

# Public Health and Planning: Shared Origins and Shared Futures

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# Ancient Greece: Recognising the social determinants



*Whoever wishes to investigate medicine properly, should proceed thus: in the first place to consider the seasons of the year, and what effects each of them produces. We must also consider the qualities of the waters and the mode in which the inhabitants live, and what are their pursuits, whether they are fond of drinking and eating to excess, and given to indolence, or are fond of exercise and labour, and not given to excess in eating and drinking.*

*Hippocrates, 400 BC*

# The Romans: Infrastructure for health



# The industrial revolution





*Fig. 5.*  
*Rear view of houses in Smithfield. A requirement of housing bye-law was for each house to have a yard at least ten feet square with a separate privy (dry closet). A privy roof can be seen in each yard, also the common entry at the back used for emptying refuse from the houses and conveying the contents of the earth privies and ashpits to the outside street.*



*Fig. 6.*  
*Mitchell's Court (off Brown Square), terrace of four cramped run-down houses facing to a narrow entry, photographed in March 1912. Women in the doorway look down at eight small children, all reasonably clad.*

# Belfast living conditions – around 1900





## The Broad Street Pump



Public Health  
Agency

*Improving Your Health and Wellbeing*

# Edwin Chadwick





# Belfast population change

Year	Population	Births per 1,000 population	Deaths per 1,000 population	Infant mortality per 1,000
1891	255,950	34	26	149
1901	349,180	31	22	154
1937	438,086	21	14	94
1966	398,405	21	13	32
2015	281,735	14	9.3	4.6#



People focused?



# Physical activity?





Play space?



Inviting social life?

Public health and planning

# WHERE NEXT?



# THE ROLE OF THE PLANNING AUTHORITY

“Consultees are asked to note that any advice or comments provided in respect of a consultation on a planning application **does not constitute a decision on that application.**”

“In assessing the proposal the planning officer and the Development Management Group will take responses from consultee into account, as material considerations, in forming an opinion on the application. **The weight to be attached to an individual response from a consultee is a matter of planning judgement** which rests with the DOE as the planning authority. DOE will take account of the development plan, planning policies and other material considerations including representations from the public and views of the relevant Council in **reaching a balanced decision** on an application.”

# Reasons to be worried about Planned Developments

Visual

Economic efficiency

Safety

Effects on flora/fauna/archeological heritage

Effects on property values

**Health**



# Defining Health

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”

World Health Organization 1948

# Health

Physical Health

Mental Health

Social Capital

Ecological Health



# Health Concerns

Nuisance

Annoyance

Mental health effects

Occupational issues

Issues specific to an individual

Health Protection considerations

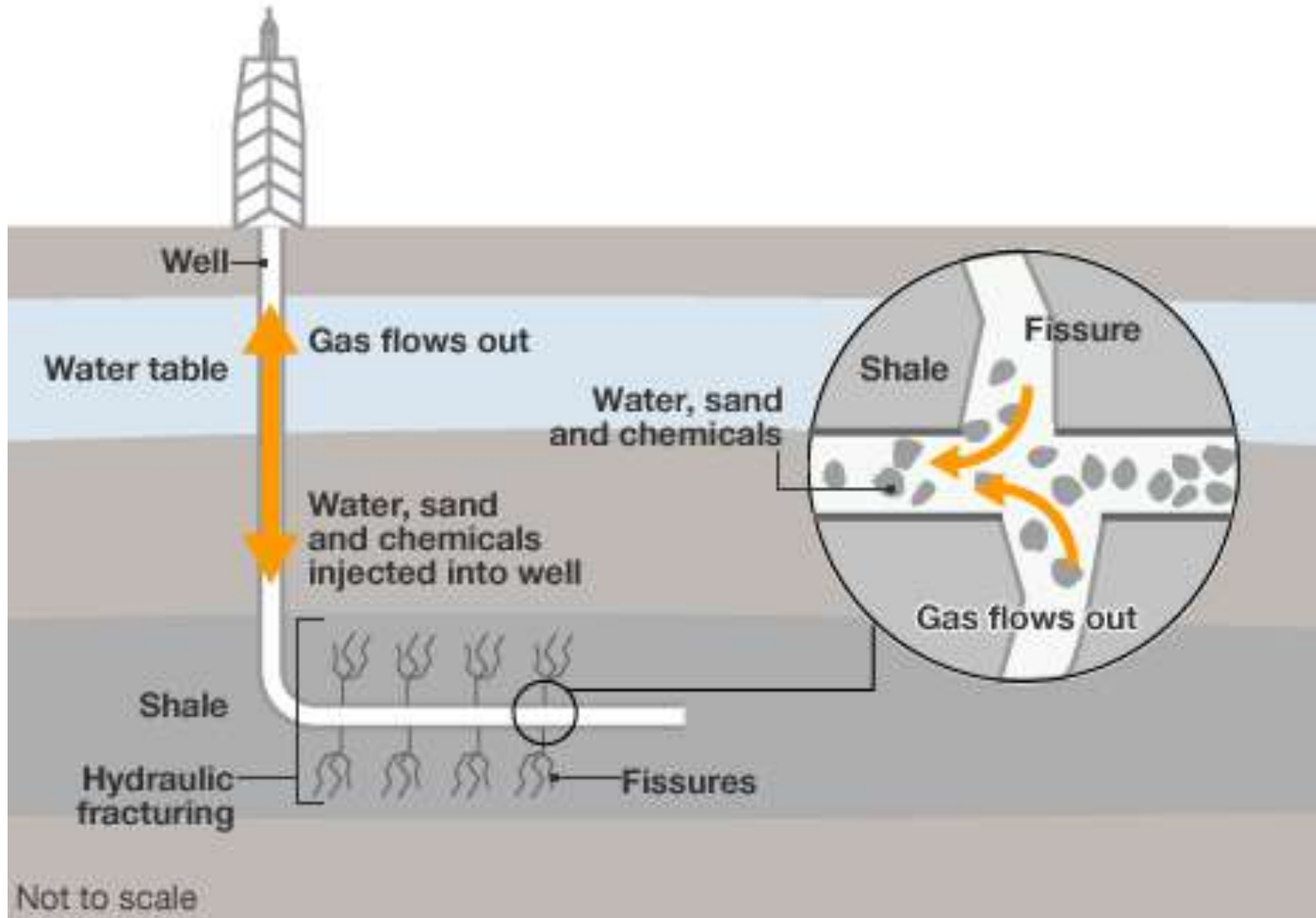


# Health Protection Considerations =

Demonstrable serious physical health concerns affecting groups of people in close proximity to planned development.



# Shale gas extraction



# Questions

Which of these is the responsibility of the Planning Service?

Which of these is the responsibility of Public Health?

Which of these is the responsibility of the community?