

## The Fifth Annual General Meeting of Frack Free Isle of Wight - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020

This was not held publicly due to COVID 19 restrictions.

For this reason from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020, members of the committee listed below have been reinstated as the committee for the coming year to November 2021.

**Sylvia May** as Principle Outreach Co-ordinator

**Maggie Nelmes and Steve Davis** as Support Outreach

**John Medland** as Secretary,

**John Redman** as Treasurer.

**Ruth Redman** as Membership Secretary,

**John Redman and Sylvia May** as financial signatories.

### NOTIFICATION

FFIOW members and subscribers were formally notified of this AGM and this decision by email in our November Newsletter on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019, with invitations to notify the current committee of requests to be considered for participation in the new committee. None were received.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November members and subscribers received copies by email of the annual report copied below.

**Existing members are now invited to renew their membership for the coming year online by paying a membership fee of £6 per person via the website at this link [Subscription / Donation / Membership](#). New members are also invited.**

**The Minutes of the AGM of November 12<sup>th</sup> 2019** are approved: proposed by Sylvia May and seconded by John Redman.

**Matters Arising from December 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 Meeting** minutes – Jenni's request to gain information from the seismograph at Carisbrooke was investigated but this does not record incidents.

However the British Geological Society has confirmed that there is an active seismograph at Calbourne which we will investigate in the near future.

All other matters are addressed in this annual report.

### **The Financial Report John Redman- Treasurer**

An eventful year which started directly after our last AGM

The table is a summary of our finances which have remained positive despite the activities we have undertaken. Thanks to some generous donations via our members and subscribers. I think this is self explanatory.

We managed to fund some printing by using the Open Collective Network which supports local community activism.

Our expenses for The DDTW campaign included: Printing of Posters, leaflets, Newspaper and online advertising and payment for one of our media videos locally sourced on the island.

We also agreed to make external donations to the **Weald Action Group**, which is funding legal action against Surrey County Council's Horse Hill extension and UKOG's injunction to restrict the lawful activities of protestors.

Additionally we made a donation to Ruth Hayhurst for her online independent journalism of **Drill or Drop**, producing reports of all UK oil and gas activities, Government policy, National research and opposition action across the UK, which has been invaluable to our campaign.

<b>Opening Balance</b>	1280.19
Members/Donations	£745.15
Go Fund Me	£577.31
T shirt sales	£74.25
Open Collective	£314.40
General Expenditure	-£213.25
WEB Expenditure	-£149.66
DDTW Expenditure	-£1,482.24
Donations Made	-£300.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£846.15</b>

At the time of writing it appears UKOG are still struggling to achieve their aims at Horse Hill, keeping very quiet with oil production still falling. They are now targeting a shared activity in Turkey to gain some positive outcome to boost their share value. There seems to be very little positivity amongst investors, who continue to see a drop in share prices. The original value of **1p per share** when the Arreton Project was announced in December last, fell to **0.2p** in early June then ramped to a spike of **0.4p** in mid June due to the expected Dunsfold /Loxley planning decision. This was refused but challenged by UKOG and is expected to be re-submitted at the end of November.

**Shares currently stand at .013p.** This will be impacted by future decisions - which are clearly in the lap of the gods, court decisions and forthcoming planning committee decisions. I would doubt there will be any oil gushing at anytime soon.

### **The Annual Report for the year November 2019 to November 2020 – Sylvia May**

The past 12 months has been pretty exhausting and entirely devoted to action related to the planning and execution of opposition to application 20/00513/FUL by UK Oil and Gas Ltd to create a well site at Arreton for general exploration and the appraisal of oil extraction from the Portland Strata.

