



# YATTON AGAINST PYLONS

[www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk](http://www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk)



Issue 1

Newsletter

February 2010

*"There are times when you have to stand up for what is right. That time is now!" Dave McGovern, Chair, YAP*

## DO NOT SWITCH OFF!

### First Stage of Consultation Closed 22<sup>nd</sup> January

There is a lot to do before National Grid's (NG) formal application is submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in summer 2011. The IPC is a brand new independent body which will make decisions on applications for nationally significant infrastructure projects.

### Communities Unite

*All the campaign groups along the 37 mile route have united to prevent NG from dividing communities along the proposed route corridors. See our website for links to all the other campaign groups along the route.*

### Recent Events

19th Dec - 200 residents march in Yatton

2nd Jan - 700 people attend walk at Backwell Lakes

Sedgemoor Council rejects National Grid consultation as unlawful

Telephone campaign extends NG consultation period

30th Jan – over 300 attend anti-pylon march in Loxton

## Dr Liam Fox MP takes up case in Parliament

19<sup>th</sup> January 2010



Following a hugely successful meeting at Yatton Rugby Club on the 8th January, Dr Liam Fox MP secured a debate in the House of Commons on National Grid's proposal to build 400kv overhead cables to connect Hinckley C to Avonmouth. Many Yatton residents also wrote to the Speaker, Mr John Bercow to request a debate which went ahead on 19 January.

Dr Fox covered the lack of extensive consultation, the impact on the environment, increased health risk and the anger that local people feel about the way in which National Grid have conducted themselves in such a large scale infrastructure development that will be visible on our landscape for decades to come. He asked that alternatives be fully investigated especially subsea in the Bristol Channel before progressing with the consultation.

He said *'I am deeply proud of local pressure groups and local residents for the dignity and self restraint with which they have handled themselves'*.

Dr Fox also warned that *'all members of the House of Commons should take note of this debate. Today it is North Somerset in the firing line. Others will follow'*.

YAP expresses its gratitude to Dr Fox for taking up the issue on behalf of local residents. We would also like to thank Yatton Rugby Club for hosting the meeting.

Letters count so please write to Dr Liam Fox at 71, High Street, Nailsea, North Somerset BS48 1AW or email [douglasi@parliament.uk](mailto:douglasi@parliament.uk).

## URGENT ACTION POINTS

- 1** Please sign the petition by the end of February 2010 as numbers do count
- 2** Write to Liam Fox MP to highlight your concerns about pylons
- 3** Continue writing to local newspapers
- 4** Place our poster in your window or put a sign outside your house to show your opposition to pylons
- 5** Offer to help with any skills that you may have

## Sir Michael Pitt Spells Out the Process

26<sup>th</sup> January 2010

On Tuesday Sir Michael Pitt (Chair of the IPC) held a private meeting with representatives from the pressure groups along the proposed routes.

Mr Pitt was joined by the Chief Executive of NG and Mark Olsen who is the Project Manager for Hinckley Point C.

The objective was to hear what the IPC expected from promoters (in this case National Grid) prior to submitting their application although they could not specifically discuss NG's case as it has not yet made the application.

The Planning Act 2008 sets out the legislation under which the IPC operate.

Sir Michael confirmed that they expect a high standard of consultation prior to the application being submitted as NG's application will be one of the first large scale projects they will have had to make a decision on.

The local authorities have a vital role as legal consultees in this process. Therefore it is important to write to North Somerset Council and Yatton Parish Council with your views if you have not already done so.

NG's application is not expected to be submitted until summer 2011 and it was encouraging to know that the letter of the law will be followed. The application will be agreed or rejected 28 days after it is submitted.

## Poster

*We attach a poster to our newsletter. Please place it in your window to show your support. Be proud of your village and help keep the community spirit alive.*

## Updates

For latest news and developments please visit our website at [www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk](http://www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk)

## Beware of Bruton Knowles

*Bruton Knowles Property Agents are trying to contact all landowners along the routes to obtain information on ownership of the land and access rights.*

*Under the Planning Act 2008, landowners are not required to respond to NG's letters until AFTER they have made the application to the IPC.*

*If you are a landowner and are threatened with fines or anything else please let us know and keep all correspondence. We recommend that you do not provide any information until such time that is necessary.*

## and finally...

YAP members continue to campaign in their spare time and the work they do is voluntary. They are Yatton residents who are highly passionate about this cause and are made up of working professionals, parents and retirees. YAP is always seeking new members to get involved so contact us via our website, whatever skills you can offer. As a Yatton resident, your input is critical and will make a difference so check our website regularly for latest news. For those who do not have access to the internet, we will be sending out newsletters to keep you informed.

Thank you to everyone to date who has supported YAP, even if you've just signed the petition. It all helps.



[www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk](http://www.yattonagainstpylons.co.uk)