

NEWBY AND SCALBY TOWN COUNCIL

**COUNCIL OFFICE
455b SCALBY ROAD
SCARBOROUGH
YO12 6UA**

**Clerk to the Council:
Jools Marley (CILCA)**



TEL: 01723 354018

Email: clerk@newbyandscalby-tc.gov.uk

27th May 2025

BY EMAIL to planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk

FAO Amy Taylor, Principal Planner

Dear Ms Taylor,

Planning application reference : NY/2025/0030/ENV

Applicant : Europa Oil and Gas Limited

Proposal : Construction of temporary wellsite for the appraisal of gas, including drilling operation, proppant squeeze, and flow testing operation and site restoration

Thank you for your e-mail of the 14th of May, attaching a copy of Europa's response to the Town Council's consultation response. This response has been prepared by Cllr. Helen Bore (Council's representative on the Fracking Working Group and is sent by me on behalf of Council.

The Town Council notes Europa's comments with regard to cliff stability but would point out the following :-

(i) Europa's planning statement says that the Cleveland Way, which is on the cliff top, is 730m from the site, not 1km. In addition, the drill would have to go down vertically through the substructure before reaching the end of the borehole, south-west of the wellsite.

(ii) As Europa says, if they are granted planning permission, they will require permissions from other regulatory bodies and "shooting of further 3D seismic (*sic*) and a close examination of the subsurface geology including natural faulting and the local and regional residual stress regimes". Europa is therefore not in a position at this point to say categorically that "the proposed development will have no impact on the cliff stability".

(iii) If, as Europa says, the NYC minerals application form and Annex 5 were requested by NYC, we would ask NYC to reconsider and to require Europa to submit in addition form NYPA 17, to address Paras. 5.122 and 154 of the MWJP and the considerable concerns raised by many local residents.

The Town Council notes that Europa says that "no trees will be removed to construct the extension of the access track". Could you please confirm that Europa have stated this specifically in their planning application? If they have not, we would request that you require them to do so. Would you please confirm that Europa have provided a copy of the "agreement in place with the landowner for some of the solar panels to be removed temporarily to allow for access track

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construction and subsequent vehicle movements”? We would request that you require Europa to provide a plan showing (with dimensions and turning lines) the space for HGVs to turn and exit the site in forward gear.

It is not believed that either of the sites mentioned in paragraph 2.3.5 of the Hydrogeological Impact Assessment are either of the two landfill sites referred to in the Town Council’s consultation response. Our comment therefore stands.

With regard to traffic, the Town Council made clear in our consultation response that the application should be considered as a long-term development, rather than one ending after thirty-seven weeks, because :

- (i) Europa has stated publicly that if the appraisal finds gas in commercially viable quantities the site will be exploited for ten to twenty years;
- (ii) it is plain that if Europa considers its appraisal successful, it will not abandon the site but will apply for further, long-term planning permission;
- (iii) Europa has made it clear on the front page of its planning statement that it intends to retain equipment on the site; it would not do so if it did not intend to remain on the site and hence require HGVs and other vehicles to access and exit the site.

The Town Council re-iterates the other points made in our consultation response, which Europa have not challenged.

The Town Council would be grateful if you would notify us when the planning application is to be considered by the relevant NYC planning committee. It is likely that we ask that a representative be allowed to address the committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Marley'.

Jools Marley (Mrs) CiLCA
Clerk to the Council
(office hours, Mon-Fri, 8am to 12noon)