

## ASHLEY HERMAN SUBMISSION TO SCC

18 months ago, Brian Alexander, UKOG's PR Executive, told me that they chose this site because it is "in the middle of nowhere."

It isn't. It lies within the heart of a community. Three farms, two Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller settlements, comprising 85 homes and whose voices have long been ignored in this matter.

360 of us living within 500 metres of the site.

My home, Thatched House Farm, is only 230 metres away.

Like High Billingham, we have established Farm Diversification projects.

In addition to keeping livestock, we established the Trew Fields Cancer Awareness Festival, which attracts 1000 people annually, and is attended by health professionals, NHS Practitioners, Cancer sufferers, and their families. Hundreds more come to our follow-up events and retreats throughout the year

Its campsite is just 100 metres from UKOG's proposed oil and gas well.

Our brewery, The Crafty Brewing Co. makes award winning beers, supplying local pubs, restaurants, Surrey Search and Rescue supporters, military regiments, and on-line customers.

We employ 12 full time and 42 part-time people. All local.

Trew Fields introduces £177,000 to the local economy. The brewery has sales approaching £1m.

We have diversified, creating employment, whilst retaining agricultural and artisan usage and are in compliance with Saved Policy R D 8, which states that "*Farm Diversification must not have an adverse effect on the character and amenity of the area*"

COVID may have damaged us but hydrocarbon drilling, in the field next to us, would be the final straw.

Trew Fields will become untenable and Crafty's Summer evening events will become less attractive.

And who can say with any certainty that the fresh-water borehole that we need to drill, our wells and ponds will not be at risk from contamination?

That we won't be subjected to noise and odour from the hydrocarbon well site?

The NPPF requires the weighing of "National economic benefit" against "local harm".

And, even if need **had** been demonstrated, the Surrey Minerals Plan, (MC 14), advises that

*“if there are significant adverse impacts of mineral development on communities and the environment, permission should be refused”.*

The Officers may recommend consent, but you have the right to differ. And, fear of an appeal is not a valid reason not to do so.

The NPPF and Minerals Plan frameworks, both provide valid, legal reasons for refusal and I would ask you to engage these

Consent to this Hydrocarbon well site and Tom's and my rural businesses, with a combined contribution of £4.5m to the local economy each year, will be crippled.