

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Sustainable Carlisle to register our opposition to the proposed Woodhouse Colliery in Cumbria.

You will by now be familiar with the main arguments against this proposed coal mine which I would just quickly reiterate here:

- the mine would have a considerable impact on the UK's legally binding CO2 targets. This is recognised by Lord Deben and the government's own Climate Change Committee. This impact feeds into the climate crisis instead of helping to alleviate it, further endangering the lives and livelihoods of populations across the globe as well as here at home in Cumbria where flooding is an ongoing threat.
- a decision to open such a plant would seriously undermine our ability at the upcoming COP26 meeting to bring together other countries and governments to enact the kind of ambitious policies that are required to reduce emissions globally and have any chance of ameliorating the drastic consequences of the climate crisis.
- the proposed mine would quickly become a white elephant and failed promise as the steel industry is undergoing rapid change in using electric arc furnace technology and hydrogen direct reduction instead of the coking coal that would be produced at Woodhouse. Such a failure at such a juncture would be unconscionable. We cannot afford to tie ourselves into such a commitment to a passing industry with no future.
- there are many still unresolved questions as to the number, quality and length of the jobs this proposal would create and no apparent good faith answers being offered. Cumbria most certainly needs jobs, but, as elsewhere, it needs good quality, long-term, green sustainable jobs looking to a vibrant future not a dying past. There are many realistic alternatives that have been evidenced, for example in the recent jobs report published by Cumbria Action for Sustainability, but what is required is the political will and ambition to pursue such potentialities.

There is much science and research to underpin the above arguments which I am sure you will be aware of and of which it is not my intention to repeat here.

I listened intently to the Committee meeting last October 2nd as it sat to listen to and deliberate on the many arguments, including those above as well as others, put forward in opposition to the proposed mine. What I heard was struggle. I heard councillors struggling to understand the science. I heard councillors struggle with their consciences. I heard councillors struggle with the unjustifiable position they had been put in.

This decision has global as well as local consequences. It has consequences for those currently suffering from the effects of climate change as well as our younger generation and those to come whose voices are being ignored and sacrificed on the altar of short-term thinking and monetary profit. To thrust it onto the shoulders of well intentioned but parochial local councillors is to deny national and international government responsibility. It is to shy away from the strong leadership we so desperately need to face the existential challenges implicit in the Climate Crisis. It is to deny us all the right to informed, accountable decision-making at the highest level.

We hope the science, evidence and voices of our young people are heard and listened to, leading to the only rational, reasonable and responsible decision being made, not go ahead with this proposed coal mine.

Yours respectfully

Henry Goodwin
(07806628856)
324 Kingstown Road
Carlisle, CA3 0BL

Chairperson Sustainable Carlisle