

The Beaully Denny Question

Energy and environmental policies affect all voters. Over 21,000 people wrote objections to the proposed Beaully Denny powerline, with just 48 letters of support. So Ramblers Scotland want every candidate to be asked: are you for or against this powerline? The answers will reveal everything about commitment to Scotland's landscape and understanding of energy policy.

In May we want to see politicians elected, across all parties, who are determined to stop Beaully Denny. This powerline still does not have planning approval. Scottish Power cannot persuade Stirling Council that a few trees could possibly hide such a powerline descending the southern scarp of the Ochils and marching past the Wallace Monument. The next Scottish Parliament should call for an immediate planning and financial re-appraisal of Beaully Denny and its alternatives, especially an east coast subsea transmission route.

Never before are decisions about future energy requirements having such an impact on so much of our land surface. Scottish Natural Heritage have revealed a relentless attrition of wild land from the impacts of powerlines, windfarms and access roads. Beaully Denny would bring in its wake a swathe of windfarms cutting through the heart of the Highlands. Already wind turbines are proposed along much of the western boundary of

the Cairngorms National Park between Kingussie and Aviemore.

This damage is entirely driven by huge subsidies paid to energy companies and loaded onto our electricity bills. There are better ways to save and generate renewable energy.

Public funding support for wind turbines should be focussed on small scale community/farm/croft schemes with the massive turbines confined to offshore locations. Long distance transmission networks should be subsea, with onshore overhead lines reduced. Investment should be concentrated on new technologies in which Scotland can still become a world leader. Offshore wind, tidal and wave developments, solar and geothermal installations, carbon capture systems in conventional power stations, all combined with radical energy conservation measures, should be the priority. Keeping energy company shareholders and their landowning friends happy is wasting money and destroying Scotland's world famous landscapes.

There should be no votes in support of Beaully Denny

Ramblers Scotland T 01577 861222
www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland

