

18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Gloucestershire Parish and Town Councils



Dear Colleagues

### **Fracking in Gloucestershire**

Gloucestershire County Council are currently consulting on a draft *Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire* ([www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/EmergingMLP](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/EmergingMLP)).

It is a very large document, but within it on page 54 there is a draft Policy “MW06 | Oil & Gas” which opens the door to fracking in our county. The policy reads,

“Minerals development proposals for the exploration and/or production of oil & gas including through the deployment of unconventional techniques, will be permitted.”

By “unconventional techniques” what they mean is fracking. Stroud Town Council will be strongly opposing the draft Minerals Plan and has also adopted a policy on fracking which is copied overleaf for information.

If your council feels strongly about the idea of fracking in Gloucestershire we would encourage you to respond to the consultation and write to your local county councillor.

The closing date for comments is 5pm on 24th November 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen', is placed over a light grey grid background.

Helen Bojaniwska  
Town Clerk

## **Stroud Town Council Fracking Policy** **Adopted 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Stroud Town Council strongly opposes the use of fracking<sup>i</sup> anywhere and especially within Gloucestershire. Fracking is an immature technology, which has been shown to have significant environmental consequences and potentially cause harm as yet unknown. It has the potential to lead to contamination of both ground and surface water supplies<sup>ii</sup>. It involves visible scarring of the landscape and significant passage of heavy machinery across the countryside (water used in the process is often brought in by tanker)<sup>iii</sup>.

In addition to the immediate dangers of fracking, the process is used to obtain fossil fuels. The challenges of climate change are amongst the most serious which are to be faced by current and future generations, and Stroud Town Council recognises that technologies which seek to maintain society's reliance on fossil fuels are to be discouraged. Instead, the Council aims to encourage the development of environmentally friendly energy sources which result in as little carbon dioxide emission and other pollution as possible.

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<sup>i</sup> Fracking (hydraulic fracturing) is a method of extracting gas and oil from the ground by forcing water and harmful chemicals into rock formations deep underground, resulting in fracturing of the rock. This process releases gas and oil, which are then recovered from the resulting water mixture.

<sup>ii</sup> [www.scientificamerican.com/article/fracking-can-contaminate-drinking-water/](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fracking-can-contaminate-drinking-water/)

<sup>iii</sup> [www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/feb/24/fracking-traffic-would-increase-local-air-pollution-study-tankers-water-nitrogen-oxide-emissions/](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/feb/24/fracking-traffic-would-increase-local-air-pollution-study-tankers-water-nitrogen-oxide-emissions/)