

Mr Barry Lewis
Leader
Derbyshire County Council

Without prejudice

Dear Mr Lewis,

I am extremely concerned about the arrival of INEOS in our locality. At first I did not know the vehicles were from INEOS as the vehicles displayed signs stating HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE and did not display INEOS anywhere. The vehicles however became so numerous that I realised it was something other than roadworks as there were no signs of roadworks taking place and the vehicles were seen in fields. On relaying this to others I then found these people are from INEOS, indeed I later saw them in a field on the outskirts of Clowne wearing INEOS high viz jackets.

I have been told that Derbyshire County Council knew this was going to happen and had meetings to which the public were not invited to take part in or voice their opinions. Is this the truth? Surely, I have been misinformed, why would our representatives take such an un democratic stance on such a serious issue?

I have taken the issue of fracking to heart, researched the implications of allowing fracking in highly populated areas and read reports from all over the world, both for and against, only to find myself in a state of disbelief that anyone could seriously think this is a good idea. I have also found documents clearly stating that INEOS have no experience of fracking and wish to use the shale gas they hope to find to make yet more plastic products in factories owned by INEOS. I was under the impression that we had, as a nation, taken the decision to use less plastics in light of the reports of the environmental destruction they are known to cause, indeed the 5p charge on carrier bags was introduced solely to try and make a start to reduce plastic consumption and has proved highly successful with a fall of 85% in plastic carrier bag usage.

I am also extremely worried about the effects on human beings of this process, not a single one of the reports I have read has said there will be no health threats to the local population, the overwhelming evidence from across the world is that our health and wellbeing will suffer detrimentally, as will the environment. It is noted in the reports I have read that children and foetuses are particularly vulnerable, though no one seems to be immune to the health risks.

The environmental damage is also noted as profound and irreversible, indeed many countries and many states in the USA are turning from fracking as being a costly failure in the terms of human and environmental damage.

With all this evidence clearly available and easily accessible why has the council decided to go along with this, and without the need to discuss it with those of us who will suffer for this? Are you certain that you will not one day be forced to the realisation that you have made a mistake here, like the councillors who refused to listen to and act upon the fears of the tenants of the Grenfell Tower disaster, will you one day be burdened forever with the lifelong guilt that you, who was in a position of trust and should have known better, were responsible for the inevitable catastrophe that is waiting to happen. Hindsight is a wonderful thing that none of us possess, best to err on the side of caution, protect those you swore to protect on that day, the best day of your life you said, when you accepted the position you now hold.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Name
Address