

## Statement to Balcombe Parish Council

We intend to operate in your community in a sensitive manner and respond to questions from residents in an open and straightforward way. I would like to take the opportunity of your Annual Parish Meeting to clarify some key points that have been brought to my attention by Parish Councillors and Residents.

### Transport Movements

In addition to our decision to avoid truck movements during school drop-off and pick-up times for the school day and after-school clubs we have also decided to impose a speed limit of 20 mph on Cuadrilla traffic movements through the village as a courtesy to local residents.

Following discussions with the Parish Council and residents at our recent drop-in session, I wish to clarify our public information to make clear that one truck movement means a round trip.

### Air Quality and Flaring

As with all other oil and gas operators in the UK, all Cuadrilla's activities are regulated by the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the Department for Energy and Climate Change. The potential for flaring was included in the planning application and this process has to be authorised by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Details of the approval process can be found at the DECC site: <https://www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-onshore-exploration-and-production>

We understand from conversations at the recent Drop-in Session and from letters we have received that several people have been told that our operations will or could result in the release of "toxic and carcinogenic gases" and that the health of residents and in particular children will be put at risk.

That is categorically not the case and we would challenge whoever is propagating these claims to furnish the data or assumptions, directly related to Cuadrilla's proposed exploration well, upon which they base their claims. Cuadrilla as a company is frequently called upon to demonstrate a basis for its assertions. If there is any data to support the assertion of potential health damage I shall be very pleased to review it and respond accordingly.

During the exploration phase for oil and gas relatively small quantities of any gas discovered may be flared whilst testing the flow rate from a single exploration well. Fundamentally, this occurs and is permitted under DECC licensing approvals to prevent the escape of methane into the atmosphere as there is no connection to a gas grid for a single exploration well. There have been over 2,000 wells drilled onshore in the UK, over 50 in West Sussex alone and we are not aware of one single documented case of any member of the public or indeed workforce drilling those wells becoming ill as a consequence of natural gas flaring. Additionally there is a long history of offshore gas and oil operations in the North Sea and elsewhere where crews frequently live and work in relatively close proximity to natural gas flaring and we are not aware of any documented adverse effects.

Based on the results of the Conoco exploration well drilled on the very same site in 1986, we have a high confidence that quantities of gas (if any) will be low. Any oil returning to surface will be separated from any associated gas at surface and will not be flared.

In response to a request from the Parish Council, Cuadrilla has agreed to monitor air quality and make the results publicly available. We have appointed a specialist environmental consultancy, Ground Gas Solutions (GGS), to carry out air quality baseline monitoring for the duration of our work. Their monitors are capable of detecting a wide range of parameters including methane, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene), VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and hydrogen sulphide. We will benchmark these against the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 and will publish a summary of our monitoring activity including making this available to the Parish Council.

#### Water Quality

Over the course of the drilling activity, Cuadrilla will be sampling surface water at five locations surrounding the site and will have them independently tested at a UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) laboratory. The results from the sampling will be shared with the Environmental Agency and benchmarked against environmental water quality levels.

Any water that is required on site will be stored in steel tanks before and after it is used. Any water circulated around the well is also stored in steel tanks prior to its removal to licensed disposal sites. Water will not be stored in open pits or ponds.

When Cuadrilla drills its water monitoring well and the main exploration well this summer, we expect to encounter gas bearing ground water at approximately 170 ft below the surface. The occurrence of these gases in the shallow ground water predates any oil and gas exploration at Balcombe and is consistent with a regional pattern of shallow gas. Because of the composition of the gases, they are naturally occurring and are most likely derived from deeper strata.

The presence of this pre-existing thermogenic gas within the Ashdown Beds, a low productivity aquifer, at this well location was indicated by the first well drilled in 1986 by Conoco. It is not unusual to find natural gas at shallow depths in West Sussex and is consistent with the evidence of wells drilled in the region going back as far as 1896. During the drilling, testing, and abandonment process of the water monitoring well and the main well, the gas bearing groundwater will be contained below ground so there will only be trace emissions and no impact on water quality. Further information on this can be found in a technical statement which will be placed on our website: <http://www.cuadrillaresources.com/> or can be obtained by contacting [enquiries@cuadrillaresources.com](mailto:enquiries@cuadrillaresources.com) or upon request by calling our helpline 0800 0086 766

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