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Press Release

DEFEND LYTHAM REDUX!

Defend Lytham launched a campaign, calling for a moratorium on fracking in the local area, in Lytham Square on Saturday, 18th May at 12pm.

Defend Lytham spokesperson Mike Hill said “Even before the launch the support has been fantastic. We have already had people offering donations and asking to sign our petition. There is clearly a great deal of concern amongst local residents about fracking and its potential impact on Lytham St.Annes and the surrounding areas.” He continued “As a group we intend to raise the issues that will affect us all locally - the truck movements, the flares, the noise, the air pollution, the potential health risks and the very real dangers of environmental pollution and land contamination. This is not just a local issue though - decisions which are taken here will have an impact when fracking is being considered all over the country. Lytham St Annes and Lancashire are at the front line of a battle, which will be fought across the U.K. over the coming years and we must ensure that issues of national and global significance like energy policy and climate change are taken into account as well.

The existence of an entirely self-regulatory system, which allows the industry to decide just what is acceptable, shows that the authorities have learnt no lessons at all from recent regulatory failures in other sectors such as finance, health and food standards. It's a broken model and clearly not fit for purpose. If we look at the two key government bodies charged with protecting us, we can see that one has been scrapped - the OSD (part of the Health and Safety Executive) - and the other, the Environment Agency, are refusing to inform the public on just how, where and by whom the radioactive waste material (flowback) from fracking will be treated and disposed of, because it would be commercially sensitive to companies involved! Just who is protecting whom here? The people of the Fylde Coast are left completely unprotected. That has to change. Instead of safety we are being asked to take bribes. We are being told stories about jobs and cheap gas. This is giving people false hope and that does not stand up to the briefest of examination.

Mike concluded "We will be calling on our elected representatives - Mark Menzies, our newly elected County Councillors and our Fylde borough councillors - to stand up and be counted. Their support is needed here and they must show us that they are properly addressing these issues on our behalf. Fracking is here on the Fylde. It is not being effectively regulated, we are not being properly consulted, and there are many outstanding questions about its safety. There are many questions which need to be answered and Defend Lytham will be asking them very publicly over the coming months."

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