

Pylons Report re Judicial Review given by Chris Ambrose to Meeting of 8 March 2016

I begin with a quote from an earlier statement by Ian Morrell, Clerk to NTC;

"Based on this (the Counsel report) it appears that much of the consultation process and the consideration of fully underground and undersea options was unnecessary because NG only had to acknowledge alternative options rather than give them equal weight in order to find an "acceptable" (rather than a better) solution to the need for more transmission capacity".

Following from the report and the situation we have been through, residents feel let down.

Some key issues arise from the JR report which require the attention and action by our law makers.

- * "Consultation". There never was any. The general public have a simple expectation which is clearly defined in most dictionaries and is normally taken to mean "to take into consideration". Which in turn means to the same level as other alternatives to enable an informed judgement or decision to be made.
- * What transpired was an exercise in information passing that was of no value to anyone other than NG.
- * It cost circa £100M. A cost that will be passed on to the consumer.
- * It has taken 9 years to get to this point.
- * This situation was predicted by those of us who responded to the NPPF/NPS consultation.
- * Statements from Ministers and DEC that we were incorrect and that alternatives were intended to be considered were either delusional or deliberately misleading.
- * The process in our opinion has ignored the following;
 - 1) Some badly affected people's human rights.
 - 2) The Government have ignored their stated intention for localism to be the driver.
 - 3) The Government have ignored their own Emissions legislation.
 - 4) The Government has prohibited any advance in technology.
 - 5) Technology which would have seen EMFs reduced to a minimal level and thereby removed all the health worries and anxieties.
 - 6) The Government has missed an opportunity to create wealth by investing in high tech manufacturing in the UK.
 - 7) The Government has reneged on its word to protect the countryside.
 - 8) The Government have not got the real lowest cost just the lowest capital cost.
 - 9) The costs should consider all the social, health and economic cost over the lifetime of the installation.
 - 10) There is time as Hinkley C has been delayed yet again.

We consider that the law makers need to revisit all the NPPF's and NPS's to correct this flawed legislation and ensure that it embraces all the other aspects that require to be considered to arrive at a sound and secure decision.

Possible starting points are Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and the Energy Bill

We look to our local MPs to initiate this and make this change happen.

Chris Ambrose
8 March 2016