



# TAKE THE POWER BACK

Mid-Wales and Marches Campaigning for Friendly Energy Solutions

November 2012

## Let's Stick Together

When the choice of hub site was announced, many of us were seized with a kind of cold dread. What we had feared now had shape, and that shape was very ugly. However, the gathering that evening raised everyone's spirits and one reason for that cheerfulness was the presence in Cefn Coch of a large number of friends from Abermule. For them, there was no sense of relief, just eagerness to help their friends.

Our unity has shocked the developers. From the first, they have played the game of 'divide and rule' and the tactic has failed dismally. Groups have sprung up in different communities, drawing strength from their roots, but these groups work together to push the fight forward.

Now, new communities are affected, both in Mid Wales and in Shropshire. To those new to the fight, remember that help is at hand: the grizzled warriors of CUP and MAP can provide advice, practical help and support. These communities may wish to set up groups of their



own or join existing movements but it is important to remember at all times that we are fighting together.

The message is simple: 'No windfarms = no pylons'. Therefore, you cannot protect the Peniarth Valley without also saving Cwm Nant yr Eira. Moving the pylon route will not 'save' one community at the expense of another: unless the notion that 'Mid Wales is open for Wind' is defeated, all of our communities remain under threat.

This is one of those happy junctures in human affairs when doing the right thing is also doing the smart thing: together we can, and will, drive these bloodsucking companies back into whatever holes they crawled out of. But let them think for one moment

that any of us would regard it as a victory if our own homes were saved at the expense of another community and they will rejoice: after all, if we are nothing more than NIMBYs, they will be ordering in the steel to make the pylon towers.

## Brothers in Arms

Anti-wind protestors from Mid Wales and beyond staffed the NOW (National Opposition to Wind) stand at the Labour Party conference in Manchester. It proved to be a valuable opportunity to contact many rank and file Labour activists who share our concerns, despite the official "Wind is Wonderful" policy adopted by their leaders. Indeed, it would appear that on-shore wind is an issue on which the gulf between the Hampstead oligarchy who rule Labour and the party members is wide and growing. Talking to concerned local representatives from Scotland, the South West, the Midlands, Cumbria and the North East, as well as our friends from North and South

Wales, a disturbing picture emerges of communities fighting multi-national companies whilst their political masters do nothing.

A fringe meeting on wind-power proved highly instructive. The panel consisted of representatives of the industry, (including one infelicitously named 'Maf', which one hopes is a feeble attempt at trendiness rather than a font-related catastrophe) and Labour politicians so the speakers were predictably monotonic. Questions from the floor, however, revealed the rift in the party, with rank and file delegates asking, for instance, why there was no Labour policy on matters such as shadow flicker and noise. The grandees will have left the meeting troubled: adherence to on-shore wind is a vote loser and they are beginning to realise this.

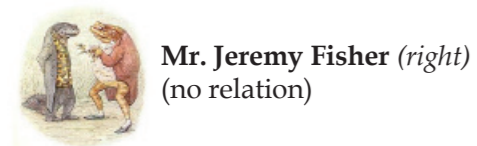


**Jezza Says...**



You will have been struck by the unspoilt beauty of the Welsh uplands. But here's what NG say about Cefn Coch - "Although the landscape is remote and highly rural, the coniferous plantations combined with a nearby quarry contribute to a sense that this is a commercial landscape".

So, the presence of conifers makes a commercial landscape does it, Jezza? We must remember that as I am putting up our Christmas Trees. 'Children,' we must say as we hang the baubles 'from now on until Twelfth Night, our drawing room is a commercial landscape and we know it must be true because wise Mr Jeremy Lee tells us that it is so.' False logic is a familiar tactic of those who are losing an argument. Gather whinberries, watch for grouse, see the skylark swoop up by the hushite and see how commercial that landscape feels to you



**Mr. Jeremy Fisher (right)** (no relation)

**Wicked Whisper...**  
They're digging holes all over the Dyfnant and everywhere they're finding peat.

**10 Things You Can Do...**

MAP has published a new list of things that ordinary people can do to help the campaign against the windfarms and pylons. They are very straightforward and we are not asking people to lie down in front of bulldozers (at least not yet). It includes an up to date list of useful addresses and other references you need to write to. You can download it from the MAP website, or contact the TTPB editor for a copy.  
<http://www.montgomeryshireagainstpylons.org/>



**Gnome Sweet Gnome**

Our intrepid reporter has recorded a rise in crime in Montgomeryshire recently as distant cousins to Sneezy, Grumpy, and Dopey have been spotted in the neighbourhood, lurking down country lanes with maps and clip boards, peering over hedges, and prowling up people's driveways. They claim to be counting badgers and checking badger runs, but could this be a front to allay the more vigilant of our county's residents? Snoopy, the older of these Brutal Gnomes has been clocked driving a scruffy red car and seems to react to "No Pylons" signs like a mole to garlic. In another town, his posh partner was overheard blagging he didn't know he needed to give notice to go knocking on people's doors armed with a tape measure.

