

I am writing to inform local councillors about the government proposal that would allow exploratory drilling for shale gas to be considered as permitted development.

If passed, this would mean that an exploratory pad would not need planning permission. County councillors, town and parish councillors and the local community would have no say in the development. Our democratic right to oppose this through planning would not be taken into consideration.

The government also propose that fracking in England should be treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

This would mean that our future would be decided by a government appointed planning inspector and not a local planning officer.

I feel that both of these decisions should be made locally by councillors who know the area, have been voted in as our elected representatives and have *our* interests and futures at heart.

Ways councillors can act:

1. Follow this link to sign the letter: <https://gofossilfree.org/uk/let-communities-decide-letter/>
2. Write to the following ministers, raising your concerns and asking for the proposals to change permitted development to be withdrawn:
3. Claire Perry, Minister of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, House of Commons, Westminster LONDON SW1A 0AA.  
James Brokenshire, Secretary of State, Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government, House of Commons, Westminster LONDON SW1A 0AA.
4. Send a submission to the Government's consultation, which is live from now until 25th October 2018. Raise the issue in the local media by, for example, sending a press release.

Please find enclosed a leaflet with more information. I hope that you will contact the relevant ministers to voice your concerns; otherwise the democratic right to be heard will no longer exist. The government has not been successful in persuading local communities to accept fracking and is now resorting to legislation to force this upon us.

Frack Free Helmsley/Kirkbymoorside