

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness

looking deeper into shale gas and hydraulic fracturing

Fermanagh Fracking
Awareness Network

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Government backtracks on fracking

The Independent, Sunday 20 May 2012—read full article www.independent.co.uk

Government ministers have now discovered what we in Fermanagh already know – that shale gas will do nothing to solve our energy needs or to reduce our fuel bills. According to the Independent on Sunday,

The Government has rejected shale gas technology as a solution to Britain's energy crisis, conceding it will do little to cut bills or keep the lights on. The Independent on Sunday has learned that industry experts made clear at a meeting attended by senior ministers, including David Cameron and Ed Davey, the Lib Dem energy secretary, that the UK's reserves were smaller than first thought and could be uneconomical to extract. Now senior coalition figures have agreed that shale gas has the potential to be deeply controversial without securing major benefits in lowering carbon emissions or reducing energy costs.

Joss Garman, from Greenpeace, said: "The shale gas bubble has burst. Despite all the hype, even the energy companies now acknowledge shale gas isn't the answer to Britain's energy needs. Ministers are having to face up to the fact that there isn't much of it, it won't bring down bills, and it's damaging to our climate."

The Prime Minister convened the Downing Street summit to hear from companies including Shell, Centrica and Schlumberger, which have been working on shale gas projects in America and exploring the potential of supplies in Ukraine and China.

The ministers were told Britain was not in a position to exploit vast amounts of its own shale gas stores. "The reserves aren't absolutely huge compared with the likes of America, Ukraine and North Africa," said a senior government source. "And we are relatively densely populated. It is a question of how much we can get out, and at what cost. There is a not-insignificant amount of domestic supply, but not a game-changing amount."

Mr Davey now rejects the idea that a rush to bring shale gas online will have the biggest impact on reducing household energy bills. Speaking after the Downing Street meeting, he said industry experts were "clear that it would take time for shale gas to be exploited in the UK" and cautioned that the reserves "are not quite as large as some have been speculating".



Remember this does not mean an end to the plans for fracking in Fermanagh. Licences for gas extraction have already been granted, and unless we speak out and act now, our communities will become test beds for this speculative and damaging industry, regardless of what government policy may be!

MEETINGS

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network supports local groups to become active in their areas and hold meetings in community venues throughout Fermanagh.

**You are invited to a
FFAN networking
meeting on
6 June at 8.30pm in
Belcoo Community
Centre**

**Come along and find
out what is going on
and ask questions**

EVENTS

FFAN will be at the
Forstock Festival
Vances Estate, Clones
on 23 & 24 June
Come and talk to us
and learn more.

If you have any ideas about events that can help create awareness about fracking in Fermanagh or raise money for the campaign please contact Janie—fundraising@frackaware.com

Rocking Against Shale



On Friday 18 May, Charlie's Bar, Enniskillen hosted a rock night in aid of FFAN. The idea for the event arose from a conversation between two local musicians about their concerns about the potential risks of fracking. Kevin McHugh and Martin McNamee

agreed that the best way they could help raise awareness was to organise a gig.

For Martin, a keen fisherman, it was his love of the outdoors and the beauty of the area that spurred him to action. Kevin agreed 'I love where I live and don't want to see it buried under concrete.'

Kevin sings in Setting Off Sirens, who describe themselves as half deaf, middle-aged punks who should and do know better. 'Normally, we don't align ourselves with any organisation,' he says, 'but this is one instance where we feel we need to wear our hearts on our sleeves. This will affect everyone.'

As well as Setting Off Sirens, the audience were treated to the classic rock covers of Martin's band, The Bootleggers and local band Joy of Six, who describe themselves as somewhere between goth, punk, death rock and rockabilly.

Over £500 was raised on the night, which will go towards FFAN's work in raising awareness about fracking. FFAN would like to thank the three bands and in particular Kevin and Martin for their hard work in making the gig a success.

Jessica Ernst: 'No healthy community would allow fracking'

You may remember that in February, FFAN had the pleasure of hosting Jessica Ernst, who travelled to Fermanagh (as well as to counties Leitrim and Sligo) to speak about her personal experience of fracking on her farm in Alberta, Canada. Jessica is forced to source water from elsewhere as her tap water contains explosive levels of methane and is currently taking legal action against the companies responsible.

You can now watch a short video of a recent interview on YouTube via the link on the right. In particular, Jessica speaks of how oil and gas companies



'divide and conquer' communities.

