

The Sixth Annual General Meeting of Frack Free Isle of Wight - was not held publicly due to continued COVID 19 restrictions and in the interest of public safety. On Monday 8th November members and subscribers received copies of this draft annual report copied below.

NOTIFICATION

FFIOW members and subscribers were formally notified of this AGM and this decision by email in our Newsletter on November 1st, with invitations to notify the current committee of requests to be considered for participation in the new committee. **None were received**

For this reason from **Monday 22nd November 2021**, members of the committee listed below have been reinstated as the committee for the coming year to November 2022.

Sylvia May as Research, Communication and Outreach Co-ordinator
Steven Davis as Research and Support Communication and Outreach
Maggie Nelmes as Support Outreach
John Medland as Secretary
John Redman as Treasurer and membership secretary
John Redman and Sylvia May as financial signatories.

Ruth Redman has resigned her position as membership secretary which has been taken on by John Redman.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees of £6 will need to be paid or renewed from Monday 22nd November. Use Paypal or Bank Card from this link [SUBSCRIBE/DONATE](#)

Alternatively you can pay from our website CONTACT button and drop-down menu on the website.

MINUTES OF AGM 2020

The Minutes of the AGM of November 12th 2020 are approved: proposed by Sylvia May, seconded by John Redman.

FINANCIAL REPORT - John Redman- Treasurer

Much has been achieved and our budget has proven once again to be key to our achievements as the year has progressed since our last AGM in November 2020.

This is a summary of our finances which have remained positive despite the activities we have undertaken.

This is all thanks to continued generous donations from our Island members, communities and subscribers both directly through our website and from the Go Fund Me appeal.

Our expenses for The DDTW campaign include physical materials, online services, Social Media management and Web Services.

Opening Balance	£846.15
Memberships/ Donations/ Tshirts	£768.21
Go Fund Me	£609.83
General Exp	-£9.00
WEB Exp	-£455.36
DDTW Exp social/public	-£600.00
Donations Made	-£400.00
PayPal	£26.98
Closing Balance	£786.81

The balance, and any future funds we hope to raise, will be held in reserve in preparation for any anticipated spending due to a possible appeal by UKOG to the decision during the coming year to

November 2022 and/or supporting other issues that may arise to support environmental goals that will benefit the island community and the climate emergency.

We have been able to make donations to affiliated campaigns and services that have supported our work as follows:

1. **Weald Action Group:** who are funding an appeal regarding Surrey County Council's decision to grant UKOG permission to drill 4 more wells at Horse Hill. Sarah Finch from the Horse Hill campaign is challenging the council premise that they did not take into consideration the impacts of future emissions from the use of the oil recovered on National emissions reduction targets.
2. **To the independent journalism of Drill or Drop:** who produce independent online reports of all aspects of oil and gas related activities and policy across the UK. This site is funded solely by public donation and has been an invaluable resource for our campaign since we began in 2015.
3. Finally we gave our social media manager a wedding gift bonus for her hours of help, outside of her contracted time over the past year, which continue to be vital to the success of our campaign.

It appears that UKOG are still struggling to achieve their aims at Horse Hill, Loxley and even now in Turkey where they have had to stop activity to remedy their failure to undertake up to date seismic analysis and are keeping very quiet with oil production still falling. It is estimated that they will be reporting a loss of over £16 million.

Having failed to raise the amounts of funds required by the launch of further shares over the past 6 months, there seems to be very little positivity amongst investors who have seen a drop in value again. Shares now stand at around .013p. It is clearly in the lap of the gods and depends on production results where the share price goes next.

I would doubt there is any oil gushing anytime soon.

THE ANNUAL REPORT for the year Nov 2020 to Oct 2021 – The Outreach Team – Sylvia May

In addition to the continuation of the Covid 19 pandemic, 2021 has seen a massive rise in local, national and international awareness, discussion, reports, actions and campaigns related to the Climate Emergency, leading up to the current COP 26 in Glasgow. This has worked in our favour to support our opposition to UKOG's application.

This has influenced us and our work over the past 12 months and has seen us focus primarily on 4 areas.

