



Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at Herdus House and Microsoft Teams

On Monday 21st March 2022

Commencing at 15.30

PRESENT:

Mark Cullinan	Interim Chair
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Andy Pratt	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC), Chair
David Halliday	Seascale Parish Council
Mark Fussell	Gosforth Parish Council Chair
Julie Nugent	Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council Chair
Gillian Johnston	GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community Partnership

Supporting Attendees:

Simon Hughes	GDF Team, Community Engagement and Siting Director – Agenda Item 1
Phil Green	GDF Team, Project Manager
Barnaby Hudson	GDF Team, Site Evaluation Manager
Gill Thorne	GDF Team, Communications Lead
Claire Dobson	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Sue Shepherd	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council, Officer
Serife Gunal	Traverse, Independent Evaluators

In attendance:

Karen Agnew	GDF Team, Secretariat Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership
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APOLOGIES:

Bob Jones	Ponsonby Parish Council Chair
John Jennings	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council Chair
Rob Ward	Nuclear Sector Manager for Copeland Borough Council
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council, Nuclear Projects Manager

AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS TO INCLUDE DOI, MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTION POINTS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, Simon Hughes, Community Engagement and Siting Director was introduced to the meeting to cover an outstanding action.

NWS Branding

Simon Hughes, Community Engagement and Siting Director from the GDF Developer addressed the Community Partnership members' concerns relating to the distinction between the GDF programme and other projects within the NWS group which has caused a certain amount of confusion and concern within the Mid Copeland communities. The GDF Developer team remains the same with the exception of Karen Wheeler, former CEO who is now the Senior Responsible Officer accountable to Parliament for delivery of the GDF



programme, taking over this role from Corhyn Parr. Following feedback from Mid Copeland Community Partnership members, there have been changes made to the branding for the GDF programme in respect to Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership. Mr Hughes restated that the Community Partnership may use any branding it prefers for its own material. It was confirmed that changes can also be made to the email signatures of the GDF Team, and the Team will be advised of what those changes can be.

Community Partnership members felt that as there are a number of NDA Group organisations which are part of Nuclear Waste Services operating in West Cumbria and that more sensitivity needs to be demonstrated, particularly in regard to avoid local confusion arising with regards from site investigation activities being carried out by LLWR.

It was requested that a flowchart which demonstrates the route of responsibility within GDF Developer Team be distributed to members.

A Community Partnership member raised the point that protestors who had attended a GDF Drop-in event had actually confused this project with investigations being carried out by LLWR and it was agreed that a clearer brief would be produced by the GDF Developer Team. The Community Engagement and Siting Director confirmed that some protestors had been offered 1:1 meetings, however this offer had not been taken up.

Apologies were read out and delivered to the meeting. No declarations of Interest were made. The minutes from the previous meeting (21/2/22) were passed as a correct record.

Action 21032201 01

- Flowchart which demonstrates the route of responsibility within GDF Developer Team be distributed to Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members.

Action 21032201 02

- The GDF Developer Team will produce a clearer brief regarding the distinction between NWS/LLWR/GDF Developer

Ref 210222	MEETING ACTION LOG	
Agenda 01 210222 01	NWS Branding The Community Engagement Manager will discuss this with the GDF Developer and advise the Community Partnership members of the outcome. COMPLETED	Community Engagement and Siting Director
Agenda 02 210222 02	Site Evaluation Site Evaluation to be included on the agenda on an ongoing basis. COMPLETED	Siting Manager
Agenda 03 210222 03	Selection Criteria The Community Engagement Team will establish organisations/individuals from each of the chosen sectors and present to the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members for approval. Once approved, it will be established which member will approach which sector. ONGOING	Community Engagement Team
Agenda 04 210222 04	Comms and Engagement The Community Engagement Manager will feedback to the GDF Campaigns Team that the Community Partnership members feel that the survey is unnecessary, and will update the members of the outcome. COMPLETED	CEM
Agenda 04 210222 05	Comms and Engagement The Community Engagement Manager will find out the content of the survey and feedback to Community Partnership members. COMPLETED	CEM
Agenda 04 210222 06	Comms and Engagement Comms Lead will share the content of the Newsletter with Community Partnership members. COMPLETED	Comms Lead



