

Matter 3 Written Statement – Matter 3 Policy MP12

Teversal, Skegby and Stanton Hill Neighbourhood Forum (8102)

The Department for Local Communities and Government (DCLG) has revised the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) following a ruling by Mr Justice Dove in the case brought before the high court: Claire Stephenson [for Talk Fracking] v Secretary of State for Housing and Communities and Local Government. The revision of the NPPF is by way of removal of clause 209a (see below for original text).

Minerals planning authorities should:

a) recognise the benefits of on-shore oil and gas development, including unconventional hydrocarbons, for the security of energy supplies and supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy; and put in place policies to facilitate their exploration and extraction.”

Clause 209a was deemed to be unlawful in as much as it did not take into consideration the scientific and technical evidence presented to DCLG during the consultation and therefore failed in its due process. It proves that the government of the day, and local authorities, need to consider the impacts of fracking activities and in particular, when it comes to climate change, the requirements within the Climate Change Act 2008 and its amendments.

Our Neighbourhood Forum, like many councils, is committed to our Climate Emergency motions and setting targets for Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions, and the government now has set net-zero CO₂e targets, so any fracking proposals should be considered in light of these commitments.

Given all the developments being considered in the minerals planning process and particularly for local plans, it is important that a due process to this end is effective and carefully followed. ***We therefore believe that consideration of GHG emissions reductions should be at the heart of all the plans and activities of Nottinghamshire County Council, including the formation of the Minerals Plan.***

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Jenkins, Co-Chair