



BANNG UP-TO-DATE

3 SEPTEMBER, 2009

(PLEASE SEE ITEM 9)

Date for your Diaries:

- Monday, 7 September at 7.30 p.m., the Chair of BANNG, Professor Andy Blowers, will be the speaker at a public meeting organised by Greenpeace Colchester in Friends' Meeting House, (next to Arts Centre), 6 Church St., Colchester (hexagonal meeting room). It would be good if BANNG supporters were able to attend.

Date TBA (see item 4):

- Dept. of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) exhibition at West Mersea

1. PETITION

All efforts are currently being put into collecting as many signatures as possible for the BANNG Petition. BANNG supporters (predominantly members of the Core and Community Awareness Groups) are currently going door-to-door around the island. Some have also collected signatures at the East Mersea Fete and the Five Parishes Show. During the Bank Holiday week-end, there were collectors outside the West Mersea branch of the Co-op. Collectors were also on the beach on Sunday, 23 August and on Bank Holiday Monday, both days on which the weather was good and many holiday-makers were enjoying themselves. Copies of the Petition are also to be found in many shops, pubs and restaurants around the island as well as in shops, etc. There are also copies in the following premises around the estuary:

Brian House Newsagents	Brightlingsea
Spirals	Brightlingsea
The Chequers Pub	Goldhanger
Great Totham Village Stores	Great Totham
All Seasons	Maylandsea
The Horny Toad Pub	Maylandsea
Millbeach Caravan Site	Millbeach
Millbeach Pub	Millbeach, Heybridge
Dairy Stores	St. Lawrence Bay
Jackie C	Southminster
Papa's Fish & Chip Shop	Wivenhoe
The Corner House Cafe	Wivenhoe
Crossways Stores	Wivenhoe

Petitioning is a big job and extra help would be very useful. If you are able to give even a little time to help with collecting signatures for the petition, please contact Varrie Blowers on 07932.644482. . A copy of the Petition is attached for you to use. (The return address is at the bottom of the Petition.)

2. NOMINATION OF THE BRADWELL SITE

Bradwell has been officially nominated by the Credible Nuclear Operators (CNOs) as a suitable site for a new nuclear power station. It is also, therefore, considered suitable as a site for a highly radioactive spent fuel store. This nomination brings the prospect of a new nuclear power station a step closer.

The next stage in the Government's nuclear development process is the preparation of the National Policy Statement which will list those sites for which planning approval will be sought. We are waiting to find out if Bradwell will be on that list, which should be available some time in the Autumn.

You will understand just how important it is for us all to collect as many signatures as possible for the Petition, so please help if you can.

3. BANNG RESPONSES TO OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

As well as responding to the Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria consultation, BANNG has responded to the Justification consultation. It has also called for a Public Inquiry into Justification, along with many other groups and individuals.

BANNG responded officially to the Have Your Say consultation. Many individual members also responded.

The local MPs (B. Jenkin, B. Russell, D. Carswell and J. Whittingdale) have been made aware of our responses to Government consultations, as have the Councils.

4. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DECC) EXHIBITION AT WEST MERSEA

In the Autumn, DECC will be holding exhibitions at the nominated sites. It has been decided to hold one at West Mersea. We think that this is because BANNG has been noticed in Whitehall! Details of the exhibition (dates, etc.) are not yet known.

5. COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CBCSOSP)

The Report of the Task and Finish Group set up by CBCSOSP to investigate concerns raised by Mersea Island residents about new nuclear build at Bradwell, was approved by the Panel on 24 August, 2009. You can read the report at

http://www.colchester.gov.uk/Info_page_two_pic_2_det.asp?art_id=1385&sec_id=376&nid=1231&sid=1762&id=1385&rid=71550

Andy Blowers has congratulated CBCSOSP on the work they are doing, particularly in the areas of health issues associated with a new nuclear power station, the potential

harmful effect on the Native Oyster and fish populations of the Blackwater and the great difficulty of evacuating Mersea Island in the event of an incident.

6. BANNING ACTIVITIES

(a) Strood Protest - 9 April, 2009

As many of you will know, about 50 BANNING supporters handed out hundreds of leaflets to cars that were stranded on either side of the Strood as a result of the particularly high tide just before Easter. The protest was aimed at highlighting the huge problem of evacuating Mersea Island in the event of a nuclear incident and was very successful – and good fun! We had good press and TV coverage and the local MPs were informed of the event.

(b) Sailors' Vigil - 9 August, 2009

You are probably aware of the Sailors' Vigil that took place on 9 August. A flotilla of 20 plus boats from West Mersea and other places around the estuary anchored or cruised off the beach in front of the old Bradwell power station for 2 hours. The 50 or so supporters on board wanted to highlight the potential, detrimental impact that a new power station would have on the ecology and amenity of the estuary. Supporters were landed on the beach and collected signatures for the Petition. Once again, the protest was very successful.....and a good afternoon was had by all. The press and TV coverage were good and, once again, the local MPs were informed of the event.

7. WEBSITE

The BANNING website (www.banning.org.uk) is shortly to be rebuilt and updated which will make it possible to post more information. Once again, thanks to Nolly Martin for initiating and maintaining the website. (In the meantime, it is still possible to visit the website.)

8. BANNING MEMBERSHIP

We have recently recruited a good number of supporters. The bigger BANNING is, the more effective we can be. With this in mind, please make every effort to recruit more members. Ask your friends and relatives to join us. Membership forms are available on the website (see item 6). However, all that is required is a note of the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if any) of prospective members. These details can be sent to me, Varrie Blowers, Secretary of BANNING, 8 Shears Court, West Mersea, CO5 8DB, telephoned to me on 07932.644482 or e-mailed to varrieblowers@yahoo.com. There is a suggested donation of £5 to help with the running costs of BANNING and any cheques should be made payable to BANNING.

9. ANDFINALLY..... TO END THIS ISSUE ON A HIGH NOTE

On 2 September, The Guardian published the results of a poll which concerned opposition to wind farms and nuclear power stations within 20 miles:

Wind Farms:

Support	79%
Oppose	19%
Don't know	2%

Nuclear Power Stations:

Support	32%
Oppose	65%
Don't know	3%