Notes from meeting for residents of Kirby Misperton, Great Habton, Great Barugh and Little Barugh, held Friday 23rd January, 2015, 6pm.

**John Dewars presentation:**

48 wells frack at shallow depth extant.

Current water abstraction policy is being reviewed. Where it comes from, where it is disposed of etc.

35 years experience of drilling. (How many of fracking?) “Honesty, integrity and respect for both people and the environment”.

“We do not lie”.

“How we can conduct this job safely and cleanly”. No one has been upset by our operations in the last 20 years. (Actually this is not true, there was an incident a few years ago when residents experienced an awful smell and, on ringing RDC I was given a phone number of a top person who admitted a mistake had been made. We have also been disturbed at night by light and noise.)

Wells are well screened; no one knows where they are. There are two deep wells, KM1, KM8.

The company is being faced with a change of direction.

KM8 requires fracking to release the gas.

**On the geology** of the site: KM8 has tight sandstone, tight siltstones and one shale that is highly frackable. Frack takes 6 weeks before the gas is extracted.

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**Water and truck movements**; water is coming from Knapton generating station. (But he didn’t say where the water was actually coming from)!

On water as a resource: water shortage is “not something I associate with N. Yorks” In the event of drought, sea water would be used but this would add problems of tankers and fuel use.

**On aquifer protection,** the scale of the graphic used was not helpful. I pointed out that it didn’t matter what the scale was to show the depth, because if the aquifer was breached, the possibility that clean water becoming polluted is ever present.

There will be no truck movements regarding water: “might be a little question mark there”. A small quantity of water will be trucked.

“I’ve never heard of Yorwaste”.

“There is no point in sending waste off site. I want to know where it’s going”. There was a bit of confusion regarding normal waste and waste water at this point and I don’t think there was a satisfactory answer given.

**Chemicals:** “The chemicals we are using are non-hazardous”

**Expected radiation:** equivalent to one x-ray at a dentists. (But we don’t constantly have x-rays do we? This is a silly comparison in my opinion).

There is a published list of chemicals, of which I have a copy, although how do we know that this is a comprehensive list of the actual ones to be used?

“Trust me” (again!)

**On earthquakes:** the one in Lancashire was a mistake. “I can’t see it happening again. Tremors happen all the time.”

The limit set for TE, KM8 is .5, anything above which they will be asked to stop. However, who will be doing the monitoring?

Durham (university) found no evidence of earthquake and risk of well integrity.

**On disruption to local infrastructure and local people;** once equipment is on site, there will be no further movement.??? We have drilled the well already with more trucks than we need to use now???

**Noise:** 93db’s around the pumps, equivalent to a disco. 83db’s at perimeter. “We have some work to do to lower sound levels to 55DBA, which is disappointing, but it is engineerable.

**On air quality and fugitive emissions:** fugitive emissions are more akin to what’s happening in America. As for gas detectors, why would we want to vent gas? Gas is our product.

There will be no flaring during the test.

**On the environment and wildlife:** “sites as far as I know have not interfered with local environment and wildlife”

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**Questions from the floor**

Q Anne M: Waste water, pipes at a depth of 1.5 – 2 meters, they can burst. What are TE doing to monitor? The well is at a depth of 10,000 feet. What is going to happen to waste water products and general waste? The rig is 100feet high, is this correct? Horizontal sections how long?

A: a leak is the last thing we want in our pipeline. Plans are in with council to collect conventional (waste? Gas?) Multi-wells – not going to happen here. Length of horizontal sections: “I don’t know”.

Q Radius from your site? No real answer

Q Landowner contacts made, why?

A For baseline water and seismic monitoring. 8 locations in and around the area. New sites for the future.

Q How many tankers will be driving through the village? What are you going to do to make the village safe for us to walk our children to the nursery?

A “We will involve the local communities, we will not just talk to the council”.

Statement: this (fracking) will bring prosperity to the area, to jeers from the audience. No waste plan has been finalised and no traffic plan has been finalised.

Gas will be extracted in a 1 mile radius. Q How far from the well head will the next rig be? NO ANSWER.

Q regarding the filling of expired mines with waste water.

A I can’t think of anything worse, there are very strict regulations here.

Q Baseline monitoring of closed wells?

A Monitoring is ongoing once the land has been vacated. “Being an engineer, I believe there’s a solution to everything”.

Q TTIP

A Regulations in this country are set here.

No reference here to self-regulation.

Q Chemicals

A Work with industry. TE submits list to EA for non-hazardous approval.

Then, “what is this about fracking?” in exasperation to audience, as if fracking was exactly the same as conventional gas extraction.

Q Monitoring and self-regulation

A “we decide contracts”, “we screen the people who tender”. On Halliburton; they will operate to the lowest standards, therefor, if we lower our standards, they will lower theirs.

Q Who or how will seismic activity be monitored.

A Undertaken by (and here I didn’t catch the name but it sounded like Gooralp!)

Again we were told to “trust me”, there were a lot of “no’s” in response.

Q Liability; NFU’s response

A “New information for me” Re: Infrastructure bill and responsibility, the point was made from the floor that ultimately as always the government is responsible, which means that tax payers will foot bills.

Q how many wells in the area will there be? How many other sites?

A 20? I’m sure I heard 20

NB: The general consensus was that none of the questions were answered with conviction or adequately.