



PROPOSED OIL DRILLING CONSULTATION

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 64/19

10 AUGUST 2020

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members if they wish to contribute to the current consultation on the proposed drilling for oil in the Arreton area.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

The Mayor has been contacted by Sylvia May of the Don't Drill the Isle of Wight Campaign in a letter sent to all the Chairs of the Island's Town and Parish Councils.

A copy of the correspondence is attached to this Report.

The Mayor will introduce this item.

2) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider a response to the Consultation.

From: [Stewart Blackmore](#)
To: [David Bartlett](#)
Subject: FW: Public Consultation- URGENT
Date: 27 July 2020 15:01:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

David could this application be put on the Agenda for August's Full Council?

Reference 20/00513/FUL

Best,

Stewart

Cllr. Stewart Blackmore
Town Mayor | Ventnor East Ward



Salisbury Gardens
Ventnor
Isle of Wight
PO38 1EJ

📞 **07591 402211**

From: Sylvia May - Don't Drill The Wight [<mailto:sylvia@frackfreeisleofwight.org>]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Stewart Blackmore
Subject: Re: Public Consultation- URGENT

Dear Stewart,

We are now aware that the planning portal will remain open for comments until the application is submitted to the MPA which, in all likelihood will not be until at least September. Therefore it would be possible for you to discuss this at your full council on August 10th if you were so inclined to do so.

Kind regards

Sylvia

On 19/07/2020 16:07, Stewart Blackmore wrote:

Hi Sylvia,

Many thanks for your email.

On a personal note I share your concerns and would not like drilling in any form to take place anywhere on the Island.

Unfortunately the next meeting of the full council will not now take place until 10th August which will be too late for the Council to make its views known.

However I will forward your email to all members of VTC and encourage them to register any objections (if any) that they might have before the deadline.

Best,

Stewart

Cllr. Stewart Blackmore

Town Mayor | Ventnor East Ward



Salisbury Gardens

Ventnor

Isle of Wight

PO38 1EJ

From: Sylvia May - Don't Drill The Wight [<mailto:sylvia@frackfreeisleofwight.org>]

Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:16 PM

To: Stewart Blackmore

Subject: Public Consultation- URGENT

Dear Mayor Blackmore,

Forgive me writing to you directly but I wish to bring your attention to a matter of extreme urgency for the island.

You must be aware of the intention of UK Oil & Gas to drill two oil wells at Arreton. The Public consultation period has been open for 4 weeks and closes on **Friday 24th July**.

Ref application no: 20/00513/FUL

We are concerned that so many parish and town councils have made no response at all to this application, given that it is probably the most significant threat to our island since the proposed nuclear power station at Newchurch so many decades ago!

Objections have already been received from Arreton Parish Council and Bob Seely MP.

Therefore I am writing to the chairs of all other parish and town councils on behalf of the Don't Drill The Wight Campaign and members of the public, both resident on the island and regular tourists and visitors, who have already sent in their objections to the planning officers.

Concerns are many about the way this industry functions, the impact on our island environment, our economy and eco- tourism, our biosphere status, the biodiversity and planned enhancement of green spaces, our island's agreed plan to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to develop alternative energy source production. The damage and risk of accidents from increased HGV traffic to our country roads, subsurface infrastructures and possible pollution of our surface and aquifer water supplies is of major significance.

But there are myriad other reasons to oppose the creep of back to back wells and the industrialisation of our island.

If this oilwell application is permitted it will be impossible to refuse a series of further applications for wellsites across the entire Southern and Eastern half of the island that is currently under licence, starting with an identified wellsite at Godshill.

We are concerned that so many parish and town councils have made no response to this application, given that it is probably the most significant threat to our island since the proposed nuclear power station at Newchurch so many decades ago!

I would please ask that you can discuss this application as a matter of urgency with your council members and frame an objection to this application as soon as possible since the deadline is so close.

You can find information, facts and 3 online presentations about this application and the applicants at www.dontdrillthewight.co.uk

I have also attached copies of my personal objection and that of the committee of Frack Free Isle of Wight for your perusal.

If I can be of any further assistance I am happy to speak with you directly and offer support in any way possible.

Please notify me of receipt of this email.

Thank you

Sylvia May MBE