



Newsletter

January /February 2019

Not One Well

Behind The Scenes

Since the festive break we have held 2 committee meetings to review our action plans for 2019. We are delighted to welcome our youngest member 14 year old Jennifer from Brighstone who attended our February meeting with her Mum.

In The News - Is UKOG planning wells for Arreton?

The most significant local news was the visit to the island by representatives from UKOG in February.

It transpires that officials **have met with members of the IW Cabinet** to discuss their plans to complete planning permission for exploration wells in Arreton for submission this year. **There has been no confirmation of where the drill sites will be** although a tweet and photograph was posted by UKOG which hit the local press.



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Team UKOG just returned from Isle of Wight Arreton drill sites visit. Received supportive warm welcome. Full speed ahead towards 2020 drilling campaign



11:40 pm - 3 Feb 2019



Members of the team reacted immediately and have located the site in this tweet, you can find more about it at [this link](#) but there has been no confirmation that it is a proposed site for exploration.

After recent communication from cabinet we can state that members have asked for a local community public meeting with UKOG representatives to give residents the opportunity

to discuss what is planned for Arreton and to express their concerns.

However it is likely that this will not happen until planning permission has been submitted to the planning committee. We are concerned also that apparently the cabinet members were told that the exploration will be done using "conventional" techniques and would cause little environmental impact.

However UKOG's exploration at Horse Hill in Surrey is far from minimal in its impact.

We have offered to meet with cabinet members to offer them our views and assistance. As yet there has been no take up of our offer but we will continue to make them aware of our concerns .



Island Plan Consultation Document

The consultation period for the General Island Plan has closed. Members of FFLOW submitted their views on the consultation as individuals rather than from the group, since this would have been considered a single consultation response.

Responses were mainly regarding the protection of water sources and resources, upgrading of water and waste water infrastructure and highlighting that fossil fuel exploration of any kind will have a huge impact on our water supply and has the potential to pollute our water sources.

Waste and Mineral Plan

The section of the Island Plan that we are most concerned about is **Waste and Minerals**. This currently is being prepared by the planning group and will be published for consultation probably during July 2019. The previous W&M policy makes no mention of the island's fossil fuel resources or policy statements regarding fossil fuel exploration or extraction. It is essential that these are included in the new document.

We are in regular communication with the officers who are preparing the document and send them information from, and copies of, sections within other authority plans, that could be used to assist in creating Island policy statements and criteria regarding fossil fuel extraction. We have also offered our support and assistance for preparation of the final documents.

Other Important National News

Things are hotting up in Government and concerns regarding climate change, fossil fuel investment, regulation enforcement, practices and unlawful injunctions.

The public are now more and more aware of the injustices and privileges of the fossil fuel industry. Below are listed just a few of the many issues with links that you can read from our Newsdesk and News Archive on our website page. These affect all of us and should make us ask questions at local government level.

1. **Landowners may be responsible for clean up and decommissioning of fossil fuels wells**
2. **Geologists link Surrey earthquakes to oil site**
3. **How oil and gas companies avoid restrictions claiming Temporary Development status**
4. **UK has biggest fossil fuel subsidies in the EU, finds commission**
5. **Surrey residents protest about impacts of 20-year oil production plans**

What Can I Do?

- Continue to keep yourself informed of developments by visiting our website on a regular basis.
- Ask questions of your local council representative about what is happening.
- Spread the word that it seems like UKOG are planning to extract oil from the Island. Find out what your local residents and landowners think about this. Let us know **by email** and encourage them to subscribe to our website
- Watch out for and contact us if you see seismic testing activity in your area . **Information at this link**
- **Sign and share this petition** if you have not done so already