

SCC UKOG meeting - Sarah

DUNSFOLD is a beautiful village situated in the Surrey Hills Area of Great Landscape Value and closely linked with the nearby AONB. It's a rural environment with unspoilt amenities, just 1600 metres west of the proposed drill site. I have lived here for 27 years, it's a special place and I feel lucky call it home.

In the Officers report of the 623 representations sent in, 521 are against the UKOG proposal – that's a convincing 84%. Local parish councils and WBC also object.

In 2019 Surrey declared a Climate Emergency and now has a Climate Change Strategy, from which I address 3 relevant ambitions–

1. *Residents live in clean, safe and green communities*

Dunsfold is at present clean, safe and green BUT this will be lost if UKOG gets the green light. There will be significant negative impact on nearby footpaths, bridleway and the landscape –the drill site, access road, security lights and fencing – all a visible SCAR.

We have a real THREAT of pollution – noise, light, air, water, noxious gas

2. *Journeys across the county are easier, more predictable and safer.*

The access route proposed at Pratts Corner is causing serious concern, being as it is a 4-way junction on dangerous blind bend. The recently revised (BUT still unclear) UKOG Traffic Management Plan has not allayed fears on highway safety.

Delays are inevitable and smaller side roads will become rat runs, already over-burdened and in poor condition.

3. *Businesses in Surrey thrive.*

This application is for a 3 year 'small & temporary' exploratory licence. But the predictable, IMMEDIATE & largely irreversible impact is such that it will be at a huge cost to our local economy and lifestyle.

This proposal offers neither short nor longer term economic benefit to the local community.

In summary - Dunsfold is faced with

- losing a rare area of unspoilt, peaceful countryside & its amenities
- negative impact on wildlife, flora and fauna
- increased HGV traffic on local roads
- negative financial impact on local businesses and residential properties, especially those listed and in close proximity

The Covid19 pandemic is accelerating major shifts in public thinking & there is an evident appetite for change; the oil industry is being hammered by rapidly evolving green energy alternatives.

What is needed now is innovative thinking and leadership to achieve environmental goals, here in Surrey and nationally.

I ask you now, on the balance of what you will hear –

is such a speculative, insignificant but potentially damaging drilling operation justifiable or appropriate in 2020?

Give our communities here in SW Surrey the GREEN light
and give UKOG the RED light.

THANK YOU