TTPB tracked down the chief Gnome who assured us that Snoopy and his gang have been briefed to undertake work in our neighbourhoods in a polite and unobtrusive manner, and that they need to give 14 days written notice if they want to measure peoples hedges and dig holes in their gardens. If they don't have a letter, you can ask them politely to leave.  
If you're still worried you can contact Mr Jeremy James, Director of Bowland Ecology, on 01200 446777 or e-mail him at [info@bowlandecology.co.uk](mailto:info@bowlandecology.co.uk) Or you can write to Patrick Downes at Bruton Knowles Manchester Office and ask him what's going on. [patrick.downes@brutonknowles.co.uk](mailto:patrick.downes@brutonknowles.co.uk).



In the meantime, a large sign on your gate saying "Trespassers W." will be enough to confuse any cold callers trying to find out your name and address.

**Winds of Change in Westminster**

The autumn reshuffle has been interpreted by the press as a shift to the right or portending the collapse of the coalition. Whatever the politics, it represents a clear triumph for the anti-wind farm movement, whose breakout point took place in March 2011 with the National Grid's announcement of pylon connections through mid-Wales. In the reshuffle, specifically:  
Owen Paterson, MP for Shropshire North - which is targeted for miles of giant pylons as a result of Welsh Assembly decisions, in which Shropshire has had no democratic say - has been promoted Secretary of State for the Environment. He has consistently opposed wind farm development and has expressed skepticism as to the efficiency of onshore wind in reducing climate

change. We warmly welcome this appointment to a major cabinet job opposing the incoherent ambitions of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.  
John Hayes, another opponent of onshore wind, has been appointed deputy to the Liberal Ed Davey at DECC, promising to help bring that department to order after the departure of 'we will carpet Britain with wind farms' Chris Huhne's tenure. Hayes is unlikely to be converted to DECC's former utopian solutions. Davey is already trying to elbow him aside. DECC is in a huge mess, having overspent its budget by £500m, forcing the resignation of its boss, the Permanent Secretary - which is almost unprecedented in the experience of those who know how Whitehall works.

Michael Fallon's appointment as deputy business secretary to Vince Cable brings another wind farm sceptic to the higher reaches of government. We believe that Fallon favours a phasing out of subsidies for onshore wind.  
Ken Clarke's appointment as a roving cabinet office minister with special responsibility for economic affairs brings another heavyweight to the table who we believe considers onshore wind to be an expensive, poverty-creating and environmentally destructive dead duck.  
However unpopular he may be, George Osborne staying in place as Chancellor is good for our cause, because it underlines that the Prime Minister still supports the Treasury's increasingly fierce assault on wind farm subsidies.  
The new Secretary of State for Wales, David Jones, has expressed his opposition to the proposed wind

farm SSA in the Clocaenog Forest in Denbighshire. As he represents a Welsh seat he may feel more able to lock horns with Carwyn Jones and the Cardiff Assembly than his predecessor, Cheryl Gillan.  
With these changes, plus the support of around 150 MPs, mostly Conservative but including some Liberals and Scottish Labour members, now is the time to press for the abandonment of these crazy, outdated policies on onshore wind, which date back 10 years or more. David Cameron's promise to be the 'greenest government ever' will be fulfilled by abandoning the wanton desecration of the greenest and most beautiful parts of Britain by industrial parks of giant wind turbines. He and the political class from all parties are moving in the right direction. And we, in mid-Wales, can be proud of having started the revolution in March last year.

**The BIG Switch...**

**DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT - SWITCH FROM SCOTTISH POWER!**

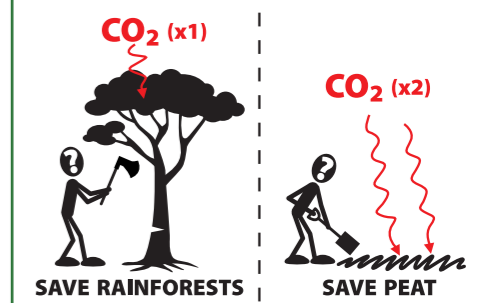
Why pay your domestic electricity bills to Scottish Power? These are the same people that want to cover Powys with wind farms. If you are a Scottish Power customer - and lots of us are because they took over MANWEB, our local electricity board, way back in the nineties - and your contract is open-ended or up for renewal - now is the time to SWITCH.  
We've made a special deal for Montgomeryshire people with a

small electricity company called Ovo Energy (by the way, the Big Six electricity companies - Scottish Power and the rest - have 99% of the market so we're talking genuinely small and user-friendly here) who are very happy to receive switchers from Scottish Power.  
You will get better service and a better financial deal (estimated average savings £161 annually)  
MAP will get a donation of £20 from Ovo for every switcher (you can keep the cash, if you prefer, or send it to a charity of your choice)