Agenda 04 210222 07	Comms and Engagement Comms Lead to share the posters with CP members (electronic) COMPLETED	Comms Lead
Agenda 05 210222 08	Privacy and Data Protection Share slides with CP members COMPLETED	FOI Manager Secretariat
Agenda 05 210222 09	Privacy and Data Protection Add outputs to the Agenda Items COMPLETED	Chair CEM Secretariat
Agenda 06 210222 10	AOB – The Hub The Community Engagement Team will arrange Hub training sessions for all Community Partnership Members Ongoing – completed after drop ins.	Community Engagement Team
Agenda 06 210222 11	AOB Community Engagement Manager will share AOB via email with Community Partnership members COMPLETED	CEM
Agenda 07 210222 12	Membership The Chair will write to the County Council to advise them of the decision relating to County Councillor membership of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership. COMPLETED	Chair
Agenda 08 210222 13	Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting Send out Community Partnership meeting invites for rest of year COMPLETED	Secretariat
Agenda 08 210222 14	Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting Select Calderbridge or Drigg as the location for April Community Partnership meeting COMPLETED	CEM

AGENDA 2: SITE EVALUATION – GDF Developer Investigations

The Site Evaluation Manager presented a condensed version of the slides from the previous meeting to reflect the most relevant items previously shared with members.

It was confirmed that the current concept being considered in Mid Copeland for the siting of a GDF is an inshore underground facility which would require a long transition access way with the supporting "headworks" sited on land.

The area of consideration within the Mid Copeland Search Area is approximately 60 km² and it is planned that studies to support determining the feasibility of the Search Area and adjacent inshore area are to be focused to provide an opportunity to realise efficiencies and ensure value for money.

This approach of focussing studies within areas (Area of Focus) should not be considered a site selection process. A formal evidence-based site selection would be undertaken at the appropriate time but currently there are high levels of uncertainty and the GDF developer will need to complete local studies to gather the required evidence and determine the feasibility.

One of the early activities of the GDF Developer is to gather information about the Search Area. It was suggested that it would be a useful exercise prior commencing any investigations to understand the information currently available and discuss which locations within the Search Area may be considered to be locally sensitive for example environmentally sensitive areas such as SSSIs or those areas that may be considered socially sensitive for example settlements or existing nuclear licenced sites. This would aid by identify those areas which could be considered as having a lower prospect/ impracticable of hosting a GDF.

A Community Partnership member raised a question relating to a particular area which was nominated by an Interested Party and the impact that available information could have on the suitability of this area. It was



clarified that this exercise would assist in guiding initial investigations by focussing on areas that maybe considered to have a higher prospect and further works would be required to determine an areas suitability

A Community Partnership member raised the possibility of observing Sellafield and LLWR sites as well as SSSIs that maybe considered as lower prospect/ impractical locations for hosting a GDF. It was suggested that at the next Community Partnership meeting the current gathered information could be reviewed in a workshop exercise and discussed; this was a similar exercise that had been undertaken during Working Group stage and it was agreed that this would be a sensible approach by the Community Partnership members.

A Community Partnership member raised that current infrastructure should also be taken into consideration and it was confirmed that assessing current and any potentially required supporting infrastructure would be part the feasibility studies.

It was agreed by the Community Partnership that this workshop exercise would form the agenda for the Community Partnership meeting taking place 25th April 2022. The Chair confirmed that Actions, Minutes, Accountability Framework and AOB would remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

A Community Partnership member requested that a list of current spatial information be shared, and it was confirmed that this would be shared with Community Partnership members. The Site Evaluation Manager requested that the Community Partnership members review the list and feedback with any additional information which they feel could be useful.

Action 21032202 03

- Site Evaluation Manager to share list of spatial information with Community Partnership members.

Action 21032202 04

- Community Partnership members were tasked with providing the Site Evaluation Manager a list of additional information.

Decision 21032202 01

- Workshop exercise observing gathered spatial information will form the basis of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership meeting 25th April 2022.

AGENDA 3: HAILE AND WILTON – COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

The representative for Haile and Wilton resigned in December 2021 and ongoing membership and voting rights of Haile and Wilton were discussed with Community Partnership members. The current position is that Haile and Wilton have an open seat on the Partnership but as they do not have an active representative, a decision is required on voting. After discussion, it was agreed that as long as they didn't have an active representative, they would not have a vote and the Chair will advise them of the decision of the Community Partnership with a request that they respond to this notification at the request of the Community Partnership members.

A Community Partnership member raised the point that Haile and Wilton are able to contact the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership directly as well as being able to make contact through CALC.

Action 21032203 05

- The Chair will advise the Haile and Wilton clerk of the decision of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership members regarding their voting rights and request a response.

Decision 21032203 02



- Haile and Wilton's seat will remain open however they will not have voting rights until they have a representative on the Community Partnership.

