

ROTHERWICK PARISH COUNCIL

1 Oaklands
Hartley Wintney
Hampshire
RG27 8TX
1st September 2018

Cllr David Neighbour
Leader of the Council
Hart District Council
Harlington Way
Fleet
GU51 4AE

Dear Cllr Neighbour

Government Proposals to Fast-Track Fracking

As our local council leader, Rotherwick Parish Council are contacting you to share our concern about the government consultations launched recently that aim to speed up the planning process for shale gas extraction in England.

We are particularly concerned about the proposals to:

- Treat non-hydraulic exploratory drilling for shale gas as permitted development (PD), and;
- Include shale gas extraction in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Regime (NSIP).

Treating applications for shale gas extraction as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects would reduce local input, and therefore risk not taking full account of local concerns and impact on locally significant sites.

Planning and the environment are important issues to the residents of Hart, which is reflected by the significant input many residents have had to Neighbourhood Plans in numerous parishes within the District and feedback given during development of the Local Plan. Rotherwick Parish Council therefore ask that Hart raise this important issue on behalf of the residents of the District with our MP/Government.

The issue of shale gas extraction has proven to be a sensitive one across the country and the vehicle for public comment through the planning process should not be removed or weakened through the changes proposed.

We believe that given the risks posed to our countryside, and the strength of opposition, there should be greater scrutiny on decisions surrounding fracking, and support the campaign by CPRE.

Yours sincerely

Susan Richardson

Susan Richardson
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to Rotherwick Parish Council