

# Global Challenge, Local Solutions – Why Politics Matters aka “Hole In The Ground”

(after Bernard Cribbins – 1962) Local  
Leadership in Distributed Energy

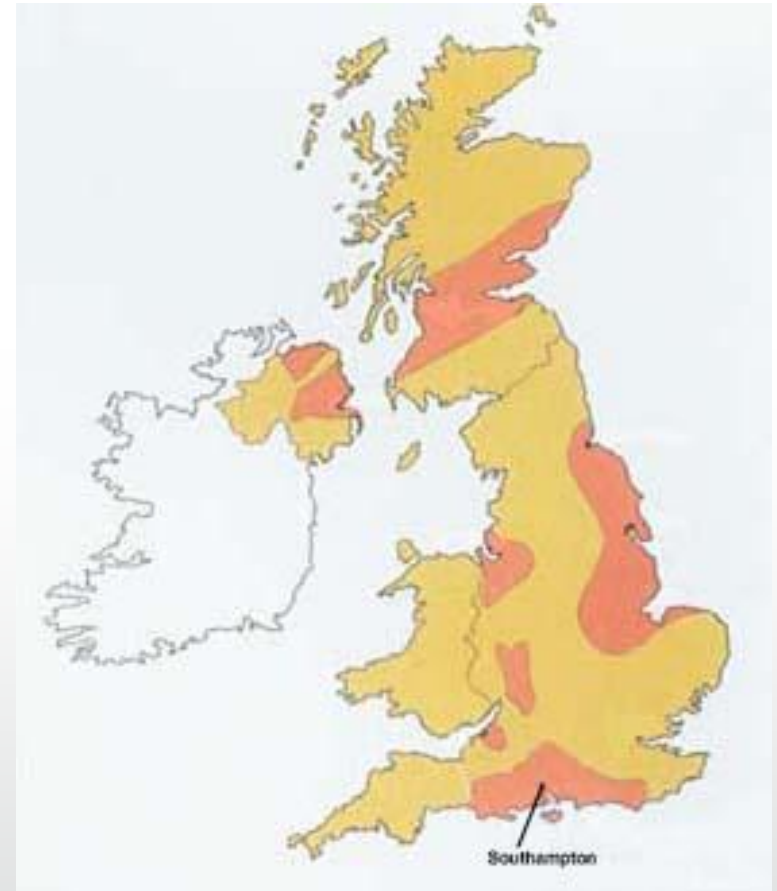
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# Introduction

- History (Geological, Political & Economic)
- Government Bureaucracy c1985 (We Love Bernard Cribbins)
- Outcomes
- Southampton's CHP Network 2014
- Rest of the Words
- And That's That!

# History (Geological and Political)

- Commercially exploiting Geothermal Energy in the UK was initially examined by the Department for Energy in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- However, interest waned after 1979
- Despite this Southampton decided to proceed in the mid 1980's to support the local authority policy of making Southampton a “self sustaining city”
- Paris had been using groundwater from 1-2km's depth at 55C – 70C since the 1970's



## Government Bureaucracy c1985 - We Love Bernard Cribbins

There I was, a-digging this hole

A hole in the ground, so big and sort of round it was

There was I, digging it deep

It was flat at the bottom and the sides were steep

When along, comes this bloke in a bowler which he lifted and  
scratched his head

Well we looked down the hole, poor demented soul and he said

Do you mind if I make a suggestion?

Don't dig there, dig it elsewhere

Your digging it round and it ought to be square

The shape of it's wrong, it's much much too long

And you can't put hole where a hole don't belong

# History (Political and Economic)

- Turned down for funding by the Department of Energy, the scheme was eventually developed in conjunction with a French-owned company and the was then established.
- Construction started in 1987 on a well to draw water from the aquifer at depth a depth of 1800 metres and a temperature of 76C



# Outcomes

- Until 2012 it was the largest commercially developed CHP/district energy scheme in the UK (until Birmingham was finished!)
- Built on Joint Co-operation Agreement with Southampton City Council
- £2.5M Energy Sales with £0.3M p.a. cost savings to consumers.
- 40,000+ tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (and rising) saved p.a.
- 8 MW of CHP and 1 MW biomass
- Supplying heating, cooling and electricity with a 14 km+ pipe network
- Project built on 20 year energy supply contracts
- Capital cost to date £8M+
- Geothermal element still central to the scheme
- Queen's Award for Sustainability 2001

# Southampton's CHP Network 2014



# Rest of The Words

Well there was I, stood in me hole  
Shovelling earth for all I was worth  
There was him, standing up there  
So grand and official with his nose in the air

So I gave him a look sort of sideways and I leaned on my shovel and sighed  
Well I lit me a fag and having took a drag I replied  
I just couldn't bear, to dig it elsewhere  
I'm digging it round cos I don't want it square

And if you disagree it don't bother me  
That's the place where the holes gonna be  
Well there we were, discussing this hole  
A hole in the ground so big and sort of round

**Well it's not there now, the ground's all flat  
And beneath it is the bloke in the bowler hat  
And that's that!**



# And That's That!

