers will proceed to consider the application, with a decision by its Planning Committee expected by the end of this year.

The application is available to view in full on the county council's online planning database using the reference number WSCC/083/13/KD: <http://buildings.westsussex.gov.uk/ePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the proposals and notify you when West Sussex County Council confirms a date for the determination of the application. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on our free phone line 0800 023 2148, or alternatively e-mail us at consultation@celtiqueenergie.com.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Davies
Chief Executive