AGENDA 4: MEMBERSHIP - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SELECTION/RECRUITMENT

It was suggested by the Chair, after reflection, that the recruitment of additional Community Partnership members not only be in the form of a direct approach (agreed at Community Partnership meeting on 21/2/22) but also an application process which SHOULD be advertised on the website. This would ensure that the process was open and transparent. The Farming, Business, Youth and Tourism sectors would still be the main focus and the selection criteria would make it clear that the key requirement would be that members could represent the views of people within the Search Area and so priority will be people who live or work within the Search Area.

The Chair was conscious the Working Group had envisaged a well published recruitment campaign, the Community Partnership however, feel that creating expectations which could leave people disappointed was not a process that they wished to proceed with. The Policy does allow for a direct approach within an open and transparent process and the Community Partnership members felt that the proposed recruitment process would satisfy the Policy requirements.

There were concerns that this could lead to a Community Partnership that was heavily weighted towards the nuclear industry however, the GDF team would filter the applications to ensure the best fit with selection criteria before presenting them to the Community Partnership Selection Panel for a final decision. A concern was also raised about those who were turned down, however as the pace of the Community Partnership increases, the application process could provide candidates who would be suitable to sit on subgroups or stakeholders forums. The Community Partnership members agreed that a twofold approach was appropriate.

The Community Engagement Team have also been conducting open discussions with attendees of the Drop In Events who have expressed an interest in joining Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership and have made the sectors of Youth, Business, Farming and Tourism clear in their conversations as well as the selection criteria.

A Community Partnership member raised that it should be made clearer on the website that it wasn't necessary for individuals to be members of the Partnership to submit their views and questions, and this will be addressed by the Comms Team. It was also highlighted that individuals could also approach their Councillors through the normal channels, and they could also be directed to the application on the website.

The Community Partnership members also discussed the Community Members Presentation which had been shared electronically, it was confirmed that this produced as a starting position only and that if agreed by the members, that more detailed work would be undertaken to ensure that the business's within each sector were up to date and relevant to the needs of the Partnership.

A Community Partnership member sought clarity that the initial screening/shortlisting of potential Community Partnership members would be undertaken by the GDF Developer Team, and this was confirmed.

The Community Engagement Team suggested they would have all the paperwork ready to launch recruitment on the Mid CP website in Mid April.

Action 21032204 06

- It will be made clear on the website that individuals are not required to be members of Mid Copeland Community Partnership in order to submit views and questions.

Action 22032204 07



- The Community Engagement Team will continue to work on the Community Members Presentation and will share with the Community Partnership members prior to recruitment launch.

Decision 22032204 03

- It was agreed that a twofold approach to Community Partnership membership would proceed.

Decision 22032204 04

- It was agreed that the GDF Developer Team would conduct the initial screening/shortlisting of potential applicants at the members request.

AGENDA 5: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

Year 1 Community Investment Funding Pipeline*

		Mid Copeland
Enquiries		30
Awards Made by Panel		3
Awards Rejected by Panel		0
Value of Awards Made		£66k
Awards made by category	Small (<10k)	2
	Med (10- 50k)	1
	Large (>50k)	0
No. Projects in Pipeline		20
Estimate of Value in Pipeline		£437k
Balance on Community Partnership £1m (£3m total)		£497k

Enquiries coming through include the following:

Solar panels, development costs for future large projects, improvements to outdoor places, play area refurbishment, Church projects and environmental projects. There was further discussion relating to the “norm” for ineligible expenditure across a range of funders. It was agreed that the Grants Team would make contact with other funding bodies to establish this and advise the Partnership of the outcome.

A Community Partnership member made a request that the Grants Team carry out further work in clarifying and narrowing the criteria for funding applications as it was felt that there should be consistency in the decisions that the Community Investment Panel were tasked to make.

Action 21032205 08

- The Grants Manager will initiate contact with other funding bodies with regards to ineligible expenditure and advise the Community Partnership members of the outcome.

Action 21032205 09

- The Grants Manager will liaise with the Community Partnership relating to further clarification on the criteria for funding application prior to the Community Investment Panel on the 6th April 2022.

AGENDA 6: COMMS AND ENGAGEMENT

Marine Geophysical (Seismic) Survey

The GDF Developer has scheduled a press release to be issued at the end of the week and the Comms Team has also been working on a Q & A on behalf of the Community Partnership. The Community Partnership members were asked to feedback to the Comms Lead by close of play 22nd March regarding the inclusion of both on the website.



A Community Partnership member raised the question which related to any disturbance on the seabed which may occur from the Seismic Survey boat streamers. Whilst it is believed that no disturbance does occur, this will be investigated, and the Community Partnership would be informed of the answer.

