

*Email from Rona Gunnell to all D & G Councillors on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November*

Dear Councillors,

I am really disappointed to read in Saturday's Dumfries Courier that the Council has decided not to comment at this stage on SPEN's proposals to run a line of giant pylons across the length of Dumfries and Galloway but will leave its comments until the SPEN proposals are submitted. This means that the Council will only be taking a view on the route of the pylons and in the meantime has nothing to say on the whole idea of giant pylons at all.

Amongst residents there is a strong view that an under sea option should be considered such as the the proposed Caithness/Moray link (<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/CaithnessMoray/>). I would have hoped that the Council would take a view that SPEN should explore this and other options at this early stage and would also be prepared to make known to SPEN the deep disquiet felt by many people in Dumfries and Galloway.

I and others have had many conversations with our councillors and have not found one that does not agree that the proposal from SPEN would be a disaster for our region. My faith in the Council is now severely shaken. If our Council will not support us against a huge foreign multi national that wishes to profit at our expense who will save us?

I understand that the 21 councillors on the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, will be asked to agree the D&G council comments to SPEN's proposal at their meeting tomorrow. Please think again and let SPEN know now that we wish another solution than these huge pylons across our lovely countryside. The argument has been made that the pylons are needed for the economic development of the region and perhaps the committee could commit Council resources to a proper cost benefit analyses of these claims taking account of tourism, environmental issues and our general well being.

Yours,

Rona Gunnell

*Email from Carol Halliday to all D & G Councillors on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November*

Dear elected representative

I write again to ask for your unqualified support for the residents of SW Scotland, and in particular for those now living under the threat of SPEN's corridor of 164 ft pylons.

I understand that on Tuesday 10th November the 21 councillors on the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, will be asked to agree that D&G council comments to SPEN's proposal should only be made at round two and three of the public consultation. These rounds relate to the preferred route as opposed to the preferred corridor, and the detailed design of the overhead line and substations.

To defer any council debate on the matter of pylons until stage two and three will be seen by residents as nothing less than a failure to address their overwhelming concerns and anxieties about this proposal. MPs MSPs, and councillors are very aware of the current public opinion on this issue and also aware of public expectation that our elected representatives will offer their support and protection. Many of you have already started your actions to challenge the principle of pylons as the necessary means of transmission, and for that the residents in the preferred corridor are very grateful.

Dumfries and Galloway council would normally follow clearly established protocols in dealing with matters likely to require planning permissions. I put it to you however, that this is a matter well outwith the normal bounds of planning protocols. This is a proposal for as crude an act of vandalism against a gentle natural resource as we may ever expect to witness. 164 ft high pylons carrying thick, heavy, 400v lines, across the entire length of Dumfries and Galloway. From the seas off Auchencrosh in south Ayrshire, to the very tip of the Solway Firth and beyond. It is with utter horror that the residents in this corridor regard this proposal which will blight D&G for the next century. Anyone travelling the route of the Beaully-Denny line will know the desecration of landscape and skyline we can expect unless we jointly face up to the chosen transmission system. Bear in mind that SPEN has offered only a "preferred" corridor, there is no concession whatsoever on a "preferred" transmission system. Stage two of their programme is simply the "preferred" route.

I put it to you again that if a multinational conglomerate proposed a nuclear testing range across the same 109 miles, residents would expect an immediate response from their council. Certainly not a recommendation to councillors that they defer any council opinion until the exact line of the corridor, or design of the missile bunkers was available.

A delay in establishing outright opposition to pylons in principle, rather than underground or undersea, will provide a tacit endorsement that they may be built somewhere in this geographical area. I ask you please to ensure this is not how D&G council will serve their constituents on Tuesday, and that they will reject the proposed council response programme which has been presented by the service planning manager.

Regards

Carol Halliday