

Statement by Singleton Against a Fracked Environment (SAFE)

Singleton Against a Fracked Environment wish to thank all those that have supported us in the fight against the Shale Gas industry on the Fylde.

At yesterday's planning committee meeting SAFE were supported by members of all the local groups who made short presentations to the councillors about their concerns over Cuadrilla seeking an extension to an application which was initially granted in 2010 for 18 months (LCC/2014/0084). These were well received by the councillors who picked up many of the issues concerning planning, ecology, noise, well integrity and abandonment including the potential impact of dealing with orphaned wells.

We are delighted with the planning rejection which was achieved with the commitment and dedication of local people working together and supporting each other by sharing information and expertise. This has been key to the outcome. The excellent presentations given a few weeks ago by Roseacre and Little Plumpton groups to the planning committee contributed greatly to the refusal of our application.

The planning regulations that were stated with regards refusal were SP2 of the Fylde Plan, CS5 of the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (LMWDF) and DM2 of the Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP).

We wish to thank all the councillors that had the courage to vote for refusal and a special thank you to the following for their contributions.

Our presentation on Monday 23rd Feb relating to ecology, lack of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), well integrity and abandonment procedures, along with legal aspects raised in the application was made possible by Mike Hill and Friends of the Earth.

We would also like to thank: Bob Dennett, Gayzer Taryanji, John Powney, Trina Froud, Dianne Westgarth, Ruth Owen, Gordon Smith, Noreen Griffiths, Gail Hodson, John Hodson and Laurence Rankin.

We have yet to find out what actions Cuadrilla 'perplexed and disappointed' will take. SAFE will continue to fight alongside the groups across the UK fighting against the fracking industries attempts to develop an on-shore UK shale gas industry.

Chris and Karen,
For SAFE