



Email Address : admin@defendlytham.com
Web site address: www.defendlytham.com

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Press Release

Defend Lytham Condemns United Utilities For Considering Leasing Land For Fracking

Residents group Defend Lytham has condemned Northern England's main water supplier United Utilities for entering discussions with fracking firm Cuadrilla to use their land for shale gas exploration and development.

United Utilities own some 141,000 acres in the north of England, in Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and the Peak District. This includes some of England's most scenic countryside.

Defend Lytham spokesperson Trina Froud was scathing about the suggestion that United Utilities should even consider allowing its land to be used for fracking.

“At a time when Water UK, the supplier group of which the company is a member, has stated concerns about how fracking may pollute the water supply, it is unthinkable that United Utilities should become involved in fracking for financial gain. United Utilities has one single priority, and that is delivering safe, clean drinking water to its domestic customers.”

Water UK has confirmed fears that the huge volumes of water required for fracking would place strain on supplies in fracking areas. Defend Lytham believe that water is a very valuable resource and should be used with great care.

Defend Lytham are concerned about disposal of the water after it has been used to fracture a well. Environment Agency analysis of flowback from the Preese Hall well showed that the fluid returning to the surface was contaminated with heavy metals and radioactive material and we understand that United Utilities is reluctant to accept any more flowback for disposal.

United Utilities is currently carrying out a consultation on its water management plan covering the next 25 years. Defend Lytham urges all United's customers to tell them that their priority is providing clean and safe water. This means there should be no fracking on land near any water sources, be they rivers, reservoirs or groundwater aquifers.

Ends

Contact Trina Froud 07907 893839 for further information