- *After the meeting closed, it was confirmed that no disturbance of the seabed occurs.*

A Community Partnership member raised a question relating to the percentage of newsletter subscribers who lived within the Search Area. The Comms Lead agreed to investigate and feedback to the Community Partnership members.

A Community Partnership member raised a question relating to the current and planned communications with licenced sea users e.g. fishermen who may be impacted during the period that the Seismic Survey will be undertaken. It was confirmed that GDF Developer had communicated this to all official bodies concerned.

A Community Partnership member raised a question relating to the current and planned communications with unlicensed fishermen (leisure/pleasure) who may be impacted during the period that the Seismic Survey will be taking place. It was confirmed that the Community Engagement Team will be raising awareness and advising communities of this during the Community Engagement Events which will be held in May and further work with the GDF Developer will be undertaken to ensure that all sea users would be made aware.

Community Engagement Events

The Community Engagement Team has received feedback from the Drop In events that the preferred method of contact is by mail drop/leafletting, and this will be taken into account when advertising future Community Engagement Events in addition to print, radio and online advertising. Future Community Engagement Events have been scheduled 17th – 21st May 2022 and this will be announced on 9th May 2022 with a flier being sent to all households within the Search Area. The second issue of the Newsletter will also be issued around this time and will also include details of the Community Engagement Events.

Action 21032206 10

- Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members would feedback to the Comms Lead in relation to the inclusion of the GDF Developer Seismic Survey press release being included on the website.

Action 21032206 11

- The Siting Manager will seek clarification regarding disturbance to the seabed as a result of the Seismic Survey and will feedback to the Community Partnership members.
- • *After the meeting closed, it has been confirmed that no disturbance of the seabed occurs.*

Action 21032206 12

- The Comms Lead will investigate the percentage of newsletter subscribers who reside within the Search Area.

Action 21032206 13

- The Community Engagement Manager will liaise with the GDF Developer to ensure that all unlicensed sea users will be made aware of the Seismic Survey and their concerns addressed.

AGENDA 7: FEEDBACK FROM EVENTS

Week 1 – 39 attendees with an average engagement time of 40 minutes. There were some challenging conversations and protestors attended on the 11th March 2022.

Week 2 – 27 attendees with detailed conversations and a lot wished to discuss Community Investment Funding. Demonstrating flexibility and taking the feedback on board, the Community Engagement Team have extended a venue booking during the Drop-in Events and the Grants Manager will be in attendance to answer questions from the community relating to the Community Investment Funding.



The feedback gathered from the events so far, Geology, Siting and CIF have been the attendees areas of interest and Subject Matter Experts (SME) have been invited to attend the events in May to accommodate the community.

The Community Engagement Team have also been asked to attend various events which are being held by other groups/organisations, including Whitehaven Traders Fair, Beckermets Coffee Mornings and Gosforth Show. They also plan to engage with communities within the Lake District National Park as whilst they are not an area of consideration, they will be allocated a vote in a Test of Public Support and are still eligible for Community Investment funding.

It was decided by the Community Partnership that whilst they would like to be kept advised of the Community Engagement Events and updated accordingly, they were happy for the Team to proceed as appropriate, and Parish Councillors agreed to advertise the events on their Parish Council pages.

The Community Engagement Team highlighted the challenge of securing venues locally to host Community Engagement Events and wished to make the members aware as this has impacted where the May events can be held.

A Community Partnership member stated that the Drop-in Events had been successful in raising awareness of the Community Investment Funding as they had received enquiries from individuals and organisations and had directed them to the events.

Decision 21032207 05

- The Community Engagement Team will proceed with the future plans for engagement events and keep the Community Partnership members updated.

AGENDA 8: Community Investment Funding Terms of Reference (ToR)

An electronic copy of the revised ToR had previously been circulated to Community Partnership members; questions were invited from the members.

There was discussion relating to the number of members on the Community Investment Panel (CIP) and the need for a fixed figure to be included in the ToR. A Community Partnership member felt that this should remain flexible to allow for individuals to sit on the CIP should they wish to do so; no decision was made by the members.

CBC/CALC

A question was raised by a Community Partnership member relating to the membership of Copeland Borough Council and CALC as organisations or elected representatives and the possibility of deputising. The elected representatives of the organisations will reach back to their respective organisations and advise the Community Partnership of the outcome.

QUORATE/DOI

A Community Partnership members raised the point that the current number of members of CIP could create the risk of the Panel not being quorate should a member not be able to attend. It was suggested that it may be possible to appoint deputies to the CIP to mitigate this risk and ensure impartiality. After further discussion with the members, 3 members of the Community Partnership would like to put themselves forward to become reserve members of the Community Investment Panel.

