

DUMGAL AGAINST PYLONS

October 2015 - Update

The campaign continues against Scottish Power Energy Networks' Plans for Pylons and Substations...

We aim to produce a monthly summary of the key activities that have taken place in the period. Due to the amount that has been going on, this month's update is a little delayed but, none the less, we hope that you find it interesting, useful and reassuring

Community Council Support

All of the Community Councils on the proposed "corridor" for the pylons and substations have now signed up to the objection that we initiated. At the time of writing this amounted to 50 Community Councils. This support gives us great strength as it demonstrates the level of concern and opposition from the "grass roots".

You can read the text of the objection and see which Community Councils have added their names at www.dumgalagainstpylons.org/community-council

The Targeted Campaign

We continue to ask supporters to write to organisations that have an interest in the countryside, landscape and environment to ask them to express their concerns to Scottish Power. Recently we have targeted Ramblers Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. There is guidance about writing to these organisations at: <http://dumgalagainstpylons.org/targeted-campaign>

Liaison with other Groups

It is important that we work with others to make the biggest impact in our campaign. To this end we will soon be meeting representatives from the influential John Muir Trust who have a strong interest in the campaign and are coming to the region to see how they can ensure the any developments are carried out in an appropriate way. You can see a post on their website about this by clicking: [JMT Concern about SPEN'S Plans](http://www.jmt.org.uk/news/2015/09/jmt-concern-about-spen-s-plans). This includes the quote: "Helen McDade, head of policy at the Trust, said: "The case for this is not made and we will seek proper consideration of more sensitive proposals which would fulfil any need for an upgrade".

Members of the DGAP committee are also travelling to Cumbria to meet with the Power Without Pylons group that is running a campaign that is similar to our own to prevent a new line of pylons through the Lake District. You can see their website at: www.powerwithoutpylons.org.uk

We have established links with other interested organisations (some through out Targeted Campaign) and continue to develop our relationships with them.

Spread the Word!

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

Contact with Politicians

We have regular and frequent dialogue with politicians from all the main parties and they have been, without exception, supportive to our campaign.

Members of the DGAP committee have met with both MPs, several of the regions MSPs and many D&G Councillors.

You may have heard about the recent meeting of the Dumfries and Galloway Council Energy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and might have seen that our press release was picked up by the Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Galloway News. It included: "Councillors today acknowledged the high level of concern from their constituents. Members of the Energy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee agreed to hold a number of private seminars devoted wholly to SPEN's proposals". We were pleased to achieve this outcome as there was concern that the Councillors might not take sufficient note of constituents concerns about SPEN's plans and only consider them at a later stage of the consultation.

Unspoiled D&G Calendar

A small team has been creating a calendar with lovely photos showing the beauty of the region that could be destroyed by pylons and substations. They cost just £3 each (plus postage) and you can obtain them by calling Barbara Webb on 01848 332554 or email webb473@btinternet.com or Matthew Aitken on 01387 820448



This photo created by John Pearson is in the calendar just to show the scale of the pylons

DGAP Formalised

To maximise the influence that we have when dealing with politicians and organisations, we decided that it would be beneficial to formalise our structure. Dumfries and Galloway Against Pylons is now an "Unincorporated Body" with the following office holders:

Chair: Alan Jones – 01387 820527

Vice Chair: William Crawford – 01387 820339

Secretary / Treasurer: Penny Coles – 01387 740608

D & G National Park?

We have been meeting with the Scottish Campaign for National Parks to discuss D & G becoming the third Scottish National Park. If successful, this would have a significant impact on SPEN's plans.