



November/December 2018

Newsletter Not One Well

Don't forget to check the **latest news on our **website** and from **Drill or Drop****
Third AGM - Yearly Report

This report was presented on November 13th at the Unity Hall in Newport.

Over the past 12 months there have been many national events, parliamentary debates, judicial reviews and challenges, protests, consultations and news reports linked to the oil and gas industry, fracking sites and government policy change.

Drilling for oil and gas exploration and production has begun again at several sites, causing community challenges, earthquakes and community opposition. Extreme weather events have fired up political and social debate across the globe regarding climate change, environmental responsibility and the need to keep remaining fuels under the ground.

According to Government figures national opposition to Fossil Fuel extraction has dropped to 31% support has dropped to 15% but those who either don't know or don't have an opinion stands at 54%, 77% of which were responses due to admitted lack of knowledge.

At the time of writing 1,266 people have signed the petition on our website about not drilling at Arreton.

At the start of 2018 UKOG dropped the offshore licence P1916 due to "*low technical/economic potential, environmental sensitivity of the site and to focus upon the higher reward, technically more robust, lower risk discovered oil of the onshore Arreton discovery and satellite prospects.*"

UKOG still holds our Onshore PEDL but has had an expensive year trying to make other area sites productive and has launched a number of incentives to raise funds to keep production going in the Weald.

Their RNS statements for investors continue to report that they are preparing planning applications for two Arreton Sites which change from time to time, frequent FOI requests have been made to the local MPA at County Hall.

November's response stated that

The council has had pre-application discussions, but due to the request for confidentiality the Local Planning Authority cannot divulge any further information on this matter at this point in time.

We submitted a counter response asking

- 1) Why the request been considered to require a response containing "sensitive information" when the industry in question has already made public the fact that they are preparing an application to drill at Arreton?
- 2) Why the pre-application discussions remain confidential?
- 3) Who has been responsible for dealing with the pre-application discussions and who made the decision that the outcome of those discussions are inappropriate to be released to the public under the FOI regime?

The response came back

The Planning Authority provides a paid pre-application advice service which is discretionary and not a statutory function. Therefore, pre-application proposals are provided at the request of customers who pay for that advice with an expectation that draft proposals are treated confidentially. As a result, there is no requirement for pre-application information to be published and instead, all related information is treated confidentially.

We continue to investigate the legality of this with regard to Government Policy on FOI requests.



It remains our opinion that UKOG is currently tied up physically and financially with other areas and that no application will be placed in the foreseeable future.

So we are continuing with our role to forge links across the community, providing updated information about our licence through our website, meetings and actions and also showing how updates of nationally significant matters relate to our community and the Isle of Wight Council.

Main focuses have been

- The increase of injunctions and actions by the oil and gas industry to oppose peaceful demonstration at sites and the response of the judiciary.
- Government action related to Environmental Statements and permissions for drill sites.
- National planning changes within the National Planning Policy Framework (**NPPF**) and statements by the department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy.
- The Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee review of the draft NPPF
- Public Consultations regarding Permitted Development (**PD**) and inclusion of Fracking as part of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime. (**NSIP**)
- The All Political Party Group (**APPG**) inquiry into the impacts of fracking and fossil fuel exploration led by Lee Rowley MP and subsequent debates.

Website: New General Data Protection Regulations have been adopted by FFIOW. Privacy Policy has been written and made public and re subscription requests made to subscribers.

Meetings and Visits:

1. Information sharing and acquisition with : IOW National Trust

Weald Action Group (Campaigning and Rights) and Permitted Development Campaigning
Island Environment Conference – links established to IWC planning group and offers of assistance with updating the Minerals and Waste planning documents for the Island Plan and response to the NPPF
Site Visits to Balcombe, Leith Hill and Horse Hill Oil sites.

2. Presentations :

Sandown – Gaslight Cafe

Arreton - IW Natural History&Archaeological Society

Arreton – Full day 2 public presentations

Ventnor – Green Room

3. Pop Ups and Leafleting

Newport - Barclays Bank

Arreton – Walk The Wight

POA Learning Event - Cowes

Chale Show – Full Weekend

Permitted Development Consultation public leafleting in **Newport, Cowes, Ryde and Shanklin** .

Attendance Full Cabinet Meeting to put question re Permitted Development.

Demo outside IWC building and question to council re Permitted Development with subsequent press from The County Press and Observer and radio coverage from Vectis Radio.

The council opposed Permitted Development and removal of decision making from local authority for all types of fossil fuel wells.

4. Campaigns

- **Clean Fields Not Oil Fields.** New posters, leaflets, banners and logo launched at all public meetings this year.
- **Let Communities Decide.** In conjunction with WAG, FOE and 350.org in opposition to PD and inclusion of fracking under the NSIP regime



5. Objections and Public Consultations

- **IW Pension Fund Committee** – statement and objection raised to £43 million investment of Pension Fund in fossil fuel related portfolios by letter and in person at PF meeting at county hall.
- **Statements** sent to AIM (London Stock Exchange) and FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) and UKOG's national advisor regarding late confirmation of drop of offshore licence to investors – and possibility of fraudulent conduct.
- **Objection** statements to Environmental Statement created for the Corralian, Colter Appraisal offshore oil rig off Studland Bay – response documents for opposition for the public to complete hosted on the website. Update - Responses have been reviewed and changes made to the ES. These now sent to BEIS Offshore Petroleum Regulator and approved for planning permission.
- **Public Consultation** document in response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework was completed from FFIOW. Almost 1,000 opposition statements to Chapter 17 on Fossil Fuel extraction were ignored. As a result there are two legal challenges in progress against the SoS regarding the legality of the final published NPPF document.
- **Objection** to Transport Plan for the Bury Hill Site in the Weald from FFIOW.
- **Evidence statements** from FFIOW sent to be heard in support of the defendants of the UKOG injunction hearing.
- **Evidence statements** sent to Lee Rowley MP for the APPG inquiry into the impacts of fracking.
- **Permitted Development and NSIP** consultations completed in opposition on behalf of FFIOW and by individuals in the group.
Documents created for the public to complete the consultations hosted on the website.
- **All parish, town and county councillors, MP Bob Seely and all local political party groups** emailed with evidence and information for their members, regarding the government's plan to remove planning decisions on fossil fuel extraction from local authorities. Requests made to respond in opposition to the government. Documents created for the public to complete the consultation hosted on the website.

Support For FFIOW

We would like to thank

- the Green Party for its kind donation to our funds, provision of free 2018 anti fracking calendars and general support for our campaigns.
- Christopher Dodd who has donated a piece of artwork to FFIOW for auction or raffle at a future date.
- the members of the Weald Action Group for sharing documents, legal advice, training, sources and contacts and helping us formulate our action plans.
- individual councillors and officials from all parties who have directly communicated to us their support for our group, assisted us with directing information to the correct sources and for listening to our concerns
- finally thank you to our volunteers, subscribers, members, people who donated at our meetings and presentations and our facebook supporters for being there behind the scenes, waiting in the wings and spreading the word.



We are sending Seasons Greetings to all subscribers and members of Frack Free Isle of Wight and look forward to your continued support during 2019!