



Government Updates

During the last two months so much has happened locally and nationally with elections.

As you may recall, we issued a press release which was published in the IWCP and On The Wight, to express our concern and dismay at changes to planning law in the Conservative manifesto which included a proposal that

- Drilling that did not involve fracking would be classed as permitted development and would not need planning permission
- Major shale planning decisions could be made by a government minister rather than a local council planning committee

This would have enabled the vast majority of oil and gas wells, including those planned on the Isle of Wight, to go ahead without the need to obtain planning permission. There would no longer be an opportunity to oppose fracking, or any other form of oil and gas drilling, on a local level.

We wrote to each Conservative IWC councillor, including Bob Seely, to ask whether they endorsed these changes or would join us in urging Theresa May to rescind the policy.

We received just one direct response to this question. This is it.

Thank you for your e mail. I have no comment to make on this issue at this time.

regards

Councillor Dave Stewart Leader of the IWC



On this occasion Bob Seely did not respond directly to our letter, but is quoted in the IWCP article as saying, "I am going to focus on the IW and not national policy."

He went on to say "The Island is not geologically stable and pumping water and chemicals at high pressure in the land beneath us does not seem to be wise. I will therefore be opposing fracking on the Island."

This caused us some concern although we, of course, appreciate anyone taking a position against fracking on the Island. But national policies will obviously apply to the Isle of Wight as well.

Thank you to everyone who spoke out against the proposal.

We were extremely relieved when the proposed changes to planning law were dropped from the manifesto before the **Queen's speech**.

We hope to speak to Bob in the near future to clarify this, especially since he is now the Island's MP and is our only voice on national policy.

Good luck in your new job Bob, we'll be in touch, but don't worry, we'll give you a little time to settle in first!

We'll need to keep monitoring the situation, as always, but for now we're enjoying the reprieve.

Public Meeting Review



60 + people turned out for the viewing of the film 'The Bentley Effect' and 25 people, including some members of support groups from the mainland, attended the workshop led by Simon Clough, National Chair of 'Lock The Gate Alliance'.

The responses from those who attended were all very positive and supportive.

You can see photos and read some of their comments [here](#).

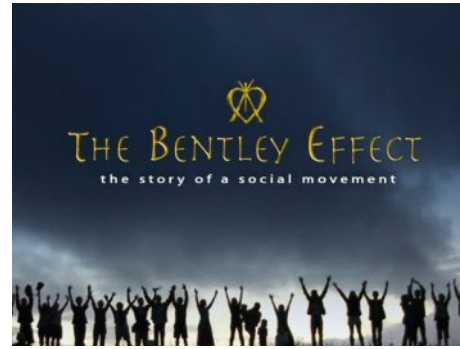
We had lots of time for chatting and getting to know newcomers. Thank you to everyone who contributed and worked so hard to provide such a fine spread of refreshments throughout both events.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we gained a great deal from it, with old friends and new feeling energised, empowered and now looking forward to working together on putting what we've learned into practice.

So check the website home page for details of our next strategy meeting, and find how you can help.



Video Updates



GOOD NEWS! If you couldn't make it to the film screening, or you did and want to watch it again, we now have the go-ahead from the Bentley Effect's producer to host another screening.

So please let us know if you're interested.

WATCH THIS short video about Oil Exploration in The Weald



WATCH THIS short public awareness film - Leith Hill. A Reminder of why the protection camp is there.



What Can I do? How about buying a T Shirt !

We now have T Shirts for sale from our site at our own Teemill shop at this link

<https://frackfreeisleofwight.teemill.co.uk/>

This one was designed by Fraser May, member of FFIOW and is now available for sale. All profits go to FFIOW funds.

More designs will be available soon.



All Tshirts are certified 100% Organic Cotton t-shirt (155g/m2) / Made in an ethically accredited, wind-powered factory / Low Carbon / GM Free / Hand finished in the UK / Wash Cool, Hang Dry from Rapanui here on the Island.

Posters to Print



Click through to the **resources page** to find a collection of A4 posters that can be downloaded to print and put in your window.

Roger Bartrum (IW Green Party) designed and now made available for sale from his Teemill shop, this T shirt in support of FFIOW.

Every WHITE T shirt bought will provide a £3 donation to our funds



Click on the image **BELOW** to go to the site.



Also check out the **Latest News Page** for key IOW & UK news or check the **Drill or Drop Website** for the latest national updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support and keep on spreading the word!