

What I said at the Open Floor Hearings for Sizewell C on May 21st Caroline Weatherby

I would like to say three things, and to tell you a story, although time may not allow for that. (Afterwards Miss McKay asked me to be sure to include it in my written version)

First, as a seventy seven year old, while I am not looking forward to living here during the construction period, if it is passed (I live three miles from the A12), I am not concerned for my own future, as I will not be here to deal with any aftermath of this construction. But I am concerned for my Grandchildren and great grandchildren, who will have to deal with the mountains of Nuclear Waste, results of a devastated natural environment and pollution, which my generation have created. And I wonder if they will even be here if we continue along this path.

So, I decided to speak to my grandchildren, who are now all in their twenties, and who spent many childhood holidays with us in Dunwich. They were horrified to hear about the size of the project, it's obvious impact on roads and rail, as well as bird, mammal and marine life. My scientifically minded grandson said "Granny, you haven't a hope, unless you can give them real alternatives." When I said that it would take ten years to build, and then to offset 5.4 million tons of CO2 emitted during construction, a further six, before producing clean energy, and by then would it not be obsolete, in view of scientific advances with storage and other problems with renewables? He said "Oh, before that! I reckon in six years they'll have cracked it, and solar and wind will have taken over, maybe wave power too, so it'll probably never be finished."

My next point is my fear and worry that this whole planning process is a waste of time and that the 'powers that be' will have already decided on the outcome. I have lived long enough to have seen how over and over again, building projects are passed because it suits big business and industry, who have political clout. Sad to say - no matter what they tell us - the government do not care about the landscape, or the wildlife, or the effects on local communities, and in some cases, whether the project is even needed. This is where my story comes in, and I only heard it yesterday, from my friend Prof Sally Hartley.

Prof Hartley told me that in 1987, when she was interviewing people for Voluntary Services Overseas in London, she interviewed a young man who told her that he had just worked in Suffolk, on a research project to do with planning for Sizewell B. The research was to ascertain if there was a real need for a new power station. When she expressed interest, he told her that it had been "a complete con" as he discovered that they had decided to give planning permission anyway, before the inquiry had even started. She asked, out of interest, what did the inquiry reveal? He told her the findings were that if every building in Suffolk was properly insulated, there would be no need for another power station. You have heard many people offer alternative ideas like this, plus putting solar panels on houses and more wind power where appropriate. This would give employment to people and probably cost less..... An inquiry would be needed of course!

Several people have mentioned EDFs poor response to local worries and complaint, the loose ends and lack of final plans to things like the sea defences in their proposal. Perhaps this is why, and they don't need to bother, because they know they will get planning anyway.

My third point is Hope. I have hope that the tide is turning, increasing numbers of people now do care about the natural landscape, our Nature Reserves and our wildlife, and not just because they are beautiful, but because they are necessary to *our* survival. Science is telling us this now. So, my hope is that for these reasons, as well as for all that people have said this week, you will say no to Sizewell C. Please do not let this whole four-day process that you have sat through, so patiently, be another box ticking exercise.