

Canonbie Residents Against Coal Developments : Issue 1

The Truth about Canonbie Proposals:

FACT: DART Energy/Bucleuch Estates have full Planning Consent to extract coalbed Methane Gas at more than 20 Sites around Canonbie & Rowanburn (See **Map** overleaf), many within 300metres of homes.

FACT: Most local people were **NOT** aware of the nature or scale of the project, of the potential impact of being at the centre of an industrial gas field, or of the fact that Dart have “fracking” licences. The map provided by Dart at the time of their Canonbie “Public Exhibition” showed only 4 pilot test well sites.

FACT: At the same time as promoting gas field drilling, and opencast mining proposals at Canonbie, Bucleuch are opposing a wind farm proposal at Hermitage, describing it as “environmental vandalism”!

Over 180 local residents have attended two public meetings in Canonbie about the coal developments, and there was virtually **unanimous opposition to both the cbm gas drilling and the opencast proposals**. Opinion was divided on the drift mine.

FACT: At the Public meeting of 20th August, Bucleuch gave assurances to 100+ local residents that “**Bucleuch would not allow Fracking or Flaring at Canonbie**” (Burning off of gases via a chimney stack)

FACT: Douglas Bain, UK Manager Dart Energy, subsequently confirmed: “there will be a flare stack at the 'centralised gas delivery and water treatment centre” (See Map for details)

FACT: If Bucleuch are, as they claim, willing to LISTEN to the local Community, they should be clear that a majority of **the community at Canonbie strongly opposes these developments**.

FACT: An identical proposal by Dart, at Falkirk, was considered by the local authorities to be too complex for local consideration The Scottish Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals confirmed that the development “**comprises Complicated technical information that will require to be tested by cross examination**” via a Public Inquiry.

FACT: In D&G, the Canonbie proposals were decided by local planning officials under “delegated powers”, which means they were never debated or voted on by the local Councillors we vote for, who are supposed to protect our interests.

Two local MSPs have now called on the Scottish Government to impose a moratorium on drilling at Canonbie

FACT: Each of the Canonbie sites will be connected by a network of pipelines to a central point, for processing, - this does not even require planning permission!

FACTS: (From DARTs own information) At **each** site, preparation will take **up to six weeks, (6am-6pm)**, involve removal of topsoil, then **400 lorryloads of hardcore, (16,000 lorry trips for 20 sites)**

then many lorryloads of concrete, transporters to bring in tanks, pipes, equipment, then up to 9 Portacabins, and other materials, before a Drill Rig is brought on site by specialist transport.

After that, **drilling, at each site for up to six weeks will continue 24 hours a day, seven days a week** with associated noise/ light pollution, as well as heavy traffic. Each well may have multiple boreholes and

DART claim there will be no cumulative effect. As site preparation and drilling at each site will last at least 3 to 4 months, even without delays we will endure almost **FIVE YEARS of continuous and disruptive** heavy industrial activity, and of course there are hundreds of thousands of litres of “produced”(toxic) water that needs to be collected, stored, then removed from sites and discharged – somewhere.....

IN BRIEF

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Planning frameworks, and local democracy have failed to protect Canonbie.

BUT, if they wanted to, **Bucleuch could stop this NOW**.

If we want to oppose this, we need to **act now** to make our views known.

Offers of support/ assistance:

To join circulation list:

Contact:

bill@byreburnfoot.co.uk

DART Shares temporarily suspended. Refinancing package announced 4/9/13

Canonbie Community Council meets 2nd Thursday of every month at Canonbie Village Hall

Both Joan McAlpine MSP, and Elaine Murray MSP have now lobbied the Scottish Government for a moratorium on further drilling at Canonbie, until the Falkirk Public Inquiry reports.

More Information?

To follow the Falkirk community opposition to Dart's coalbed methane proposals Go to www.faug.org.uk

To learn more about potential health impacts of CBM, go to: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/agenda-unconventional-gas-extraction-and-public-health.21173277>

Rejection of “cheap energy” claims.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/baseless-economics-lord-stern-on-david-camerons-claims-that-a-uk-fracking-boom-can-bring-down-price-of-gas-8796758.html>