BURNISTON PARISH COUNCIL
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Europa Oil and Gas Ltd planning application, ref NY/2025/0030/ENV, notification to appeal position statement.

Joint position statement from –

Cllr. Richard Parsons, chair, Burniston Parish Council on behalf of Burniston Parish Council.

Cllr. Derek Bastiman, North Yorkshire Council Councillor for Scalby and the Coast.

We are very aware of the growing publicity around what may be an attempt by Europa Oil and gas Ltd, to appeal against a planning decision that went against their application for a hydraulic fracturing (fracking or proppant squeeze) based gas drill, sited at Mill Yard Burniston, when heard by the North Yorkshire Council strategic planning committee six months ago.

We have been notified, in what appears to be a rather unconventional manner, by Europa Oil and Gas Ltd they intend to appeal the planning decision. No formal notice appears to have been received, just a laminated card attached to a public noticeboard in Burniston Village, by Europa Oil and Gas Ltd informing of the appeal and requiring 'representations about this appeal' by November 25th 2026.

The North Yorkshire Council Strategic Planning Committee, held on the 24th April 2026, refused the application on 5 grounds –

1. Heritage Coast and Landscape Harm
   The height, siting and lighting of the drilling and workover rigs is considered to be a form of major development incompatible with the special character and conservation objectives of the Heritage Coast.
2. Proximity to Residential Receptors and Amenity Impact

The proposed periods of 24-hour operations, illuminated infrastructure, vibration, air quality, HGV traffic, and associated noise and disturbance would give rise to cumulative harm to public health and residential amenity for properties within 500 metres of site of the proposed development.

3. Harm to the Setting of the North York Moors National Park
   The height, siting and lighting of the drilling and workover rigs would harm views to and from and the setting of the North York Moors National Park.
4. Impact on tourist impact and lack of economic gain
   It has not been demonstrated that the potential economic impacts on the visitor economy are outweighed by any potential economic gains arising from the proposal.
5. Conflict with Council Climate Commitments / Sustainability Objectives
   The proposal conflicts with the national and local climate change commitments, including the Council's adopted climate objectives, and fails to demonstrate that identified short term benefits outweigh the longer-term implications for climate change mitigation through the unquantified releases of greenhouse gases, including methane and carbon dioxide.

The refusal was clear and absolute. Noone, including Europa Oil and Gas ltd, were left in any doubt as to why the application was refused.

The refusal decision was reached after over 1600 objections from members of our community and the wider community were received by North Yorkshire Council. The objections to this application were overwhelming and were clearly listened to by the Planning Committee. The words that were submitted were clear, they were accurate and they were precise. Many mistakes and missing information in the application were exposed. The planning committee listened, understood and delivered their decision in the most decisive manner.

Although the intention to appeal comes as no surprise, we are somewhat concerned that EOG have not listened in any way to the serious concerns that over 1600 people expressed during the planning process.

If it is possible to find a suitable, safe place for fracking and the underground dumping of chemicals, so close to where people live, we would be very surprised. We can say with great certainty, it is not here.

Cllr. Bastiman, myself and Burniston Parish Council stand absolutely alongside our community as a whole. We will continue to ensure that the voices of our communities are heard. We will continue to represent those voices. We listen to, understand and agree with the views of our community and the wider community. They reject the application in its entirety for all the right reasons.

Nothing has changed, the refused application is still the same, the grounds for refusal remain as valid today, as they were six months ago. We expect the planning inspector, even if the request to hear this appeal is granted, to support the decision of the planning committee.

The application was for a fracking process that has been shown to be far from safe. This is the wrong project, at the wrong time, in the wrong place.

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