

**Responses to questions from members of the public raised at the
Council meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017**

The Council were asked

- i) for an update in regard to any knowledge or information that they hold on fracking matters in Dronfield, Coal Aston or surrounding areas including one in Marsh Lane that is in progress.

Response:

As of the date of the Council meeting Dronfield Town Council the Council have received Email Correspondence from ineos with information regarding fracking and links to other websites was received on 21st December 2015 and a Shale Gas and Fracking Informative Note from Derbyshire County Council on 11th November 2016.

The Council have also responded to consultation by Derbyshire County Council on their Local Mineral Plan.

Invitations were received to the following meetings regarding fracking

9th May 2016 – Meeting for Parish and District Councillors held at the Speedwell Rooms, Inkersall Road Chesterfield

15th September 2016 - Public Consultation at the Peel Centre

29th November 2016 – Presentation to Town and Parish Councils held at Shirebrook Village Hall

30th November 2016 – Presentation to Town and Parish Councils held at Worksop Football Club

- ii) for an update on a letter to the Secretary of State in regard to the poorly advertised Environmental Agency consultation event held on 15 September 2016

Response:

A motion was passed by Dronfield Town Council at their meeting held on October 2016 to write to the Environment Agency to complain about their consultation event held on 15 September 2016. There was no decision made to write to the Secretary of State.

A copy of the motion that was passed together with the letter that was sent to the Environment Agency and their response is attached as Appendix B.

You will note from their response that they stated that there were no current applications for environmental permits in the Dronfield area that they would be happy to carry out a follow up event in advance of site specific proposals.

- iii) for a statement from the Council as to their stance on fracking including any use of public or council land.

Response:

A motion was carried at the Council meeting on 4 July 2016 regarding fracking.

The Council's stance on fracking is contained in the Council's response to the consultation for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Minerals Plan (Please see Appendix A)

- iv) whether the Council were aware of nearby surrounding areas such as Eckington where Ineos proposals and Environmental Impact Assessment screening report that has been issued and details of any Council response to it.

Response:

The Council were not aware of the Environmental Impact Assessment screening report in relation to the Eckington site.

Where requests are received for consultation on policy or about any specific applications these will be brought to the attention of the Council and any response or further actions will be determined at the meeting.

The response to the additional questions contained in your email of 16th January are shown below

Q. Request for provision of a copy of Ineos presentation as seen by attending members of DTC on 29th / 30th November at Shirebrook / Worksop.

A. *Copy attached*

Q. Confirmation as to DTC stance on any approach / potential approach for use of council or public land for the purposes of fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking in Dronfield and surrounding areas.

A. *The Council has not received any requests for council or public land within the Council's ownership or control for the purposes of fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking in Dronfield and surrounding areas. If any request was made this would be considered by the Properties Advisory Committee and would subsequently be discussed at a full Council meeting. Any decision would be made by the Full Council.*

Q. Clarification from DTC as to their awareness and prior sight of / subsequent sight of the Ineos Environmental Impact Assessment Report reference intention for Application to drill a vertical core well on land off Bramley Moor Lane (off Marsh Lane, Eckington).

A. Dronfield Town Council did not have any prior sight or subsequent sight of the Ineos Environmental Impact Assessment Report regarding their intention for application to drill a vertical core well on land off Bramley Moor Lane in Eckington.

Q. Clarification as to contact made / received by DTC in regard to neighbouring council bodies (e.g. Parish / Town and such as Eckington, Calow, Unstone / Apperknowle) in regards to fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking.

A. I am not aware of any contact being made or received with neighbouring Town and Parish Councils in regards to fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking.

Q. Details of contact, information exchanged between DTC and North East Derbyshire District Council and Planning Department / Planning Authorities in regard to fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking in Dronfield and surrounding areas.

A. There has been no contact or information exchanged between DTC and North East Derbyshire District Council and Planning Department / Planning Authorities in regard to fracking or exploratory works to establish potential for fracking in Dronfield and surrounding areas.

Q. Request for Fracking / Associated exploratory works to establish potential for fracking to be included as an agenda item at the next Dronfield Town Council meeting (assumed to be February) and future follow on DTC meetings.

A. The Council has discussed fracking at previous meetings and communicated their stance on fracking to Derbyshire County Council as part of their consultation to the Derby and Derbyshire Local Mineral Plan.

Any requests for Council land to be used for any purpose in connection with fracking and any requests for consultation from Derbyshire County Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, other authorities or any applicant will be distributed to all members of Dronfield Town Council and reported or debated at the next available Council meeting.

9) Request for DTC disclosure of any other known information (not covered in points 1 - 8 above) in regards to the potential for fracking or exploratory works to establish the potential for fracking in Dronfield and surrounding areas.

