

**MINERALS AND WASTE APPLICATION WA/2019/0796 - LOXLEY WELL SITE - LAND SOUTH OF DUNSFOLD ROAD AND EAST OF HIGH LOXLEY ROAD, DUNSFOLD, SURREY**

**ASHLEY WARD PRESENTATION**

Thank-you Mr Chairman and Members of the Planning Committee.

I am Ashley Ward, my family owns Farmers Direct Ltd and we farm at High Loxley along with other land in and around Dunsfold. Also, I own the land at the proposed well site.

We farm a lot of livestock and produce high quality beef and lambs which sell to a wide range of customers throughout the UK.

We are committed to Higher Tier stewardship with Natural England, enhancing the soil and biodiversity. I have Environmental Qualifications and 4 generations of my family have farmed here for over 100 years.

**I consider we are a cornerstone of the rural economy.**

Farming is challenged by Brexit and cheap food from anywhere in the world. It is also at the front edge of carbon management as we move forward to a low carbon future. Initiatives here on our farm, including the planting and management of miles of hedges and new trees are already helping to store carbon. Furthermore, our methods to increasing soil organic matter can directly equate to carbon sequestration into the soil.

**UK Farming is acting on climate change and delivering our food security**

UK Oil and Gas companies, embracing a hydrogen future and carbon capture storage will also be part of the solution in winning against climate change. We should be encouraging UKOG for their role in energy security and addressing a transition to a low carbon future alongside British farmers.

The roads to High Loxley are perfectly suitable for HGV's. I know this because the animals that go in and out of my farm do so on HGVs. The largest of which are as big as any vehicle legally permitted on our roads. Large HGVs come and go to my farm easily, without adverse effects on free flow or safety.

**Our roads are suitable and it would be un-reasonable to claim otherwise.**

This site is not going to destroy local businesses as some claim. I have worked with UKOG for over 3 years and they have been very good neighbours. They are supporting my business and our environment, this at the forefront of their agreement with me and this proposal. No other diversification on my land has the potential to bring so much investment and expenditure into the area.

Furthermore, just south of here is Pulborough Rugby club, the beautiful club house hosts hundreds of events and it's a great place to have a beer. Interestingly, about 100m from the club house is Storrington oil and gas well site. It's been there for about 30 years, pretty well un-noticed.

**So, I say to my neighbours and other businesses, I'm pretty clear that UKOG do not pose the threats that you claim.**

UKOG's application has complied with every aspect of planning and regulation. This proposal is a credit to their management and their professional team. SCC's own team of professionals recommend approval with good reason.

Chairman and members this application should be approved and I encourage you to approve it... here today  
Thank you.

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