- **At the end of the November 2019** we had identified the potential site for the Arreton well but could not reveal this until we had positive evidence.
- **On December 2<sup>nd</sup> UKOG announced their “Community Liaison Meeting”** on 16<sup>th</sup> December at Newclose Cricket Ground.
- **On December 10<sup>th</sup>** an emergency public meeting at the Castle Pub took place where we prepared the public for attendance at UKOG’s meeting. We shared information from communities in other PEDL locations who had experienced such meetings so that they would know what to expect. We discussed our key objections and advice to the public regarding how to question and challenge UKOG representatives. We stressed that there would be NO DEMONSTRATION and that everyone should present themselves as polite, concerned and informed members of the public, arrive in small groups not as individuals who could be sidelined. We recommended staggering their visits to the meeting to ensure they were kept on their toes all day. We posted relevant questions on the website for those who planned to attend. **Members of the committee also attended the meeting.**
- **The December 16<sup>th</sup>** meeting revealed that we had been correct about the Arreton site location but the second potential site in Godshill was a complete surprise.
- Our planned feedback meeting in early **February 2020** in Arreton, was cancelled due to Storm Ciara, but rescheduled for later in the month on 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
This was very well attended and we collated all reported information in preparation for a formal application and encouraged attendees to write to their IWC Ward representative to express their concerns.  
**In general the public who attended felt that the drop-in exhibition corporate style of the meeting was not about liaison but a deliberate attempt to avoid key issues being discussed by an audience of local community members in a formal public debate. Many people living close to the sites had not received one of UKOG’s purported 4,000 announcement postal leaflets.**  
We planned a series of roving presentations about the application to take to key areas of the island during the course of the coming months but this was brought to a halt by the lock down due to **COVID -19.**
- **On March 23<sup>rd</sup> UKOG submitted its application.**

### **THE LOCK DOWN PERIOD**

This gave us a reprieve since we were assured by the Planning Officers that although the application was validated to launch the public consultation deliberation would be on hold and would not be finally submitted to the Planning Committee for consideration until:

**a)** members of the Planning Committee received appropriate training **b)** lock down was lifted or adjusted to enable councillors to undertake proper statutory planning processes so that **c)** it was an appropriate time to review an industrial application of this kind by full committee in Chambers.

### **WE LAUNCH OUR VIRTUAL ACTION PLAN**

- A screening report from UKOG had been submitted to planning officers outlining the potential detail of the proposed planning permission and we had received a copy for analysis.

- As a result [3 online information presentations](#) were created and posted on the website to combat the lockdown.
- All IWC councillors, local parish councils and Planning Officers were contacted with the links to the presentations and since then we have regularly sent them relevant government reports and information about the impacts of oil and gas extraction and the Climate Crisis.
- **After submission of the planning application in March 2020** we activated our action plan to counter UKOG's focus on anti- fracking statements and decided to launch the **Don't Drill The Wight Campaign**. We spent weeks analysing the hundreds of planning documents in order to highlight inaccuracies, misrepresentations and concerns to frame our responses.
- **John Redman** supported Sylvia in restructuring our website to focus solely on the consultation to enable maximum public response to the consultation.  
Logging faithfully the recorded objections and supporting statements and publishing accurate figures daily on the web page backed up by John's spreadsheet expertise.  
John also took charge of the design and distribution management of 5000 leaflets for mailed responses.
- **Steve Davis** took on the **Don't Drill The Wight Media** launch and maintenance of a second Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account which, alongside our FFIOW media pages, managed to reach thousands of Islanders and Mainlanders during the public consultation period. [Report Below](#)
- **Sylvia** managed the production of a protest song video, two on line news videos and advertising in the County Press Newspaper along with updating news for outreach and communication with IW Council, news groups and relevant organisations. Maggie Nelmes and Steve supported with monitoring online news sources and contacting relevant statutory and important consultees highlighting the application and encouraging them to respond.

### **From John Medland**

"This report is in effect our version of "The Bentley Effect". It describes a successful campaign to publicise a secretive application; in a condition equivalent to a state of emergency, with normal civil rights suspended; which succeeded magnificently. This is something we hope others can learn from.

It shows how we made the most of our efforts, despite no possible public meetings, visits to the planning office or attendance at the Parish Council meeting where the application was discussed.

This explains why we began our online activities, alongside the two gatherings at Merston, with TV & radio coverage, letters in the County Press and the welcome support of our MP.

It's great to have this historical record of a year of successful campaigning in very difficult conditions. It has been a fantastic effort, our best year yet."

**Thanks to everyone.**

### **Steve Davis reports on Don't Drill The Wight Media upgrades.**

"The biggest success was the Facebook page created specifically for the DDTW campaign, it grew steadily in popularity gaining over 750 followers in just a few weeks. The analysis of the data shows that some of our posts were getting upwards of 2,000 views. It was a very effective tool for raising awareness of the Oil Drilling Threat, something that many people were still unaware of despite our years of campaigning.

Twitter has a different type of audience and whilst the account only shows 118 followers we picked up some really valuable and influential contacts via the Twitter channel. These contacts in turn were able to use their much larger followings to garner support for the campaign

Finally Instagram - this was the channel that I understood the least and consequently it received the least attention. It did however spark contact with a younger audience. It was especially effective in allowing us to collaborate with a small youth group that were independently campaigning against the proposed drilling. Their impact should not be underestimated as they were really able to connect with a much younger audience in a way that we have previously failed to do. There were a significant number of good quality objections submitted from younger people as a consequence of this collaboration.

