



Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at Seascale Golf Club

On Monday 4th July 2022

Commencing at 15.30

PRESENT:

Mark Cullinan	Chair
Andy Pratt	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC), Chair
David Halliday	Seascale Parish Council
Mark Fussell	Gosforth Parish Council Chair
Bob Jones	Ponsonby Parish Council Chair
Tim Barlow	Beckermet Parish Council - Deputising for Julie Nugent
Gillian Johnston	GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community Partnership

Supporting Attendees:

Chris Eldred	GDF Team, Senior Project Manager – Agenda Item 2
Justin Chamberlain	GDF Team, Head of Campaigns – Agenda Item 3
Owen Thomas	Yonder, Research Director – Agenda Item 3
Phil Green	GDF Team, Project Manager – Agenda item 4
Gill Thorne	GDF Team, Communications Lead
Claire Dobson	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Sue Shepherd	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council, Officer

In attendance:

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

Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Julie Nugent	Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council Chair
Serife Gunal	Traverse, Independent Evaluators
John Jennings	Drigg and Carleton Parish Council Chair

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

The Chair was running late so Action Log was gone through first. Introductions of attendees were carried out once all members were present. It was agreed that the previous Minutes were an accurate record and were approved by the members. There were no Declarations of Interest.

Ref 210322	MEETING ACTION LOG	
21032201 02	The GDF Developer Team will produce a clearer brief regarding the distinction between NWS/LLWR/GDF Developer. Ongoing FAQ are being worked on	SLT CEM
25042202 05	ANDRA Meeting Secretariat will add the dates of the visit to the Community Partnership Members calendars, this will include a link to the website.	Secretariat

	Email issued to Community Partnership members with link to website, also included in Meeting Minutes 250422. Dates to be added to calendars once further information is received. Ongoing It will be a further 2-3 weeks	
REF 230522	MEETING ACTION LOG	
23052202 01	Accountability Framework Social Value Database will be finalised and shared with Community Partnership members Ongoing, with the GDF Developer SLT. CET Team will establish progress after the Programme of Activities have been discussed	Community Engagement Team
23052202 02	Accountability Framework The information regarding the Test of Public Support will be collated in one place by the GDF Developer for ease of access Ongoing. CET will establish progress after 4 th July meeting	GDF Developer Community Engagement Manager
23052203 03	Local Government Reorganisation The GDF Developer will present potential options regarding the inclusion/exclusion of wards within each Community Partnership for discussion with members. Ongoing and will be included in the Agenda for the August meeting.	GDF Developer Community Engagement Manager
23052204 04	Mid Copeland Surveying The Head of Campaigns will liaise with Yonder to establish the details (where and how) of the engagement plan Included in Agenda Item 3	Head of Campaigns
23052205 05	Comms and Exhibition Feedback The Community Engagement Manager will liaise with the GDF Developer to ensure that local councils are made aware of a planned protest. Completed	Community Engagement Manager Comms Lead
23052205 06	Comms and Exhibition Feedback The Comms Lead will provide the Community Partnership members with the link to the MMO website and how to access relevant documents regarding Marine Geophysical Surveys Completed	Comms Lead
23052205 7	Comms and Exhibition Feedback The Stakeholder Relations Team will be invited to attend the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership meeting on the 4th July 2022 Completed	Community Engagement Manager
23052205 8	Comms and Exhibition Feedback The Community Engagement Manager will provide the relevant assurances regarding the environmental safety case for the Marine Geophysical Surveying licences Included in Agenda Item 2	Community Engagement Manager
23052210 09	AOB Community Engagement Team to book Seascale Golf Club for next Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting Completed	Community Engagement Coordinators

AGENDA 2: MARINE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

Marine Geophysical Surveys Copeland are scheduled to commence Summer 2022 and will survey the geology off the south west coast of Cumbria. The survey area is 250 square kilometres approximately within a 1000 square kilometre operating area.

VESSEL OPERATION COPELAND

Main contractor is Shearwater GeoServices Ltd. The Survey Vessel Bly is 7700 tonnes, 92 metres long and the closest sailing point to the shore is approximately 5 kilometres.