1. **Research and analysis of UKOG activity, comments for the second consultation period, analysis of updated UKOG reports and plans for the Arreton site, preparation for the planning committee meeting.**
 - Correspondence with planning officers and other agencies, including Southern Water – and the Environment Agency, consultation linked to the UKOG application.
 - Working in solidarity with other affiliated campaigners with objections and comments for applications at their own fossil fuel exploration sites.
2. **Responding to Local Island political changes and consultations on Policy Updates**
3. **Raising awareness of changes related to UK and International Policies and Developments within the Environment and Climate Emergency debate.**
4. **Responding to consultations for Government Policy for the above**

CHRONOLOGICAL ACTIVITY for the past 12 months

- **In December 2020** UKOG applied for 3 licences in Turkey and announced their plan to appeal to the refusal of planning permission for their Loxley Site in Dunsfold, Surrey.

- **Also in December** IOW planners announced that all revised documentation had been received for the Arreton application and a new consultation period was planned for January 2021 for a period of 5 weeks ending in February 2021.
Action - We responded by preparing comments and highlighting key facts for the public to respond to the second consultation during the entire period.

- **Planners agreed in February 2021** to keep the consultation open to allow more comments and report responses to be submitted until the date set for the application to go to the committee.
Action - Our committee collectively submitted multiple objections to multiple documents, statements and rebuttals of reports as they were posted in the documents section of the application, on behalf of our subscribers and members of the campaign. We wrote personalised comments as individual residents.
By 28th October 2021, 3420 objections were recorded on the portal in the documents section and 73 supporting.

- **During this period** the committee wrote numerous press releases, letters and reports for local and national press, campaign organisers and social media outlets, met with appropriate consultees and worked with media outlets. **See Stephen Davis Report**

Additionally The New Island Plan for housing development and planning, was submitted by the IWCouncil to the UK Government for ratification and was rejected due to failure to meet quotas for housing development. This meant that a new revised plan had to be prepared. Then came the local election.

- **IOW local elections May 2021.**
Action - DDTW contacted all candidates for the May 2021 elections outlining our key concerns for newly appointed councillors.
Given the subsequent changes to the IWCouncil and the need to re-address the rejected Island Housing Development Plan, the planning officers further delayed the Arreton decision to allow the new council to work on the local plan and to ensure that the appropriate Government guideline training for fossil fuel applications was undertaken by new planning committee members.

Action – This time delay enabled our members to meet with newly appointed local ward representatives, post election, to outline our purpose and to write to councillors with the latest factual guidance.

- **The Draft Isle of Wight Environment and Climate Emergency Strategy was launched and ratified in June 2021.** This included disincentivising fossil fuel extraction and proposed plans for divesting IWC pension funds from all fossil fuel investment.
Action - We wrote to councillors opening dialogue and supporting and welcoming these incentives. We also wrote to the pension fund committee asking them to act on divesting nearly £19 million of their pension fund from all direct and indirect fossil fuel companies. However this was ignored!
- **In June 2021 UKOG applied to the Environment Agency for a drilling permit and a consultation was launched.**
Action - In response we researched the EA documentation and supported subscribers to respond to the consultation by preparing comments and factual information for their objections and hosting these online.

We launched press releases and wrote letters to relevant organisations.

We wrote our own detailed objection to the EA consultation.

We wrote to Southern Water, highlighting 11 points for refusal in evidence submitted in an independent report by a renowned Geophysicist. As a result Southern Water contacted the planning officer with concerns of risk to our major aquifer .

The EA decision is still awaited.

