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LOCAL PEOPLE UNITE IN ANGER AT RWE NPOWER'S DESECRATION OF THRUPP LAKE.

In an unprecedented show of local anger, people came out on Saturday in their droves, young and old, all united to stop RWE npower's plans to destroy Thrupp Lake.

Led by the mayor and deputy mayor of Abingdon and Andy Boddington, local campaign manager, of the CPRE, 250 people came at less than 24 hours notice to walk from Radley to the Lakes where they assembled on a nearby desolate area already ruined by npower's activities.

Despite the devastation already wreaked on Thrupp lake by npower's contractors, who were still at work cutting down trees even as the procession passed by, in possible violation of their planning conditions, the resolve of the community to pursue the Town Green designation remains unabated, and is, if anything, stronger than ever. The anger at npower's arrogance in starting work on the site before the Town Green determination was barely contained, and the decision by npower to keep their security guards penned up for the afternoon was a wise one.

The campaign's Saturday protest went ahead in spite of npower's attempts to use a draconian legal injunction to stifle local protest. "The injunction is of a kind previously used against violent animal rights protestors." Roger Thomas of Save Radley Lakes said "Anybody coming to the protest walk would have seen we are just ordinary local people trying to protect something we hold dear. Protestors and many legal experts have been appalled by npower's bullying and intimidation".

The injunction forbids people or the press from photographing the RWE npower security guards or other employees or contractors, at risk of being arrested. However, no such restriction applies to them.

The injunction also forbids anybody from demonstrating or 'loitering' within 5 yards of any of RWE's employees or contractors. RWE npower are able to proceed with their vandalism of our countryside un-photographed and largely hidden from public scrutiny!

As Andy Boddington said, when he addressed the assembled crowd, "For generations British people have had to fight to protect their open spaces from those who want to use them for commercial gain. What we have seen today suggests many local people are deeply angry about RWE npower's high handed arrogance. So we say, teach npower a lesson – don't buy

your electricity from them. Instead get it from a supplier who doesn't use dirty coal and then choose to dump the ash in local beauty spots".

Basil Crowley of Save Radley Lakes expressed determination to proceed with the Town Green application in spite of the destruction taking place. He said, in his address, "Trees can be replanted and will grow again. Until then, this place will be a testimony to corporate greed and wilfulness. Let this message go out to every other public or private corporation in the land that this is wrong."

Marjorie White of Save Radley Lakes said: "RWE npower has tried to make out that it's just a small group of people who care about Thrupp Lake. The march has shown just how wrong they are! The entire community is against this bullying corporation. The police were brilliant. They were really relaxed about us. I'm sure they hate all this as much as we do, although they obviously can't say so."

Further mass protest events are planned for the near future.

For further information, contact Marjorie White on 01235 530174