VESSEL OPERATIONS AT SEA

The Survey Vessel is responsible for acquiring the data for a defined area and is responsible for safety, security and compliance with the rules of the sea. As well as the main Survey Vessel, there will also be a supply/tow



vessel, two further guard vessels to ensure that the sail lines are clear and a Security RiB. The Survey Vessel has 6 streamers which are 50 metres apart, 2.0 kilometres long giving a moving survey area of 250 metres x 2500 metres and travel at a speed of 5 knots. The Survey Vessel and all other marine traffic will be required to act in accordance with the rules of the sea at all times, as normal.

MARINE COOPERATION SCHEME

In order to ensure clear sail lines for the survey we need to, with the agreement of the fishing community, remove all fixed fishing gear from the survey area. All other fishermen will work around the survey vessel. In order to achieve this, we have put in place a marine cooperation scheme and appointed Industry leading contractors as our marine agent. The focus is on fixed gear fishermen but open to other sea users who are commercially impacted by the activity. A local fishing industry representative has been appointed who will work with the fishing community on behalf of the GDF Developer. The GDF Developer and all contractors working on behalf of the GDF Developer are working with national and regional representative groups, regulators, devolved administrations and other governments where required.

SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES

The safety and security of all vessels and sea users is paramount. We have appointed an experienced Security Contractor who will work with ourselves and Shearwater to maintain the safety and security of the project. They will liaise with the Police and ensure the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Coast Guard are kept informed.

PERMISSIONS (ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND SURVEY DESIGN)

Environmental considerations are integrated into the survey design, prior to and after the completion of marine environmental assessments which ensures the survey is designed to be low impact and supported with the best environmental evidence available. The environmental protection measures and survey design features built into the survey include:

- Undertaking the survey at the least sensitive time of year
- Minimising the area, size of sound source and duration of the survey
- Following UK best practice and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) guidance with inclusion of Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs), Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) and soft start procedures
- Use of turtle guards on buoys
- Low sulphur fuel
- All environmental protection measures were discussed and agreed with the MMO and Natural England

PERMISSIONS (MARINE EXEMPTION and EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES LICENCE)

We are relying upon an exemption to a marine licence, which is dependent on satisfying Natural England (who will advise the MMO) that we have met all of its environmental requirements and obligations to minimise and mitigate impacts to marine ecology, the Marine Conservation Zones, and other wildlife covered by Habitats Regulations. It is also necessary to satisfy other relevant stakeholders that navigational risk has been assessed and will be mitigated against.

We also have a European Protected Species Licence from the MMO. This licence is for potential disturbance to harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, minke whale and marine turtles. Our assessments show that although there will be no significant adverse effects on these species, they may be present in the survey area at the time of survey. We are actively working to minimise any disturbance to any marine wildlife.

The marine environmental assessments were planned and undertaken in line with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) guidance and requirements and used only peer reviewed and relevant evidence. The legislation set the licensable activity as 'deposition of scientific equipment' in the water.



MITIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

We are actively working to minimise any disturbance to any marine wildlife and implementing measures to ensure successful achievement of no harm to marine mammals from our activities. We will have suitably qualified and experienced Marine Mammal Observers and Passive Acoustic Monitoring operators onboard the survey vessel. After the survey NWS will provide reports on observations of any marine mammals to the MMO as well as recording the survey in the JNCCs Marine Noise Registry.

RISKS

All major projects have to address risks which may impact safety, environment, cost and schedule

We have extensive risk registers and have been looking to mitigate risks throughout the project

Key residual risks are:

- Cost: most costs are fixed but the costs of fuel has had a major impact on the project.
- Weather: whilst the vessel is resilient to weather a few days of storms may delay the project
- Safety: We are using professional organisations with well-developed safety procedures, however there are always safety risks, and we have to remain vigilant
- Security: the size and location of the vessel means it is resilient, but we have to be vigilant to maintain the security of the project and the safety of other users
- Time delays: Our contract places performance requirements on the contractor but excessive weather delays and delays due to fishing, environmental and security could impact on the duration and costs

Further clarification was sought by the members regarding the timescales of the exemptions and licences. It was confirmed that NWS expect to receive the EPS license within a week of the meeting.

Community Partnership members were advised that the survey is scheduled to last 17 days and the air guns will operate 16-24 metres above the seabed.

