



Dear Members and Supporters

WALNEY EXTENSION WIND FARM

You may have seen in the papers that DONG Energy have now put in a planning application for the Walney Extension Wind Farm.. This, together with other existing and already sanctioned wind farms, means that for almost one third of the journey between Douglas and Heysham, the Ben-my-Chree will be sailing right alongside wind farms.

If that sounds bad, an even bigger wind farm is being planned by Celtic Array in their NE Development Area. If that is built as planned, then this could result in a very restricted navigation channel between the two wind farms, with the potential for increased bad weather cancellations on the Heysham route.

TravelWatch will be objecting formally to the Planning Inspectorate about the Walney Extension application, but having consulted with both IOMSPC and the Chamber of Commerce we have decided that we need to hold back on any major public campaign until the much larger Celtic Array NE Zone is progressed - because that would be the one which cause most of the problems for IOM ferry services.

However if you do wish to lodge your own objections you will need to register on-line with the (UK) Planning Inspectorate not later than Friday 20th September by clicking on: <http://tinyurl.com/lvoeror> The registration process requires you to briefly outline your objection and state if you would wish to appear in person before a planning hearing. If you are accepted as an interested party you would have the opportunity to expand on your submission later. We are asking that hearings be held in IOM but if you apply to appear and decide later not to then that is acceptable.

All the large number of documents are available upstairs at the Henry Bloom Noble Library in Victoria Street, Douglas or can be accessed on line at <http://tinyurl.com/nmodv25> Key points you might wish to mention in your submission include:

- cumulative impact of all the proposed wind farms
- importance of Heysham route
- possible impact of wind farms on ferry sailings
- Consequences of delay and disruption
- Need for adequate shipping channel to be safeguarded.

If you want any more information about this please use the CONTACT FORM on <http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/contact-us.html> not later than Wednesday 18th September.

12th September 2013