



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Copy of Consultation response form sent from Saltford Parish Council

Are the views expressed on this consultation your own personal views or an official response from an organisation you represent?*

Official response from organisation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please select the option which best describes your organisation.*

Parish Council

If you selected other, please state the type of organisation.

Click here to enter text.

Please provide the name of the organisation (if applicable).

Saltford Parish Council

Pre-application engagement

Question 1

Should community pre-application consultation be compulsory prior to applying for planning permission for shale gas development?

Yes

Existing processes for compulsory community pre-application consultation

Question 2

By what process (if any) should prospective applicants be required to conduct community pre-application consultation prior to applying for planning permission for shale gas development?

Other

If Other, please specify.

For the reasons given below, on democratic and ethical grounds a community should not be expected to host a new fossil fuel based energy production facility like fracking without its democratically elected representatives, the local authority, having the right of veto for such planning applications. It should therefore be for the local authority, not the prospective applicant, to consult the community it represents in any way that it considers appropriate including placing a requirement on any prospective applicants to conduct community pre-application consultations under the supervision and any specific requirements of the local authority. This should enable the local authority to take into account any relevant electoral mandates of its elected members, i.e. manifesto commitments at the most recent local election.

We agree with the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee report: "Planning Guidance on Fracking", Paragraph 91, July 2018 that stated "Shale gas development of any type should not be classed as a permitted development. Given the contentious nature of fracking, local communities should be able to have a say on whether this type of development takes place, particularly as concerns about the construction, locations and cumulative impact of drill pads are yet to be assuaged by the Government."

Fracking for shale gas does not meet environmental, economic (in net terms) or social objectives when the UK should be actively pursuing clean renewable energy sources and new battery storage technologies to meet its international commitments to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and avoid dangerous runaway climate change. The inclusion of shale development or production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Regime would significantly reduce the value and participation of local views in the decision-making process, a move opposed by a range of organisations, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Local Government Association and, it is reasonable to suggest, an overwhelming majority of informed public opinion.*

*Fracking is overwhelmingly unpopular with the British public, with a recent BEIS poll showing support of only 18%:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/702640/Wave_25_Summary_Report.pdf.

Question 3

What (if any) shale gas development should be subject to compulsory community pre-application consultation?

Other criteria or threshold

If, Other criteria or threshold, please specify

All shale gas developments should require a planning application AND an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Public sector equality duty

Question 4

Do you have any views the potential impact of the matters raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010?

No