Further clarification was sought with regards to the measures in place with regards to the safety of sea life in the area and it was confirmed that observers would be on the Survey Vessel with Passive Acoustic Monitoring utilised if required. It was also confirmed that the GDF Developer had liaised with the Cetacean Stranding's Investigation Programme and had analysed the data provided and this data will be shared with Community Partnership Members.

A Community Partnership member had submitted a list of questions to the GDF Developer, and it was agreed that these would be shared with the Community Partnership members once answered. It was also requested that a Q&A would be made available to Community Partnership members.

A press release and briefings are scheduled, there will also be an official notice to mariners which will be displayed in marinas as well as the Kingfisher database, the Survey Vessel is also equipped with sophisticated radar which allows for the opportunity to identify and communicate by radio with other vessels in the area whilst the survey is being carried out.

It was confirmed that the survey dates were selected to take the weather, environmental issues, sea life movement patterns and the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence into account.

It was agreed that it would be prudent to take the opportunity to tailor the future approach to large bodies of work to enable them to be discussed in detail at an earlier stage and for the projects to focus on community and reputational challenges faced with concerns, questions and queries answered proactively.

Action 040722 0201

- Share Cetacean Stranding's Investigation Programme data with Community Partnership members



Action 040722 0202

- The GDF Developer will liaise with national groups who deal with instances of beachings of live sea life

Action 040722 0203

- The GDF Developer will share the 24/7 incident number with the Community Partnership members

Action 040722 0204

- The Q&A submitted by a Community Partnership member would be shared with the members

AGENDA 3: YONDER SURVEY UPDATES

The Community Partnership members agreed that the Yonder Survey would commence on 5th August and finish on the 20th August. It was also agreed that the business owners in the vicinity of the selected locations would be communicated with in advance to make them aware of the interviewers' activity. It was also agreed that telephone surveys would only take place if the interviewers were unable to meet the acceptable threshold of opinions obtained during face to face engagement.

Action 040722 0306

- The Community Engagement Manager and a member of the Community Partnership would discuss offline the possibility of attending community events

Action 040722 0307

- The Campaigns Team will liaise with local businesses within the survey area to advise of the interviewers' activity in the area

Decision 040722 0301

- The Community Partnership members agreed to proceed with the Survey

Decision 040722 0302

- Local business owners will be contacted pre-emptively to advise them of the interviewers' activity within the area

Decision 040722 0303

- Telephone Survey will only take place if the acceptable threshold of opinions is not obtained during face to face engagement

AGENDA 4: PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Agreed to move this to the next meeting.

AGENDA 5: RECRUITMENT

Applications for the roles within the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership closed on Friday 1st July and the Community Engagement Team will filter the applications with interviews taking place on the 18th July 2022. The Selection Panel will consist of the outgoing Chair, Relevant Principal Local Authority and GDF Developer. The Selection Panel will advise the Community Partnership members of their recommendations before a final decision is made. The Community Engagement Team will share the draft acceptance/rejection letters with the Community Partnership members for feedback.

The Community Partnership members discussed a future/ongoing recruitment plan and agreed that this would be dependent on the finalisation of a Programme of Activities. Some topics for future discussion were covered included industry/sector advertising and possible learning from experience.



Action 040722 0508

- The Community Engagement Team will share the draft recruitment documents with the Community Partnership members for feedback

POSITION OF CHAIR

It had previously been communicated to the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members that the current Chair would be stepping down from this role at the end of July 2022 and members had been invited to put forward their intention to stand or for their nominations. Andy Pratt had put himself forward and had received a number of nominations. Community Partnership members were asked if there were any changes to their intentions or nominations. No further intentions or nominations were presented. The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership members were asked to vote and unanimously agreed that Andy Pratt would be Chair of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership for a period of 12 months. The current Chair would also be in place for a transitional period.

Decision 040722 0504

- Andy Pratt has been selected as Chair from 1st August 2022 for a 12 month period

AGENDA 6: AOB

CIF UPDATE

The Community Partnership members were advised that £285k of funding had been awarded until June 2022, with a further potential £305k in the pipeline for the July panel. This makes a total of £590k funding awarded to date and include the following:

- Beckermet School Green Play Area £84,838
- Calderbridge Village Hall – development costs £1,590
- Thornhill Social Club – access improvements & feasibility work £20,845
- Gosforth Nursery Ltd – outdoor play area and “garden room” £49,115
- Gosforth Agricultural Society – hire of local enterprise marquee & purchase of tables/chairs for shared use - £5,900

Approved in principle subject to additional information/governance and now approved:

- Gosforth Library Link – new PC and some internal refurbishment - £8,000
- Friends of Gosforth School – refurbishment to adventure trail, outdoor space and quiet area £42,398
- Total of £212,686 awarded

There are currently 4 applications which have been submitted and are in assessment and a further 3 applications expected prior to the internal deadline for the sitting of the July Community Investment Panel, this would be a total of £305,000 of funding which would be in consideration for the July meeting.

