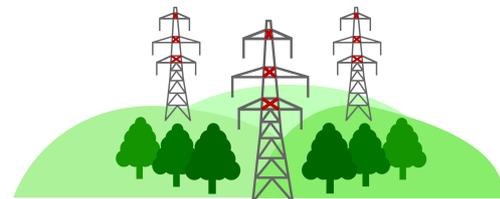


Dumgal **Against** Pylons

Newsletter May 2016



DUMGAL **AGAINST** PYLONS

DGAP One Year On

It was around this time last year that the Scottish Power Energy Network document "[Powering Your Future](#)" dropped onto the doormats of households in Dumfries and Galloway.

It is worth having a look back over the year to see DGAP's journey (though it has hard to do this in a few lines!). Just some of the actions of Committee members or supporters...

- Presentations in many local communities about the impact of SPEN's plans
- Formally constituted Dumgal Against Pylons
- Met and developed excellent working relationships with our MPs, many MSPs, Councillors and organisations
- Created a website, a Facebook page, a Twitter account and email circulation list
- Gained support from scores of Community Councils
- Created an "Unspoiled Dumfries and Galloway" Calendar (with well over 750 were sold)
- Had many positive articles in the media including radio and television
- Created an alternative to SPEN's proposal
- Met Angus McNeil (Chairman of the Energy Select Committee) and met Ofgem and have a date to meet Scottish Power
- Created a research proposal to look at impacts of pylon / substation infrastructure

DGAP in Westminster

Three members of the DGAP committee travelled to London for a meeting (arranged by Richard Arkless MP) with Angus MacNeil MP, Chair of the Energy Select Committee. In addition to raising many concerns and issues about the process for new infrastructure, a very positive outcome was that Angus MacNeil has arranged for us to meet Frank Mitchell, CEO of Scottish Power Energy Networks. This meeting is scheduled for 17 June.



Richard Arkless MP meets DGAP in Westminster

MP Meetings

While in London for our meeting with Angus MacNeil MP, we took the opportunity of bringing Richard Arkless MP up to date with the campaign as well as outlining issues and concerns.

Once back from London we met with David Mundell MP to let him know the outcome of the meeting with Angus MacNeil and to discuss issues including a further meetings with Ofgem and the possibility of meeting with National Grid.

Communication with Ofgem

Following our meeting with Ofgem (mentioned in the last newsletter), DGAP Chair, Alan Jones, has had extensive email communication with Mike Leonard, Ofgem Senior Communications Manager. Alan has raised many issues including the whole process of consultation, involvement and disclosure of information. You can read the report from the meeting the subsequent email exchange on the [news page](#) of the DGAP website.

Ofgem has invited us to meet them again and we anticipate that this meeting will take place in the next few weeks.

Election Outcome

In the short time that DGAP has been in existence we managed to develop very good working relationships with our local MSPs. At the recent elections we were sad to lose some supportive and helpful allies but delighted that some were re-elected.

We are looking to the future and are pleased that some of the newly elected MSPs have demonstrated strong support for our campaign. We look forward to getting to know them better and will continue to work with MSPs from all parties.

What's Up Doc?

In an odd minute when he was not engaged in DGAP business, our Chair, Alan Jones, found time to work on his PhD. I am delighted to be able to announce that having completed the research and successfully defended his thesis, he is now Dr Alan Jones! Alan's research was on "Rural small firm engagement with low carbon business practices".

Hearty congratulations Alan from all at DGAP

Questions for Scottish Power

We are meeting with Scottish Power soon. We aim to share our views on their original proposal and give feedback on the consultation process. We will also aim to get some answers to questions that concern many in the region including finding out what progress they have made on their revised plans and anything that they can tell us about the way they are thinking on these. We will also ask what the timescales are for the next stages, We'll let you know what we hear!

Game Changer?

Buccleuch Estates are developing plans for a pumped storage [hydro scheme](#) at the Glenmuckloch surface coal mine near Kirkconnel. The scheme would be able to generate 400 MW of electricity at times of peak demand.

If, as seems likely, this scheme goes ahead, it will mean another complete change to the transmission requirements for the region. We will be keeping an eye on this one!

Please Join Us!

We have an email list of over 280 (and always delighted to add more!) but a membership of just over 70. Please join us – it costs just £5 for the life of the campaign. It is easy to do and there are details on the [Join Us](#) page of the website.