Scottish Power will get the message - if you plan to destroy Montgomeryshire with wind farms and pylons, we, the people of Montgomeryshire, will fight back.  
Visit the link:  
<https://switch.ovoenergy.com/map> and follow the instructions to make your stand.

**Did you know?**

Rain Forest absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>  
Peat bogs absorb CO<sub>2</sub> x 2



## News from the Community

### Write and Fight

DECC Consultations  
- Onshore Wind.

There are two parts - Part A: Community engagement and benefits (bribes) and Part B: Costs. (windfarm subsidies.) We can make it clear that we do not have a price as far as bribery is concerned and we know that a key to defeating the windfarms is to have the subsidies drastically cut. It has already been cut by 10%. We want it cut to zero so please take part in these public consultations.

The consultation on Part B ends on **15th Nov 2012**.

You can download relevant documents from the DECC website at:

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/onwind\\_cfe/onwind\\_cfe.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/onwind_cfe/onwind_cfe.aspx)

You can email your response to: [onshorewind@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:onshorewind@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Or Write:

Renewables Delivery team

Department of Energy and Climate Change, 4th Floor Area A, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A2AW

### Together Against Wind

Chris Heaton Harris (MP) invites you to join Together Against Wind, a not for profit organisation that is attempting to bring together all the various campaigns against wind farms in the UK and help co-ordinate grassroot campaigns against wind turbines with the campaign in the Houses of Parliament. Visit the web-site to sign up.

<https://sites.google.com/site/togetheragainstownd1/>

### OUR FRAGILE HERITAGE - AT THE CROSSROADS.

Cathy Knapp, Mid Wales Arts Centre, Caersws teamed up with Conservation of Upland Powys (CUP) in October to host an exhibition of art works inspired by the landscape to raise funds to protect Wales and the borders from wind farms and pylons. The event included work by David Bellamy, Jenny Keal, Amy Sterly, Richard Booth, Di Wiltshire, Josette Gresty, Eileen Harrisson, David Millward, Liz Hancock and Chris Wallbank. David Bellamy gave an illustrated talk on the Arctic, where he travelled by dog sledge to capture the continent and Jenny Keal demonstrated soft pastel techniques; the final work was sold on the afternoon. Jane Dards organized an afternoon of music and poetry reading.



Iolo Williams, when visiting the exhibition thanked those present for their continued support of the campaign. "I will fight these all the way. I am a passionate Welshman and cannot believe that our Assembly is set on this route." he said. "This landscape has inspired these artists, and many others. Together we will stop this, and protect Wales from our own Welsh Government and from foreign developers."

The artists and gallery are donating a percentage of money from all works sold to Take the Power Back.

### Shropshire North Against Pylons (SNAP)

Continues to try to rally North Shropshire people, but it's harder work than in Wales. Shropshire Council have pledged 100% support to the campaign. Its leader, Keith Barrow, will be joining Glyn Davies in front of the bulldozers (so he says). SNAP have produced a one-page 'Case' summarising the campaign position. It chimes with NOW's Charter that the pain is not worth the gain. Keith Barrow says Shropshire Council will adopt it - they seem keen to work with the campaigners. Contact: Tina Stamps (SNAP) Tel.: 01691-682285 e-mail: [tinastamps@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tinastamps@hotmail.co.uk)

### Letters...

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the rejection of the latest three wind farm applications.

The fight for Mid-Wales is ramping up down here in Kent. We are now writing to every individual, power company executives, MEP and government ministers with a very simple question. "How can you allow the desecration of one of our oldest and most valuable assets?"

*Frustrated of Tunbridge Wells*

You have my FULL support in fighting the folly of the great wind scam.

We MUST fight every step of the way to prevent Mid Wales from being sacrificed on the altar of this false religion. We must show that local democracy CAN conquer rich and powerful companies. We must fight till the bitter end to prevent them from littering our green and pleasant land with useless piles of steel and concrete.

We CAN and WILL win

*Siân Lloyd*