

Bicester Voice

About The Community We Live In

Fracking: The Truth!

Fracking Comes to Bicester?

Bicester is on the list of areas subject to shale gas (fracking) exploration wells and drilling sites. The Government tells us it will generate 74000 jobs and reduce the cost of our domestic gas. What's the truth? What aren't they telling us?

Jobs for Bicester?

Its own report published in December, the Government casts doubt on the jobs claims. The best case is that 2,880 wells drilled a year from 120 well pad locations at the industry's peak (**that's 24 wells per location!**) will generate 16,000-32,000 direct and indirect jobs in the UK. In the worst case it would be just 2,500-5,000 jobs!



Before



After

(just 1 test well!)

Fracking is an industrial operation which generates large volumes of heavy traffic on local roads! And the local environmental impacts are enormous.

Experts Can't make their minds up about whether a direct link between fracking and earthquakes exists, the recent tremors near Blackpool led to Cuadrilla closing the site down.



Traffic



If potholes are a problem now, what will the roads be like with this amount of heavy traffic?

One (yes - just one) gas well generates 400 to 1,300 heavy truck trips **just to complete it!**

Maintenance will generate even more trips and trucks can weigh 35,000 to 45,000 Kg fully loaded.

Who Benefits?

Not taxpayers or consumers

Road maintenance alone is likely to eat up the promised 1% of revenue and business rates to local authorities.

So what about lower gas and energy prices for us all? That would be great if only we could count on it.

What do the experts say?

"We are part of a well connected European gas market and unless it is a gigantic amount of gas, it is not going to have an impact on price." Lord Browne, Cabinet Office Non-Exec Director (previously CEO of BP)
"North Sea gas didn't significantly move UK prices - so we can't expect UK shale production alone to have any effect...." Ed Davey, Energy Secretary

The Local Environment

Fracking uses lots of water - 10-40M litres for a single well and up to 220,000 litres of chemicals. **Companies don't disclose all or how much, but tests show that many substances - at least the ones we know about - are known to cause serious health problems such as cancer or organ damage.**

When the liquid returns to the surface after fracking, it's typically stored in a lined wastewater pond **like this** for treatment or recycling.

Wastewater Pond



So who will benefit?

Well, as Chairman of fracking drillers Cuadrilla - Lord Browne certainly will!

And the French - Total has snapped up the opportunity to invest in fracking the UK - which is banned in France, so no doubt their profits will be repatriated to France together with their tax revenues, just like our local railway service does for Germany.

Its interesting that our local MP is Deputy Chairman of Woburn Energy plc, whose business is oil and gas exploration with activities in the UK as well as other countries!²

What will it do to house prices?

In the US the impact of fracking has seen property prices falling by up to 24% and in some places by as much as 70%.

And by the way, it can be impossible to get home insurance too!