



Cornwall Sustainable
Energy Partnership

CSEP is a public & private sector partnership working to achieve a sustainable energy future for Cornwall, its communities and businesses

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Safe Passage of Sustainable Communities Bill in Parliament celebrated by Cornish partnership

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership is thrilled that campaigning which started in Cornwall over two years ago has now led to a major debate in parliament, with MPs voting to support the Sustainable Communities Bill by 175 votes to 17 against. The Bill now goes to the Committee Stage.

MPs, individuals and various organisations across Cornwall have been working to promote the Bill since 2004 when a series of public meetings took place across Cornwall as part of a 'kick-start' to a national campaign.

The Private Members' Bill is supported by all five of Cornwall's MPs. Falmouth Camborne MP Julia Goldsworthy is an official sponsor of this cross party which is being led by Conservative MP Nick Hurd.

CSEP Director Tim German says:

"The Bill will give new powers to communities and their elected councils to drive government policy to tackle local economic, social and environmental issues. It is currently supported by 80 national organisations, 300 local organisations across the UK, over 1000 parish and town councils and thousands of individuals".

"It is very encouraging that the second reading of the Bill was received by such a large majority. This bill will help revive our communities and allow locals to have far more of a say in the way that they are managed. The bill places important sustainability issues alongside each other. These include: how communities can resource and manage their own energy supplies and how they can ensure that local enterprise and business is not subsumed by national and multi-national retail companies".

Several MPs expressed concern about the drafting of the Bill; they will now have an opportunity to improve it at committee stage.

However Tim German, who has spoken at various public meetings on this Bill says: **"I am pleased to see that even critics of the Bill support the aim of**

giving local communities the powers necessary to ensure they can tackle social, economic and environmental decline. A cohesive approach to a sustainable future is so important to our communities in Cornwall. It is important now that the community campaign steps up as it will be public support that will convince MPs not to let the Bill be talked out by Government ministers at the next stage of its passage through Parliament.”

The Campaigns Director of Unlock Democracy Ron Bailey, who has lead the campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill since 2002 added:

"The vote is a vindication of the hard work of thousands of individuals, including many in Cornwall, who have campaigned to get this Bill onto the statute books. I'm delighted that we won the vote by such a large margin on a day in the week which MPs normally spend in their constituencies. This shows there is a lot of support for this Bill on the backbenches’.

Ron Bailey and Tim German are currently working with Julia Goldsworthy to further plans to trial the Bill within a Cornish community.

- Ends

Notes to editors

- **Community Energy Plus (CEP)** is a registered charity (Number 1068990) and profit-recycling company. Established in 1998 with financial support from Carrick District Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health Authority and the Energy Saving Trust. CEP manages the international award-winning* Home Health project which was developed by the 72 members of the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership.
- The **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership** (founded in 2001) and managed by CEP, is a consortium of 72 organisations from the public, private and health sectors that are committed to a multi sector approach to a sustainable energy future for Cornwall. It is the first partnership of its kind in the UK and is providing a model for other parts of the UK. www.csep.co.uk
- CEP manages the **Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** supported by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and the County and District Authorities of Cornwall. It is one of 52 independent centres across the UK, providing free, impartial and locally relevant advice to households. Please call free on **0800 512012**.

For More information or an interview please contact:

Jasmine Reilly
Press and Publicity Officer
Tel: 01209 614974
Mob: 07811 191696