



Abena Oppong-Asare MP
Member of Parliament for Erith and Thamesmead
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



By email only: decarbonisation@corygroup.co.uk
29 November 2023

Dear Cory,

Re: Response to Cory's consultation

I welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposals by Cory for a carbon capture facility in my constituency. I have heard concerns from many groups and individuals about the precise details of the scheme, and I would like to share them.

Firstly, I believe passionately that the UK should lead the way in carbon capture and storage. I advocate a green jobs and skills revolution to stem harmful climate change, which both saves the planet and creates economic growth. I am keen that opportunities for new jobs, investment, and skills are fairly distributed to all parts of the community, especially in our part of London.

However, any major development, no matter how well attuned to the need to tackle climate change, must be subject to rigorous assessment and scrutiny. It is notable that so many of the genuine and deep-seated concerns about the proposals come from environmental and wildlife groups. This speaks volumes in itself.

One concern shared by many is about local biodiversity and the future of the Crossness Nature Reserve. This is a well-liked and well-used local amenity with a wide range of flora and fauna. I am not convinced that the proposals as constituted do enough to protect this site from industrial development, nor are the alternatives proposed by the company wholly adequate.

A key objection is that development which harms the rich wildlife of Crossness cannot be seen as truly green. There are alternative local sites which may be more suitable, and less damaging to London's biodiversity.

I am also keen to understand more fully the company's plans to create local jobs, skills, and opportunities for local people. If a major development goes ahead after this consultation, I would expect a rigorous process of creating apprenticeships, jobs, and links to local firms within the supply chain, and with local schools and colleges. There must be a local economic boost if the local community is to undergo such a major change.

Local people's concerns are real and must be addressed. We all want to tackle global climate change, but concern for the environment starts with the local.

Yours sincerely,

Abena Oppong-Asare MP

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