

Scarborough Insider

Burniston Gas Rig Meeting May Need a Bigger Room 

This decision is clearly not going to slip through quietly.

Plans for a public meeting to decide on a proposed 38 metre gas drilling rig near Burniston are already running into one very local problem. Too many people want to attend.

Europa Oil and Gas has applied to use a technique called a “proppant squeeze” to extract gas near the village. More than 1,500 objections have already been submitted, and opposition includes Scarborough and Whitby MP Alison Hume and York and North Yorkshire mayor David Skaith.

Burniston Parish Council says North Yorkshire Council is likely to hold the strategic planning committee meeting in Scarborough, possibly in late January. The concern is the venue.

Previous planning meetings have been held at Scarborough Town Hall, where public viewing space is limited. Parish councillors say people have been unable to attend simply because there was no room.

Their suggestion is Scarborough Spa, which can accommodate far more residents and allow proper public access. The council has formally asked North Yorkshire Council to consider this option and is encouraging residents to make their views known.

This is not just about a drilling rig. It is about whether a decision of this scale happens behind a small set of doors or in a room big enough for the community it affects.

The venue choice will say a lot before the meeting even begins.

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