

SAVE STRAITON FOR SCOTLAND

PROTECTING STRAITON, NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES AND SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE

Newsletter November 2016



A note from our Chair: As the blades of the Dersalloch turbines cut through our landscape, the true impact of siting an industrial power station in our hills becomes all too painfully apparent. We have to stand together to say "*this far and no further*". As you'll read in this newsletter, there are two excellent opportunities to do just that in the very near future - against both Knockskae and Linfairn - we already have a strong case, if we have a strong enough presence and a strong enough voice we can *and will* save the Girvan Valley and our landmark hills from the fate that has befallen Dersalloch Hill. Read on to find out how *you* can make a difference. *Lala*.



Knockskae. December Decision.

The application for **Knockskae** will be considered by the South Ayrshire Planning Board on **Wednesday 14th December** – just six short weeks from now. As the developer's own image (above) shows, the turbines would be visible from the McCandlish Hall, destroying forever the setting of our beautiful conservation village. *We simply can't let this happen.*

There is still time to object. If you haven't done so yet, please, *please* do it now and ask your family, friends and colleagues to do so too. **The window for objections will close in mid-November.** Act now whilst there is still time! For details of how to object, either pick up a postcard from the Buck or follow the link on our website.

In order to fully make our case, we'll need a roster of people willing to stand up and speak for five minutes each at the planning meeting. Please let any member of the committee know if you are willing to join in.

An emphatic "no" to Knockskae will surely be the best Christmas present any of us could get this year!

The SSfS 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on 1 December at 7.30pm

Join us in the McCandlish Hall to share a mince pie (or three) and a warming glass of wine *and* to get the all the latest news from the campaign.

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Linfairn Inquiry Process Underway

As we predicted, WilloWind just won't take "no" for an answer and have now requested a Public Local Inquiry to determine the fate of their Linfairn proposal.

The PLI is scheduled for March 2017.

If you're one of the many thousands of people who objected to Linfairn *you should have already been invited to participate in the inquiry* – if you haven't had your invitation, please let us know, it is important that no-one is missed.

We've asked for the inquiry to be held in the McCandlish Hall, so that as many people as possible can attend.

We will spend the winter preparing our position. With so many issues to cover we'll need a sizeable team of witnesses to make our case.

Please respond to your invitation and say "yes" to taking part (you don't necessarily then have to do so when the time comes).

Please join with us in speaking up against WilloWind and Linfairn. If you're willing to be a witness, let us know, and we'll work with you to make sure you're fully prepared for the inquiry.

Keirs Hill. And still we wait...

The end of October deadline, by which we were *guaranteed* to have been informed about the decision of Scottish ministers on **Keirs Hill** has passed, *without any communication whatsoever*.

It's been more than a year since we participated in the Public Inquiry and three long months since the Reporter made his recommendation to the government.

What's the hold up? Good question. Our requests for information have been stonewalled by officials.

Despite the frustration, we'll resist the temptation to speculate. Instead, we've written to directly to Paul Wheelhouse, Keith Brown and Nicola Sturgeon to seek both an explanation for the delay and – of course – a decision.

When we know, you'll know.

Corri Wilson Gives Her Support

Within weeks of becoming our new Westminster MP, Corri took the time to visit with SSfS committee members and listen to our concerns about the multiple wind farm attacks on our village – indeed she traces her own roots back to Straiton.



Corri has said that she is **"for wind, but not at any cost and not at the cost of this community"**.

She joins the ranks of elected representatives of all political stripes who all agree that **Straiton is no place for a wind farm.**

The campaign is in need of funds to pay for the expert analysis we need to fight against the developers. Please help if you can. Please support the drive to fill the charity shop when our turn comes up. Please let us know if you have any fundraising ideas.

Fame at Last. We were approached by a student at Ayr College (local girl Holly McNair) who needed to make a documentary as part of her course and had chosen the topic of wind energy for her project. Keen to support the education of our young people and to get our message out to (literally) anyone who would listen, a number of committee members and supporters agreed to be interviewed. If we're feeling brave, we'll show the film at the AGM. We're delighted to report that Holly got an "A" for her work, particularly because of the use of 'local characters' in her film – read into that what you will!