

Springs Road update - December 2020

The planning consent granted to iGas for their temporary exploratory development at Springs Road comprised a number of distinct phases culminating in the restoration of the site back to its original condition before the end of November 2020.

After drilling the first vertical well during early 2019 and extracting core samples for evaluation, the drilling equipment was dismantled and removed from the site without them taking the opportunity to drill the second horizontal well. The well they had drilled was then capped and the well cellar was effectively sealed by placing shipping containers over the top.

Apart from a number of inspection visits undertaken by both iGas and Nottinghamshire County Council officers during the intervening period there has been no further activity since then so the site has effectively lain dormant.

As the deadline for restoration approached, iGas convened a meeting of the Springs Road Community Liaison Group on Thursday 05 November 2020 and declared their intention to seek a three year extension to the Restoration Phase of the Planning Permission. They also stated that they were not intending to drill the second horizontal well for which permission had already been granted.

They said, however, that the evaluation of the cores taken from the first well indicated the presence of 'world class' reserves of gas which they would seek to exploit in future if and when the current government moratorium on fracking for shale gas is lifted.

They would first need to apply for, and be granted, Planning Permission to carry out any future development but stated their intention to do this irrespective of the outcome of this application to extend the current permission.

Nottinghamshire County Council has now published the application and is inviting anybody who has an interest in the matter to submit a consultation response before 31st January 2021. A Parish Council response is currently being prepared for consideration at the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 6th January after which time the finalised version will be published.

Peter Edwards

Misson Parish Councillor & Chair of the Springs Road Community Liaison Group