

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**23 February 2016**

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**Notice of Motion No. 30 – Fracking – From Councillors Jeff and Helen Osborn**

To consider the following motion:

“This Council is concerned that the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) has recently decided to offer licences for four blocks of land in Wiltshire.

Council notes that the OGA states that the licences for these blocks will contain conditions prohibiting activities in order to protect ecological sites.

Nonetheless, in its response to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Council made a cogent case against the “water hungry” nature of this mode of exploration and exploitation because of the serious impact it will have on Wiltshire aquifers. This in consequence will constrain future housing development in the county.

For these and related reasons, Council has major reservations regarding fracking in the county and its default position should be one of opposition.

Furthermore these applications covering as they do hydrocarbon exploitation are contrary to the recent international moves in Paris to limit such forms of energy in order to counter climate change.”

To assist Council in its consideration of the above motion, an officer response is attached.