

A couple of days ago I was contacted by a reporter for comment on the following information. In the last 30 years 630 renewable energy applications have been refused around the UK. New research has revealed Cumbria to be in the top 10 of areas with most refused applications for such renewable energy projects. Since 1993, 22 such applications have been refused here.

My response was....

This is very dispiriting news especially as the recent IPCC synthesis 'final report' once again shows that we have to move from fossil fuels to renewables as a matter of urgency. Climate heating continues to drive the melting of the ice caps, the acidification of the seas and oceans and the devastation of our wildlife and biodiversity. It drives the extreme weather conditions such as flooding, fires and storms we see across the planet and which are increasingly seen here at home.

The 'business as usual' economic model that is being blindly followed by our politicians has drastically cut the amount of time we have to make the necessary changes to avoid the worst of Climate Crisis consequences. Short term profiteering is being chosen over investment in a liveable future for ourselves and children. Opening new coal mines and giving licenses for more oil exploration and unproven nuclear projects is adding to an already severe crisis and denies us a future. This must be reversed. Investment must be moved away from such perverse developments and aimed at renewables and the many sustainable jobs they will create as soon as possible. Those in power who delay and deny have no moral authority to put the lives and futures of our communities in such danger. They are breaking the social contract to protect the population.

Much of what has happened here in Cumbria has been driven by those supporting ideological political dogma. We hope that the new local authorities will accept the evidence and reality of our situation and put the Climate Crisis at the heart of every policy decision they make. They must tell the truth and work together across party lines and involve our citizens and local business in a cooperative and positive way. Renewable energy, owned and distributed by local communities so as to stop the runaway profiteering and cost of living crisis we have seen, must be a top priority among many.

Thank you

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The government's new plan today shows they have absolutely no interest in following evidence but prefer to take people's money and give it to those directly responsible for the crisis damage so they can continue the damage. This must be resisted every way possible.