

Wiltshire Council

Council

23 February 2016

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

To consider the following motion – as amended:

“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~~ extraction 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. This is compounded by central government’s recent extension of permitted development rights to cover exploratory drilling and investigation.~~

Consequently Council requests that Environment Select Committee establish a task group to better understand the general implications of possible hydrocarbon exploration and extraction in the county. This will enable members on relevant planning committees to be better briefed on such matters.

Furthermore it should be noted that such activities ~~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.”