

## **Anti- Fracking Network Inaugural Meeting**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Venue: Northside Partnership Centre, Sligo

Groups represented:

Love Leitrim, Ban Fracking Fermanagh, FFAN, Belfast Not for Shale, Uisce Domhain, Fracking Free Clare, Talamh, Impact Research Group, North West Network Against Fracking, No Fracking Ireland, No Fracking Dublin, Keep Ireland Fracking Free, GEAI

Chaired by Teresa Butler / Peter Kearns

### **Introduction**

Chairperson reminded meeting of Network definition, aim and objectives as agreed through development days on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013. If these basic components are to be changed it would need another development day.

Definition:

Network is a gathering of like-minded groups acting together to share information, opportunities and perspectives to support its constituent groups. A network is not a steering group.

Aim:

Ban fracking permanently on the island of Ireland.

Objectives.

1. Identify and undertake strategic actions to grow/strengthen network and support groups
2. Identify and undertake strategic actions to raise public awareness of fracking nationally / internationally
3. Identify/undertake strategic actions to bring about a permanent ban on fracking on the island of Ireland through policy change

### **Mechanics of the Network**

Network name agreed:

**Fracking Free Network (Ireland/Northern Ireland)**

Network needs a chair; choices are internal or external chair.

Independent chair supported but needs to be knowledgeable on fracking and no political affiliation.

Chair function

- Attend and chair meetings
- Public face of the network
- Theresa felt that it would be important that the chair is the same person.
- Chairperson would have no voting rights to help neutrality.
- Length of chair term to be decided.
- Could be another role of spokesperson for the network.
- Couldn't agree, so down to someone to facilitate the meetings
- Public face of network needs to be agreed

Record taking:

- Records of decisions made.
- Records of meeting could be an e-newsletter, sent to people who attended meeting and distributed to people involved in campaign. Keep it open and transparent.

- Record taker will read out decisions at the meeting and this to be agreed by the group prior to distribution.

#### Meeting Agenda:

- Where possible Network will have standard agenda to include report back from groups and current status of actions
- Agenda will generally be agreed at end of each Network meeting for following meeting. Additional items for agenda can be emailed prior to meetings

#### How often should Network meet:

- Quarterly - First Saturday of each quarter
- Last quarterly meeting will include evaluation of work in current year and planning for coming year
- If the campaign requires it an unscheduled Network meeting can be called

#### Communications Policy for Network:

- Promote a principle of good communication, treat people with respect
- Lock the Gate policy
- If interpersonal issues arise that they are resolved in person, by phone and at meetings rather than on public forums.
- To respect and support fellow campaigners. We will endeavour to come to a resolution through face to face meetings, phoning.
- Groups to contribute on formulating a communication policy. One sentence to cover network communication policy.

#### Communications wording agreed

Members of the network will treat each person (including fellow campaigners, workers, police and media) with respect.

They will not use violence, threats or insulting language and will not endorse personal attacks on any individuals.

If disagreements arise, members will endeavour to come to a resolution through personal dialogue and agree not to use public networks or media in this regard.

#### **Reports back from the Groups**

##### A. Ban Fracking Fermanagh.

- A founding member might decide to stand for local office
- Film made by a member of FFAN, get this shown in small communities in coming weeks. Looking for support from local groups. Venues to be notified when organised.
- Film shown in local schools.

##### B. FFAN

- Shown DVD in Belcoo and other villages. Also to fishermen.
- Link between BFF to ensure no overlap.
- It is an educational and research group
- Lobby politicians,
- Tony Bazley has stepped down from CNCC.
- Trying to meet executive of Fermanagh District Council, this had happened. Council have asked for more info on fracking.
- Frack aware website source of info.
- DVD is available to all groups.

##### C. Belfast Not for Shale

- Raising public awareness.

- Planning to show Gasland in next few weeks
- Leaflets and flyers
- Anti-fracking mural, everything in place just need a building.
- Supporting other groups.

D. No Fracking Northern Ireland (report provided but not present at meeting)

- Showing film
- Map of licenced areas
- Contact with NGOs.
- Looking for support with postcards in Enniskillin.

E. Love Leitrim

- Anti-fracking cycle 14/15 June.
- Anti fracking choir. Anybody can join
- Working with other groups to push forward Health Impact Assessment.
- Circulate GPs and Vets in the region.

F. Uisce Domhain

- Influence Leitrim Co Co. question validity of legal advice given to Leitrim Co Co

G. Fracking Free Clare

- Council ban caused apathy
- Raising awareness, booklet
- Raising awareness of licenced areas
- Producing large banner, to hang at any event.
- Events planning events, dates to be informed.
- Get musicians against fracking to create a music and film event.

H. Talamh

- Looking at legal aspects.
- Government doesn't have legal basis for their decisions.
- Legal basis is going to be key to opposition
- Potential legal action being developed but taking time.

I. Impact Research Group

- Informal networking. Adopt a topic, recruit people to explore single options and generate research to inform policy

J. North West Network against Fracking

- Involve people from Sligo in Town.
- 40 members and 20 active.
- Sligo Co Co meeting Mon 27<sup>th</sup>, good to have a presence outside the meeting.
- Lobby Council Councillors, 300 letters to council
- Paddys day float, tourism or fracking you can't have both, using Yeats theme. Planning two floats.
- In touch with Canada, contacts with New Brunswick and they want to come here. Need to raise funds to bring them here, dates to be decided.

K. Fracking Free Ireland. Ineke (not present at meeting, visit meeting re. Media and Corrib Gas, Rosport)

- Contact with Josh Fox, he wants to come here.
- Website
- Fracking Matters Newsletter

- Campaign leaflet (with others)
- Contact for National and International campaign
- 'glue' between the groups

L. No Fracking Ireland

- Musicians together to organise event
- Link for Song for Seamie O'Dowd , song can be used by all groups

M. No Fracking Dublin

- Demonstration 12.30 to 2.30 outside EU offices 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 18 Dawson St.

N. Keep Ireland Fracking Free

- Fracking free logo for use by businesses
- Maintain Google group
- Shale gas bulletin to inform policy makers, published bi-monthly
- Email [charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:charlie2williams@gmail.com) to join his google fracking discussion forum

O. GEAI (Good Energies Alliance Ireland)

- Website
- EVS. Volunteer who carries out research, at the moment on Wind Energy
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Mardi, link with Ireland and Poland.
- Involved with Love Leitrim and FFAN, on Health Impact Assessment and SEA.
- Will be organising a conference in the Autumn
- Funding from Patagonia, Agenda 21

**Network Actions for 2014**

There was no time to agree specific Network actions for 2014, but some actions for the Network have been generated by networking between groups at the meeting, with regard to group support and co-operation on existing group actions

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 12pm**, Be good to keep meeting to 2 hours.

Next meeting possibly in Fermanagh

Fermanagh groups to organise next venue.

Michael Cairns (Not for Shale Group) to chair Fermanagh Meeting

Jamie will formulate agenda for the next meeting.

*Please note:*

*Network Meeting record in future will be issued in form of Esheet*