We should also mention that the social media presence was a big factor in enabling us to raise much needed funds via the [GoFundMe](#) platform. Please donate by clicking the link.

We have always been careful to avoid becoming embroiled in Party Politics and wish to mention that for the DDTW campaign we welcomed collaboration from all parties and persuasions. **MP Bob Seely** objected. **John Medland** of course as an Independent is embedded in our operations and personally went door to door and leafleted an area of roughly 4sq kms of the Arreton site.

We received support from representatives of **Labour** and the **LibDem Party** and members of the **Green Party** rolled up their sleeves and actively contributed to this campaign organising online events and a symbolic walk to the proposed drill site. This was a successful collaboration that deserves our thanks to all concerned.

A spin off from this collaboration, together with our social media presence, was the offer that materialised from a local media artist to make a short high-impact film for online distribution in support of the campaign. The film was produced in just a few days and distributed via social media on multiple channels. It quickly attracted a lot of attention with a high level of shares and re-tweets. This in turn led to the DDTW campaign being picked up by the Environmental section of Euronews who interviewed Sylvia and ran their own feature on the campaign to an international audience.

The net effect of our established longer term activities; coupled with collaborations which, in turn, were boosted by harnessing social media; was a result that exceeded all expectations.

We are fairly confident that this is now the most '*Objected to*' planning application on the Island. This has ensured that the issue will receive the attention and scrutiny that it deserves."

### **For their work behind the scenes we want to say a huge THANK YOU**

- to those FFIOW supporting public members and subscribers who offered their active support
- to supporting environmental groups such as XR and the unknown couple who raised awareness on their "model island" in Ventor
- to those who wrote letters and emails, did leaflet drops in their localities and beyond, to reach as many communities as possible
- to those businesses, shops and outlets that took our leaflets and posters to raise the awareness of their customers
- to those who helped us by spreading the word online, in the local press and nationally through their media forums.

**As a result of all these efforts we reached thousands more members of the public than we had hoped and more than 2,220 objections have been submitted during this formal consultation period.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED OBJECTIONS.**

**Sylvia and Steve** have finally analysed the consultation responses over many weeks with Sylvia compiling our [Report for the Full Council and Planning Officers](#) to help identify the nature and the strength of objections.

### **THE BIG WAIT**

We are still keeping in touch with the planning department to ensure that the consultation period is appropriately reported and continue to monitor the progress of the application.

At the time of writing Planning Officers are still waiting for

- all statutory consultee comments to be submitted for the application
- responses received from UKOG challenges to some documents.

Then a further statutory consultation period will be announced for these to be reviewed and comments received.

The Planning Officer will then compile his report and make his recommendations to the Planning Committee with the date for consideration by the Planning Committee.

**At the time of writing there is no indication when this will be and there are no planning meetings**

scheduled for the rest of this year.

We anticipate that it will not be until the first quarter of 2021 unless UKOG withdraws its application.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

[Please Click to sign the Petition created for us by Susan of Blue Seas Protection group.](#)

It will remain open until the planning committee meets to decide the application and we would like to have 4000 signatures by then.

### **FFIOW Support for other organisations.**

During the course of the year we have been supporting, and have been supported by, members of the **Weald Action Group (WAG)**, with information, filed objections and virtual meetings for advice on all aspects of countering our application.

- We have submitted objections to UKOG's applications for new sites in the Weald at Dunsfold/Loxley Site and the resolution of the Markwells Wood PEDL Licence, where the site had been abandoned and only recently restored after nearly 3 years to a green space. The Licence was eventually dropped by UKOG later this year.
- We submitted objections to the extension of the exploration period of UKOG's failing Broadford Bridge Site, which was granted by their local Planning Committee.
- We objected to UKOG's application for 4 more wells, a deep-water reinjection well and 20 further years of oil production at Horse Hill in Surrey, which was agreed by **Surrey County Council**.
- We are now working with **WAG** supporting fundraising for **A Legal Challenge to Surrey County Council's decision** based on their lack of full consideration of the long term impacts of burning the extracted fossil fuels from this extended period.

**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 for onshore oil and gas extraction.**

[Read more of this HERE](#)

**Next Frack Free Isle of Wight AGM due date will be Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Venue to be confirmed.**