

Frack Free Driffield & Wolds Campaign Group (FFDAW)

DROP-IN information and awareness on the IMPACTS of fracking held at the Church Rooms in Thwing, East Yorkshire on Saturday 26th November 2016

It has been a month or so since we visited your community and after assessing the event we submit this report for your attention.

Thwing Event

On the day, the event attracted a steady trickle of inquisitive and concerned local residents who browsed the displays with many wanting to talk about their own concerns and other related issues resulting from the information on display. Their main concerns surrounded the amounts of water required by each well (3-5 million gallons extracted from the water supply) and how it would be converted into RADIOACTIVE WASTE by the process of hydraulic fracturing. Waste that would be transported by road passing through local communities and past schools, and eventually being discharged into the sea. Another issue was over the extensive FOOTPRINT a fracking industry would have in their region, converting the beautiful Wolds into a gas field, and an overall general feeling the government should be concentrating on measures to move away from fossil fuel dependency.

There was also an element of surprise amongst local residents that the event was being hosted by local people (and not 'suits'). Residents who attended could browse the displays and were left to form their own conclusions. This is our approach. Our aim is to offer a balanced argument on the impacts of fracking on local communities. All the information on display is sourced from industry, government and peer reviewed material and we encourage visitors to research the impacts for themselves. Fundamentally, our aim is to offer awareness and to explain that the current status of the fracking industry is at the 'testing' or technical phase although our displays are inculcated with material on the more destructive 'production' phase.

We conducted an exit survey and recorded a significant positive response to the question 'do you agree fracking should be banned in the UK?' Of course, we agree with them totally! This response is typical of the communities we have visited.

As part of the Drop-In, we ask residents to contact their local councillors and MP to voice their concerns about the impacts of fracking. The role of parish councils in the planning application process is a vital one, and as consultees they will be asked to support or object to plans submitted by fracking operators. We argue we can all make a difference, and if we are to prevent operators like Cuadrilla from exploiting and industrialising our beautiful countryside, and ensuring a safe and healthy future for our communities, we must all do our part. Together we can protect our local communities.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the Church Rooms for the use of their facilities.