

# Dumgal **Against** Pylons



## Newsletter February 2016

The campaign against Scottish Power Energy Networks' plans for pylons and substations continues despite Scottish Power having temporarily withdrawn their original plans while they reflect on the changing circumstances and the feedback they received

### Our Alternative to SPEN's Plan

From the outset, we have aimed to be an organisation that does not just say "No" but is positive and can offer a genuine and credible alternative.

We published our plan in February. It lays out how it is possible to meet the power requirements of the region and to export the renewable energy created here but with less damage than would occur from a new set of 50m tall pylons and substations where none has existed before.

In essence we propose replacing and upgrading the existing route (with some under-grounding) and linking to an undersea cable off the west of the region. You can read the plan or a summary on the [website](#).

### Green Tourism Damage?

Did you know that Dumfries and Galloway is pretty much "carbon neutral"? In a 2014 dataset produced by DECC, Dumfries & Galloway had the lowest emissions per capita of any of the 406 Local Authorities in the UK. DGAP Chair, Alan Jones, has written a paper on D & G's low carbon journey, the importance that this has to the region (such as to the tourist industry) and the impact that a large-scale pylon project could have on this.

The paper was picked up by Scotland on Sunday and you can read the article [here](#).

### Ofgem Letter

Ofgem is one of the key players in this process. They must ensure that SPEN complies with all requirements and that their case for the project is "watertight".

We have written to them to state our concerns, to check on their part in the process and their involvement as things develop.

You can read the letter that we sent to Ofgem and their response by following the links on the [news page](#) of the website.

### Please Join Us

The number of DGAP members continues to grow but, compared to our many supporters, it remains low. For a one-off fee of just £5 (for the life of the campaign) you can join and this entitles you to attend and vote at all General Meetings.

To join, please send £5:00 per person to Penny Coles, East Manse, Auldgirith, Dumfries, DG2 0RY. Make cheques payable to "Dumgal Against Pylons".

### Spread the Word!

Why not forward this newsletter to a friend? Please ask them to like our [Facebook page](#), follow us on Twitter @Dgagainstpylons and visit [www.dumgalagainstpylons.org](http://www.dumgalagainstpylons.org). Encourage your friends to be added to the email list by writing to: [no2pylons@gmail.com](mailto:no2pylons@gmail.com). Ask them to sign the Kirkmahoe [Petition](#)

### In the News

We have had lots of coverage in the media recently.

There were items on ITV news, on Radio Scotland and in several papers. You can read a piece on the BBC website [here](#). Newspaper articles are on the website [news](#) page.

### Meetings, meetings...

We have had good support from many individuals and organisations.

Members of the DGAP committee met with Richard Arkless MP and he agreed to put pressure on SPEN to release the outcome of the first round consultation and to push them to expand the stakeholder liaison group - to include DGAP.

We also met with Dr Carol Hill of the Crichton Institute to explore an independent programme of research to evaluate the likely impact of the pylons and sub-stations on the region and its people. She was supportive of this idea.

In March we have a very important meeting with Ofgem and members will be heading to Westminster to meet Richard Arkless for a session with the chair of the Energy Select Committee, Angus O'Neil

Joan McAlpine MSP is arranging a meeting with the director responsible for Scottish Power's Transmission Network (SPTL). We hope that this will take place in March or, possibly, April.

### Time for a Rethink?

If you submitted a comment to SPEN's first round of consultation last year, you should have heard from them that they are reconsidering their plans.

They make a point that we at DGAP have been making all along: "Since the consultation process was launched, a number of significant developments in the wider energy sector materialised that have the potential to influence the scale and nature of the project." They go on to say that they "are undertaking further analysis to determine the extent to which changes ... alter plans for the development of the electricity transmission network." You can see the full statement [here](#).

We welcome this "further analysis" and have been calling for SPEN to look at the changed situation from the start. DGAP Chair, Alan Jones, commented that: "Scottish Power need to think again. They need to take into consideration not only the extensive feedback but also to reflect on how best to meet the changing external environmental circumstances." You can see Alan's full statement on the [news](#) page of the website.

### More Community Councils

We have been contacting Community Council to ask them to agree to our letter of objection to SPEN's plans. Recently Twynholm, Kirkcudbright, Port William and Southernness have agreed to the letter. That makes a total of 55! The full list is on the [website](#). If you can influence any other Community Councils to agree to the objection, please do so!