Jessica speaking on the consequences of fracking::

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aU6DJE9h6uc>



FFAN Meets with Minister for Agriculture

Agriculture and Rural Development Minister, Michelle O'Neill met with representatives from FFAN at the end of May.

Speaking after the meeting, Minister O'Neill said: "I welcome this opportunity to meet with the FFAN to hear its views on hydraulic fracturing. There are concerns that hydraulic fracturing may cause water pollution, seismic problems, visual issues, and may have an impact on the agricultural and tourism industries."

"Whilst my Department has no legislative role in the process of approving gas exploration, it would be a consultee in the planning process should any application be made to drill. I believe these concerns would all need to be addressed in the planning process."

"The Network raised with me concerns about the potential impact on rural tourism, the environment and rural communities. I share some of these concerns and these issues need to be seriously considered by all Government Departments."

Representatives from FFAN also hope to meet with Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood, as well as a delegation from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) in the coming weeks.

(original article: from the NI Executive website: http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-dard/news-dard-230512-oneill-meets-with.htm?WT.mc_id=rss-news)

Wanted: Acts for Belfast Not for \$hale Fundraiser

The Green Party have secured Blackbox Arts Centre, Cathedral Quarter, Belfast for an event to raise funds for the anti-fracking campaign on Friday 17th August.

They are now looking for musicians, bands and comedians to volunteer to perform on the night. They also need volunteers to help on the night

selling raffle tickets, covering the door etc. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Mick McEvoy from Belfast Not for \$hale by emailing: mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com

Or visit their Facebook page:



[Belfast Not for \\$hale](#)

Call for Art: The Upset

'The Upset - our awareness and the freedom to express it' is a one-week exhibition taking place in Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim, starting on Saturday 30 June.

The aim of the event is to activate artists across Ireland in a response to environmental concerns including fracking and draw attention to the crossroads we in Ireland and Northern Ireland

are at in regards to our political decisions.

The organisers are currently looking for submissions of art in any medium including visual art, film, poetry, writing, dance / performance or music. The deadline is 15 June. For more information contact:

the_upset_leitrim@hotmail.co.uk



Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network

Get involved...

FFAN is an expanding network of people seeking to find out and share information about shale gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing ('fracking').

You can get involved with FFAN and within your local community...

1. Be FrackAware— read information on www.frackaware.com and have an informed opinion!

2. Tell others – most people in Fermanagh still don't know what's happening or

what it might mean for their daily lives. If you're a member of a community group, church or political party, talk to others about how fracking will affect them. Talk to your friends and family, especially the younger generation, who will have to live with the decisions which are taken now.

3. Talk and write to your elected representatives, especially local councillors and MLA's. Let them know that you care about this issue and that you expect them to do the same.

4. Leaflet and poster your community

5. Contact us to find out who's getting together in your area or to get help in starting your own group.

6. Contact us and find out how you can help the work of FFAN



In the Media...

Fears Mount Over Threat of Fracking—Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/fears-mount-over-threat-of-fracking-16161070.html>

Fracking Fluids Could Contaminate Freshwater Aquifers, Says Study—Truth Out

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/9076-the-potential-for-fracking-fluids-to-reach-freshwater-aquifers#.T7e7qHhlnCQ.facebook>

Fracking Could Hit Fermanagh's Fish Stocks—Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/fracking-Isquocould-hit-fermanaghs-fish-stocksrsquo-16156066.html>

Vermont First State to Ban Fracking—CNN

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/17/us/vermont-fracking/index.html>

CONTACT FFAN

To get in touch with us, find out more or ask a question please use the following email contacts:

Carroll O'Dolan – chair – chair@frackaware.com

Janie Crone – fundraising coordinator – fundraising@frackaware.com

Bridie Sweeney – community engagement coordinator – community@frackaware.com

Fiona Leary – press & public relations officer – pr@frackaware.com

Marius Leonard – tourism coordinator – tourism@frackaware.com

Tanya Jones – website editor and legal coordinator – web@frackaware.com

and for other enquiries please use info@frackaware.com

Website: www.frackaware.com

Petition: <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/northern-ireland-no-fracking-required-here.html>



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NEWSLETTER CONTACT

To receive a copy of this newsletter or to contribute information for the next issue, please contact the editors Fiona and Janie on pr@frackaware.com