



Climate Change Action Group (Formerly Hydro-Carbon and Minerals Group)

Natasha Engel, the UK's shale gas commissioner (Fracking Czar) has resigned after just six months, saying fracking is being throttled by rules preventing mini earthquakes. The Guardian asks: *“Direct action has spooked the government, shackled the shale gas companies and raised public awareness. Are protesters winning the fight against the frackers?”*

Despite these positive signs, drilling for Fracking is pressing ahead at Misson (North of Retford), where there is strong opposition, and several group members recently supported the Woodsetts group at a planning enquiry in Rotherham.

Because of this encouraging situation and the importance of the whole Climate Change issue, the group has decided to change its name to the 'Climate Change Action Group'. In addition to issues related to fracking and hydrocarbon development, we are working, in line with Government Policy, on action to reduce Green-House Gas emissions through:

- ***‘Carbon Sinks’: tree planting etc. to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.***
- Energy/Heating: systems which use renewable energy.
- Planning: ensuring that new development reduces carbon emissions
- Transport: more efficient and renewable systems, including promotion of public transport use.

We have started work on the first item and are in touch with the Greenwood Community Forest, Ashfield ADC and Healdswood School in relation to a community tree planting initiative in November. We are also developing ideas for the second item.

We will discuss these and other ideas at the ***next meeting of Frack Free Ashfield, which will be in the Manor Room at 7.00 pm on Monday 22nd July. Please come if you can!***