My name is Glenn Marshall. I have the great privilege of living in a small village situated in the heart of the glorious Yorkshire Wolds. The area features the rolling Wolds, leafy lanes, delightful villages and acres of unspoiled countryside as well as some thriving coastal resorts. The Yorkshire Wolds were made famous by world renowned artist David Hockney and formed the focus of his amazing one man show at the Royal Academy entitled “The Bigger Picture”. As an artist myself I appreciate the beauty and serenity of this landscape which is ripe for more effort to attract tourism. The following is an extract from one of my blogs covering a very real concern about a devastating threat to any tourism development in the area:

“Who in their right mind would want to despoil this unique place? You might be surprised (or not!) to find out that our Whitehall based government have given licenses for this whole area to become available for 'high volume hydraulic fracturing'...or 'fracking' to you and me. Now like most people I admit to having a vague disquiet about fracking but to be honest I didn't have enough information to make an informed decision. Not until last night that is. I attended a public meeting held here in Kilham where I now live to discuss concerns about exactly what effects fracking could have on our lovely village and its surroundings. It was both shocking and terrifying. But first things first - what exactly is fracking? Fracking is a drilling process designed to release trapped gas from shale rock. Firstly, a well is drilled vertically to about 7 - 10,000 ft, and then drilled horizontally for up to two miles. A mixture of water, chemicals and sand is then pumped down the well at high pressure. This creates cracks in the shale, allowing the trapped gas to travel up the well to the surface along with large quantities of contaminated waste water. How much waste water do you reckon? The industries own estimates are that an average well may require up to 5 million gallons.5,000,000 gallons of clean water over its lifetime and that's an industry estimate so the reality is that a lot more water is probably involved. All of that water is permanently contaminated. But don't panic - they dig a new well and use the old one to dump the waste water into and there's always the sea of course! By the way under the Infrastructure Act 2015 UK law now permits any substance to be injected into the ground and left there so fracking waste underground would not be illegal. The same Act includes a change in the law so that fracking under your home does not now require your permission. Are you getting a bit worried now? And how many wells do you think? No one knows for sure but Andy Aplin, Professor of Unconventional Petroleum, Durham University, gave us a clue in 2014 when he stated "To recover 15%of shale gas in Lancashire would need 33,000 on 5,500 pads." A 'pad' is an area where multiple wells are sunk. No matter how bad your maths may be you can clearly see that it adds up to a lot of contaminated water. Fracking will require thousands of wells on hundreds of sites, resulting in the industrialisation of the countryside”

There are numerous reports stating the dangers to health, water contamination and earthquakes so I would like to know how ‘fracking’ could ever be construed as useful for advancing growth in tourism. I submit that this inquiry should consider the long term effects
of this devastating process and what it would do to the rural environment and tourism in the years ahead.

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