

STIRLING BEFORE PYLONS

acting with

FRIENDS OF THE OCHILS

as a Relevant Person Group

for the purposes of the

STIRLING SESSION

**of the Public Inquiry into
Scottish & Southern Energy's proposals for the
Beauly to Denny 400 KV Steel Tower Double Circuit
Overhead Electricity Transmission Line**

PRECOGNITION

Archie Bone

The Village of Fallin

THE VILLAGE OF FALLIN

1. My name is Archie Bone, I was born and have lived all of my life in the village of Fallin, I am married and I have brought my family up in the village. I am 58 years of age.
2. I worked in Polmaise 3&4 Colliery in the village, which now has very little employment within its boundaries. Having worked in a very heavy and unhealthy industry it has always been my project in life to make the village much cleaner and safer for the next generations to live in.
3. I am the Chairman of Polmaise Community Council a position which I have held for 14 years. We are the Statutory Body for the village and we are governed by the Scottish Office.
4. The village of Fallin is a former mining community and Polmaise 3 and 4 Colliery was in operation from 1904 until its closure in 1987. Over that 83 years the village was not a clean place to live in because of the outfall of airborne coal dust and noise as the Colliery was within the confines of the village. As a result the community are very aware and concerned about the potential for industrial injuries.

5. We are bounded on one side (North) by the River Forth, on another side by The Western Moss (one of the last raised bog areas in Scotland and a site of Special Scientific Interest) to the South, and to the East we are enclosed by the village of Throsk. We therefore have only one area which we can say is open to us and we use it as much as possible for walking in the countryside etc. This was until we heard about the overhead power lines to the West of the village. Their intrusion will make this a no go area for countryside walks.

6. Over the years we have had a very high percentage of Cancer in young women within the village and some have already passed away at very early ages. We have had a very high exposure to Cancer where miners have died as young men and those who lived long enough to retire had a very short retirement. This is compared to the next village west of us, which is only 500 yards from our village, who have had a very low percentage of residents dying with cancer. A big difference being that Throsk is further away from the existing Overhead Pylons than Fallin is. The residents of Fallin, therefore, feel there MUST be some truth in the statements that these overhead Pylons possibly cause certain illnesses in adults and children. The residents of the village are

living in fear of these new GIANT PYLONS being erected even nearer to the village and not only on one side, but on two sides.

7. Over the years from 1987, Polmaise Community Council along with other local groups have been tirelessly working to improve the living standards within our community, no longer do we have the coal dust, no longer do we have the noise and no longer do we have the area being conducive to heavy industry.
8. We have cleaned up the village to such an extent that, when the Colliery was in place, no one except miners would come to live in the community, this has been turned around and we have now many residents who have been delighted to move into an area that is so clean and has a nice atmosphere.
9. Unlike many other former mining areas we have looked to our youth and we are trying, and succeeding, in bringing them up in a more environmentally friendly area, they are lucky, we did not have that chance, they are the future of our village and without the hard work by community groups this village could have been like many other former

mining communities and become a ghost village and closed down never to exist again.

10. We are proud of our heritage and have put in areas where youngsters can remember where their roots started and have created a mining museum. We are a proud community and are pleased with what we have done to keep our village alive.

11. We see the erection of these Pylons as a backward step in this process. They are not wanted by anyone in the village. We feel that The Electricity Company have treated us with contempt, they never informed us of their intentions, we only found out through another body of a meeting to be held in Forthbank Stadium. At that meeting the Electricity Company lied by saying they had consulted with us. As a matter of course we should have had the courtesy of being informed.

12. Over the years from 1987 we have improved the village by:

- Having a former railway line made into a cycleway, which is now in the path of the proposed line.
- We have laid 2 football pitches at a cost of

£98,000 on the former Colliery site.

- We have erected a Miners Memorial in memory of the men who lost their lives in Polmaise 3&4 Colliery (cost £36,000).
- We have erected a Miners Museum showing the next and future generations the type of machinery used in the Colliery (cost £64,000).
- We have won The Calor Gas Community of the Year 2002 for the work we have carried out in the village.
- We have won The Calor Gas Environmental Award 2002 for the work we have carried out in regenerating our village.
- We have been commended for our work in getting recycling bins handed out to all of our community to make them aware of the need to recycle.
- We have erected playing equipment and a 5-a-side football court in the childrens playing fields.
- Recently we have managed to get a Puffin Crossing and flashing speed signs erected on the Main Road to control traffic.
- This year I was in the last four of the Community Awards for Scotland, sponsored by

The Sunday Mail and Morrisons Supermarket, this was for our efforts in changing our Community to making it a better place to live in.

13. Overall we have worked terribly hard to make our community a cleaner, friendlier and safer community in which to live. When the Colliery closed we lost our “Community Spirit” we have managed over the last twenty years to reverse this and we are now as close as we could get to bringing back our “Community Spirit”
14. We have now been confronted with these massive Pylons appearing on our doorstep, we are possibly the largest community between Beaully and Denny to be fully affected with this.
15. The alarm and fear that this has caused in our community is far reaching from the oldest citizens right through to the schoolchildren who understand the potential dangers.
16. We also have a magnificent view of Stirling Castle from our Main Street, possibly the best in Stirlingshire, this will

be devastated if these giant Pylons are erected and our magnificent view seriously damaged.

17. We are at present awaiting the outcome of funding for a continuation of the Fallin to Cowie Cycleway, this runs from Coxpow Farm (Fallin) to Hilton Farm (Cowie) which is probably the best country view of Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument. The Power Line is proposed to run in the same area, thus making a mockery of consultation. We would again lose a great view of the Carse of Stirling to accommodate mans desire and greed for money, it seems that the Electricity Company wish to ride roughshod over any community that dares to stand in their way.

18. The Community Council is the Statutory Body in the village, we would urge that these electric cables undergrounded or erected to the west of Stirling. Otherwise we think this will destroy all the hard work we have carried out since the Colliery closed twenty years ago. We signed a joint letter to Stirling Council with all the other Community Councils along the route in Stirling objecting to these proposals.

- 18 All the groups within the village, Fallin's Future, Fallin Community Enterprise, Fallin Primary School, Fallin

Miners Welfare, Fallin Public House Society, Fallin Playgroups held a joint meeting and the outcome was that all are 100% against these Proposals about the Pylons.

19 We have approached our Councillors, Cllr Margaret Brisley (Provost), Cllr Gerard O'Brien (Vice Provost) and Cllr Alistair McPherson at our Community Council meetings and all are also 100% against the Pylon proposals. All are Councillors within Stirling City Council.

20 In their Interim Report on Consultations Document (ALP 7/2 para 4.5.1.9) the applicants reach their conclusion on the route next to the Eastern Villages. They discount two routes due to the Major Growth Area, and then say : ' The orange and yellow routes avoid the two Major Growth Areas options. The orange route would have the lesser effect on people but, taking into account the national and international designations and protection of the bird population of the Forth, the yellow route can be considered as having the lesser effect overall'.

So much for the residents of the Eastern Villages! It is a sorry day when an Electricity Company respects birds over Human Beings.

Archie Bone

Chairman : Polmaise Community Council