Frack Free Balcombe
Residents Association

25 November 2013
Louise Goldsmith
West Sussex County Council
County Hall
Chichester
PO19 1RQ

Dear Ms Goldsmith,

Cuadrilla Planning Application – Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site

I am writing to you on behalf of the Balcombe Residents Association in respect of the forthcoming planning application that Cuadrilla intends to submit for flow testing at the Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site. I understand that the planning application was received on 27th September 2013 and will finally be validated by West Sussex County Council ("Council") on the 28 November 2013.

Francis Egan of Cuadrilla wrote to residents at the beginning of September stating Cuadrilla intended to submit a fresh planning application that "will cover the same well testing that is in the currently permitted activity." Given the new application covers the activities permitted by the previous planning permission that expired in September, it seems odd that Cuadrilla have taken so long to provide the Council with the information that will enable the Council to validate the application.

If the Council publicise the planning application on the 28 November 2013, the usual 21 day period for public consultation will expire on the 19 December 2013. It seems Cuadrilla have tactically timed matters so the public consultation period coincides with the run up to the Christmas break, a period when the residents of the village will have little time to give the planning application due consideration.

Due to the importance of the planning application, both locally and nationally, it is important that the people of Balcombe are given sufficient time to respond to the content. Assuming the planning application is validated on the 28 November the statutory period for determining the planning application will not expire until the 28 February. I would therefore formally request, on behalf of the Balcombe Residents Association, that the period for public consultation is extended to eight weeks to provide us enough time to properly consider and respond to the content of the planning application.

Yours sincerely,

James Hodgson MRICS, MSc, BA (Hons)