- **In August 2021 HM Government released their Hydrogen Strategy** which locks the UK into fossil fuels for the foreseeable future to create Blue Hydrogen without Carbon Capture Use or Storage. **Action** - We worked on this document for weeks and wrote our own objection and comments to the consultation that was open until the beginning of October. We then prepared information and comments for our subscribers to use online **BUT this was never published** as it was superseded by the public consultation for the **New Island Plan**. **We considered this to be of greater local importance for communities to engage with.**
- **On October 11th 2021 The planning committee date and the Planning Officer's recommendation was published.** **Action** - We worked solidly on the Officer's recommendation report, communications with media and councillors and our 3 speakers registered to speak at the meeting and planned our 6 minutes of time in the Council Chamber – **THE REST IS HISTORY.**

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE APPLICATION – SEE THEIR STATEMENT BELOW

“The proposed development would cause significant harm to the landscape and visual qualities of the surrounding rural area and thereby compromise the Island's tourism industry. The economic benefits of the proposed development would not outweigh the harm to the integrity of the Island's landscape and Biosphere status. The proposal is therefore contrary to the requirements of policies SP4 (Tourism), SP5 (Environment), DM2 (Design Quality for New Development) and DM12 (Landscape, Seascape, Biodiversity and Geodiversity) of the Island Plan Core Strategy”

LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION – Steve Davis – Communication and Outreach

Outreach activities were very prominent during the last year of the campaign. The foundation work done in previous years had established the DDTW team as a serious operation.

People knew that we were well informed, had a good understanding of the complexities of drilling for oil, the associated risks and impacts, and were worth listening to.

This enabled us to have meaningful discussions at several levels of influence; parish councils, county councillors, local journalists, radio and tv reporters from national and international outlets were all in the mix during the hectic final months.

Social media also played a significant role in raising the profile of the campaign and the level of direct engagement from the public. Over 3,400 individual written objections made this by far the most objected-to planning application ever considered on the Island.

I'd like to give special mention to Suzie Ellis who was elected as the county councillor for the newly created Central Rural ward in May 2021.

Straight in at the deep end with this and other major issues to grapple with, Suzie worked hard to get up to speed with the situation, quickly becoming an articulate and capable opponent of the drilling plans.

Her speech to the planning committee was undoubtedly instrumental in influencing the outcome of **unanimous refusal**, a result that exceeded our highest expectations.

Building awareness and maintaining relationships by communicating honestly and effectively at all levels was a real strength of this campaign and a key factor in our success.

THANK YOU

For their work behind the scenes **we want to thank**

- the originators of Frack Free Isle of Wight for laying the foundations of the work of the past 6 years and our existing committee members for their endurance and commitment to the end.
- the members of the IW Council planning committee and their supporting council colleagues who were ready to hear our concerns, read and research our facts and were able to construct a balanced, coherent and legal argument to unanimously reject UKOG's application.
- those FFIOW supporting public members and subscribers and friends, members of political party groups and environmental action organisations, who all offered their active support by delivering flyers, erecting posters and banners, making their voices heard on the streets and in the fields of the Island and at council committee meetings.
- those who helped us by spreading the word online, in the local press and nationally through their media forums.
- the Blue Seas Protection Group who patiently collected over 4400 signatures on their petition over the years and presented this to the Planning Cabinet member.

As a result of all these efforts and collaboration after 6 years we have overcome a huge hurdle and, as we wrote on the day of the decision David overcame Goliath.

OTHER BUSINESS

During the course of the year we have supported other sites across the UK who are tackling issues related to their own oil and gas sites, and, in return have been supported by members of the Weald Action Group (WAG).

- We objected to the IGAS consultation for exploration and extraction of gas at two of their sites for the development of Hydrogen without Carbon Capture Use and Storage which produces more CO₂ emissions than burning gas.
- We are now working with WAG supporting fundraising for **A Legal Hearing** based on Surrey County Council's lack of full consideration of the long term impacts of burning the extracted fossil fuels. **This challenge could be crucial to effect change of current Government planning policy guidelines, requiring a more extensive and complete calculation of all potential initial and future emissions from all types of major planning applications.**

MATTERS ARISING - ideas for consideration for future plans from members and subscribers.

- **John Curtis wrote** . Regarding where next,
"I often think about stopping new fossil fuel infrastructure as one side of the equation. The other side of the equation is doing things that are good for the planet like planting trees, insulating houses or installing low carbon technology. I am wondering if the wonderful Frack Free momentum can be channelled to a "good for the planet" cause? (in addition to watching for UKOG appeals...) If it is tree planting or rewilding the local botanic garden can help!"