MEETING DATES

The CIP meets every 8 weeks and the dates for 2022/2023 are currently in CIP members diaries and whilst the dates have not been publicised, they have been highlighted throughout the Drop In Events. It was confirmed that the CIP meeting on the 6th April 2022 would be an in person meeting.



Action 21032208 14

- CBC and CALC representatives will liaise with their organisation to clarify the named seat holder in the ToR and the appropriateness of being able to select deputies.

Action 21032209 15

- Community Engagement Manager and Grants Manager will meet to discuss additional Community Partnership members stepping forward to deputise on the CIP.

Decision 21032208 06

- Community Partnership members agreed to the ToR amendments.

AGENDA 9: AOB

- The GDF Developer is conducting STEM workshops with local schools, 2 within our Search Area have come forward. The Community Engagement Team are involved as it is within the Search Area and it's important that people are aware of the GDF project and the local team.
- Q5 Pop Ups. Community Engagement Manager will recirculate the details to the CP members.

The aim is to start to advertise in April and Community Partnership members were asked to direct any appropriate non-profit organisations that they were aware of to Cumbria Exchange.

Action 21032209 16

- Q5 Pop-up Consultation information circulated to Community Partnership members.

Action 21032209 17

- Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members invited to direct non-profit organisations that they were aware of to Cumbria Exchange

AGENDA 10: DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

25th April 2022

4.00 – 6pm

Gosforth School

Ref 210322	MEETING ACTION LOG	
21032201 01	Flowchart which demonstrates the route of responsibility within GDF Developer Team be distributed to Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members.	SLT CEM
21032201 02	The GDF Developer Team will produce a clearer brief regarding the distinction between NWS/LLWR/GDF Developer	SLT CEM
21032202 03	Siting Manager to share presentation and list of data sets with Community Partnership members.	Siting Manager
21032202 04	Community Partnership members were tasked with providing the Siting Manager a list of additional data sets.	ALL
21032203 05	The Chair will advise the Haile and Wilton clerk of the decision of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership members regarding their voting rights and request a response.	Chair
21032204 06	It will be made clear on the website that individuals are not required to be members of Mid Copeland Community Partnership in order to submit views and questions.	Comms Lead
21032204 07	The Community Engagement Team will continue to work on the Community Members Presentation and will share with the Community Partnership members in April.	CET

21032205 08	The Grants Manager will initiate contact with other funding bodies with regards to ineligible expenditure and advise the Community Partnership members of the outcome.	Grants Team
21032205 09	The Grants Manager will liaise with the Community Partnership relating to further clarification on the criteria for funding application prior to the Community Investment Panel on the 6 th April 2022.	Grants Team
21032206 10	Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members would feedback to the Comms Lead in relation to the inclusion of the GDF Developer Seismic Survey press release being included on the website.	ALL
21032206 11	The Siting Manager will seek clarification regarding disturbance to the seabed as a result of the Seismic Survey and will feedback to the Community Partnership members. completed	Siting Manager
21032206 12	The Comms Lead will investigate the percentage of Newsletter subscribers who reside within the Search Area.	Comms Lead
21032206 13	The Community Engagement Manager will liaise with the GDF Developer to ensure that unlicensed sea users will be made aware of the Seismic Survey and their concerns addressed.	CEM
21032208 14	CBC and CALC representatives will liaise with their organisation to clarify the named seat holder in the ToR and the appropriateness of being able to select deputies.	CBC CALC
21032208 15	Community Engagement Manager and Grants Manager will meet to discuss additional Community Partnership members stepping forward to deputise on the CIP.	Grants Manager CEM
21032209 16	Q5 Pop-up Consultation information circulated to Community Partnership members.	CEM
21032209 17	Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members invited to direct non-profit organisations that they were aware of to Cumbria Exchange	ALL
Ref 210322	MEETING DECISION LOG	
21032202 01	Siting Evaluation exercise will form the basis of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership meeting 25 th April 2022.	
21032203 02	Haile and Wilton's seat will remain open however they will not have voting rights until they have a representative on the Community Partnership.	
21032204 03	It was agreed that a twofold approach to Community Partnership membership would proceed.	
21032204 04	It was agreed that the GDF Developer Team would conduct the initial screening/shortlisting of potential applicants at the members request.	
21032207 05	The Community Engagement Team will proceed with the future plans for engagement events and keep the Community Partnership members updated.	
21032208 06	Community Partnership members agreed to the ToR amendments.	
21032210 07	Next Meeting 25 th April 4pm – 6pm Gosforth School	