Further enquiries have been made with the Community Relations Manager at Ineos Shale about the Marsh Lane Development and any plans that may have an impact on the area within the jurisdiction of Dronfield Town Council.

We have been supplied with a copy of the resident information sheet (see attached) which gives information on the proposed well. We have been informed that this is a vertical well to take samples of the rock for laboratory analysis and assured that no horizontal drilling or fracking is involved.

We have been told that their seismic data acquisition programme is still being finalised however they do not expect that Dronfield to be included in this phase of seismic acquisition. When the seismic programme has been finalised we understand that they will be arranging exhibitions across the seismic acquisition area.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD
ON MONDAY 4 JULY 2016**

10 Motion

57/16-17 RESOLVED

That this Council consider the impact shale gas extraction (fracking) would have on the Dronfield community and oppose fracking in Dronfield and its surrounding areas and that the Council's concerns and stance on Fracking are forwarded to Derbyshire County Council in response to their consultation on the Derbyshire & Derby Mineral Local Plan and that the Council delegate authority to the Clerk and a group of Councillors to agree the response to Derbyshire County Council.

Cllr. M. Foster requested a recorded vote.

All members present at the meeting voted in favour of the motion.

Cllr. R. Hall joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Dronfield Town Council Response to the consultation for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Mineral Plan – 3rd August 2016

Following a consultation by INEOS, attended by Councillors and a subsequent public meeting organised by Councillors for residents, Dronfield Town Council opposes fracking in Dronfield and its surrounding areas.

The reasons are as follows:

- a) There is a strong and serious argument challenging the safety of fracking on a range of grounds, which has led some countries to ban it or at least postpone it until further research is accomplished. We have concerns that Fracking could potentially damage people's health and the environment.
- b) We believe that Fracking is not appropriate for a densely populated areas such as Dronfield. It is believed that fracking would damage the surrounding landscape and have a detrimental effect on our surrounding Greenbelt .
- c) There is a risk of groundwater contamination from hazardous substances used in the fracking fluid.
- d) Fracking involves transfer of gas over long distance underground, without homeowners approval.
- e) The process requires large volumes of water which will need to be transported to the site, and then away fro the site for recycling if there are no facilities on site.

- f) We believe that regulation in the UK is not rigorous enough to guarantee safety for our residents.

We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this correspondence and include our response with your consultation on the Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Plan.

Response received from Derbyshire County Council – 4 August 2016

Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan

I acknowledge receipt of your email dated 3 August re the above. I confirm that the comments of the Town Council will be taken into account in the preparation of the Local Plan.

Appendix B

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL **HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, DRONFIELD** **ON MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2016**

6 Motion – Environment Agency

114/16-17 RESOLVED

That the Council write to the Environment Agency to make a formal complaint about the poor pre-publicity for the public drop in event on the potential fracking in and around Dronfield. The event was held on 15 September at the Peel Centre. This Council believe that residents of Dronfield and surrounding areas should have been properly informed and that advertisements for this event should have been more prominent to ensure a good turnout. On behalf of Dronfield residents Dronfield Town Council would like to request that another event is organised in Dronfield, with proper notice and advertisement.

Dear Sirs

Dronfield Town Council would like to make a formal complaint about the poor pre-publicity for the public drop in event on the potential fracking in and around Dronfield. The event was held on 15 September at the Peel Centre.

The Council believe that residents of Dronfield and surrounding areas should have been properly informed and that advertisements for this event should have been more prominent to ensure a good turnout.

On behalf of Dronfield residents, Dronfield Town Council would like to request that another event is organised in Dronfield, with proper notice and advertisement.

Response from Environment agency

I am sorry that the council feel that we didn't make sufficient efforts to advertise the event we held on 15 September. For all of the sessions we have planned (approximately 25) our approach is through local contacts, media and social media to try to reach as many people as possible.

In this instance we notified the elected representatives of the local community, including the MP and local Councillors. On the 26 August we issued a press release to all local print and radio media. This resulted in articles in the Star newspaper and an interview was broadcast on BBC Radio Sheffield. ITN posted information on their website and through their Twitter account. In addition we posted details on the "Drill or Drop" website: <https://drillordrop.com/>. The team do accept that posters should have been displayed at an earlier stage to help promote the session.

We are making genuine efforts to engage with people on regulation of the oil and gas industry and would appreciate your guidance to help us improve our service. Your position as representatives of the community is likely to give you a good feel for the best ways of communicating with people in the Dronfield area. Please could you share details of how you communicate with local people, for example any local publications, town council newsletters or local forums that we may not be aware of that we may be able to use in future?

We felt the event was successful, with around 110 people visiting us on the day. The feedback we received was positive and we appreciated everyone giving up their time to hear from us all. Whilst there are no current applications for environmental permits in the Dronfield area we will be happy to carry out a follow up event in advance of site specific proposals.