My name is Monica Gripaios and I live in Hovingham in the district of Ryedale North Yorkshire. I am retired now but up until this year my family owned a small restaurant at Helmsley Walled Garden, a charity which helps people with mental health issues. Over the sixteen years that I owned the business, I witnessed a huge growth in trade, nearly all visitors to the area. Now we are faced with the very real prospect of fracking in Ryedale on a scale which will decimate the tourist industry. My understanding is (from figures released by Ryedale District Council) that 22% of jobs in Ryedale are in the tourist industry, and many in agriculture. These two businesses are the biggest employers in Ryedale and both risk being badly affected by the industrialisation of the area. In Ryedale we have two very big tourist attractions Flamingo Land at Kirby Misperton (where Third Energy recently won approval from NYCC to test frack) and Castle Howard, both proprietors voiced their very real concerns to the planning committee at the end of May, along with many others to no avail.

Theresa May recently spoke of awarding Yorkshire money to promote the area for more tourism and to expand the cycling events which have proved so successful in recent years, bringing large numbers of people to the area from the UK and further afield. I applaud her decision to help develop these ideas, but wonder where the sense is in giving money for that while allowing fracking to take place on an industrial scale at the same time. (Jim Ratcliffe from Ineos says he wants to develop many well sites as soon as possible)

The area of Ryedale includes Areas of Outstanding Beauty and a National Park, many stately homes and places of great beauty all of which attract many visitors each year. Why would we want to jeopardise these successful businesses? And risk harming the environment?

Recently a report stated that Yorkshire is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe, lets keep it that way.

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