

Let Communities Decide

Template Local Press Release

- Add in the details of your action to the template by filling in the blanks and editing to add local information - the more relevant you can make it to your area, the better
- It's important to provide a photo for local press stories - make sure to let journalists know where to find one from your event
- When sending the release to local press, copy+paste the press release into the email body, do not send as an attachment
- Remember to check out the [Local Media Guide](#) for further advice and support and email sebastian.kelly@350.org.

For immediate release, **<date of event>**

Contact: <name, email, phone number>

<PLACE> RESIDENTS CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO DROP FRACKING PROPOSALS

<Group name / 'Local residents'> joined a national week of action, calling on to government to scrap their plans to fast-track fracking under new planning proposals.

<Your location>, UK -- Local residents joined campaigners in <event location> as part of a national week of action challenging recent government fracking proposals [1]. <Add details of your event including what you did, number of people, any interesting details e.g. props>.

The government is consulting on proposals to classify exploratory shale drilling as “permitted development”, a planning category originally designed for sheds and minor home improvements. If changes went ahead, fracking companies could start drilling across England without any local planning applications, threatening community involvement in decision-making.

<First spokesperson name> from <group name> said:

“We’re here today to stand against the government’s outrageous plans. If they go ahead, whole swathes of England could be opened up to fracking development.

“Fracking is unpopular, and risky – these planning proposals are a last ditch attempt to kickstart the industry, and communities like ours will pay the price. We don’t need fracking, here or anywhere.”

The proposals have widespread cross-party opposition, including around 20 Conservative MPs who are prepared to “destroy the government’s majority” if ministers seek to push the proposal through parliament [2]. Hundreds of councillors have signed an open letter opposing proposals [3].

<Insert second spokesperson here, e.g. a supportive councillor> commented:

“The government’s proposals fly in the face of local democracy, and threaten to slash community involvement in decision-making about fracking.

Local councils are the ones who have to deal with the consequences of fracking – they are best placed to make informed decisions on planning. We’re calling on the government to listen to communities like ours, and drop these proposals.”

Fracking has been banned or put on hold in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Currently, over 17 thousand square kilometres of England are covered by oil and gas exploration licences, and if we were to see a fully-fledged fracking industry, it could mean drilling over 6000 wells in just 15 years - more than one every day [4].

##

CONTACT: <name, email, phone number>. For national enquiries: anna.vickerstaff@350.org.

NOTES:

1. More on the Week of Action: www.letcommunitiesdecide.org
2. See coverage in the Financial Times: www.ft.com/content/e8a31424-ba5f-11e8-8274-55b72926558f
3. The full list of signatories will be published soon, see the text here: www.gofossilfree.org/uk/let-communities-decide-letter
4. See the Friends of the Earth report: www.friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change/how-many-fracking-wells-halve-uk-gas-impacts