I have lived and worked in Ryedale for the past 38 years. Like many people I know, I love this area: not because it is an idyllic “rural paradise”, but because Ryedale is a living, modern community with a good balance between town and country, between small-scale industry, agriculture and tourism. I am not against industry but I think it must be sensitively developed in the context of our landscape and relatively poor communications.

I am concerned that this balance is increasingly precarious and in particular that fracking may cause an irredeemable breakdown of Ryedale’s environment. People and wildlife will suffer if the planned density of wells goes ahead. Roads will be clogged, noisy and increasingly dangerous. Tourism may end, as no-one will want to visit an area where mining takes priority over farming and recreation.

Please place the threat of fracking at the centre of your deliberations. Do we really need this risky technology now? Far better to make Ryedale an area where sustainable green technology thrives in symbiosis with the local economy.

August 2016