Community Partnership members have been asked to make the Community Engagement Team aware if they wish to participate in Community Investment Panel Familiarisation training at a convenient time in July/August 2022.

RECRUITMENT OF GRANTS OFFICER

The Grants Officer role has been advertised externally with a closing date of the 15th July 2022. The role is available on the Thomas Thor website should anyone wish to signpost individuals to the role.

Action 040722 0609

- Community Partnership members will contact the Community Engagement Team members to arrange Community Investment Panel Familiarisation training

**CALC OFFICER**

A Community Partnership member raised the request for a CALC Officer who is a member of the Allerdale Community Partnership and a representative within the South Copeland Community Partnership to receive documentation relating to the Mid Copeland Community Partnership. After discussion, it was agreed by the Community Partnership members that the CALC Officer would receive the Meeting Briefing and press releases.

Decision 040722 0605

- The CALC Officer will receive the Meeting Brief and press releases

LGR UPDATE

It was agreed by the Community Partnership members that a representative from the GDF Developer Team would attend the next meeting to discuss the Local Government Restructure with the membership

Decision 040722 0606

- LGR Update will be included in the Agenda for the next Community Partnership meeting

DATES AND TIMES OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Community Partnership members were asked to consider amending the dates and times of future Community Partnership meetings however it was agreed that the meetings currently scheduled would remain, with dates from the 12th December onwards to be discussed in a future meeting.

Decision 040722 0607

- The Community Partnership meetings which are currently scheduled will remain in the diaries

AGENDA 7: DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

1st August 2022

15.00 – 17.30

Calderbridge and Ponsonby Village Hall

Action 040722 0710

- Community Engagement Team to secure a suitable venue for the next Community Partnership meeting

REF 040722	MEETING ACTION LOG	
040722 0201	Marine Geophysical Survey Share Cetacean Stranding's Investigation Programme data with Community Partnership members	Stakeholder Relations Team
040722 0202	Marine Geophysical Survey The GDF Developer will liaise with national groups who deal with instances of beachings of live sea life	Stakeholder Relations Team
040722 0203	Marine Geophysical Survey The GDF Developer will share the 24/7 incident number with the Community Partnership members	Stakeholder Relations Team
040722 0204	Marine Geophysical Survey The Q&A submitted by a Community Partnership member would be shared with the members	Community Engagement Team
040722 0305	Yonder Survey Update The Community Engagement Manager and a member of the Community Partnership would discuss offline the possibility of attending community events	Community Engagement Manager and Community Partnership Member

040722 0306	Yonder Survey Update The Campaigns Team will liaise with local businesses within the survey area to advise of the interviewers activity in the area	Campaigns Team
040722 0507	Recruitment The Community Engagement Team will share the draft recruitment documents with the Community Partnership members for feedback	Community Engagement Team
040722 0608	CIF Update Community Partnership members will contact the Community Engagement Team members to arrange Community Investment Panel Familiarisation training	ALL
040722 0709	Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting Community Engagement Team to secure a suitable venue for the next Community Partnership meeting	Community Engagement Team
Ref 040722	MEETING DECISION LOG	
040722 0301	Yonder Survey Update The Community Partnership members agreed to proceed with the Survey	
040722 0302	Yonder Survey Update Local business owners will be contacted pre-emptively to advise them of the interviewers activity within the area	
040722 0303	Yonder Survey Update Telephone Survey will only take place if the acceptable threshold of opinions is not obtained during face to face engagement	
040722 0504	Recruitment Andy Pratt has been selected as Chair from 1 st August 2022 for a 12 month period	
040722 0605	CALC Officer The CALC Officer will receive the Meeting Brief and press releases	
040722 0606	LGR Update LGR Update will be included in the Agenda for the next Community Partnership meeting	
040722 0607	Date and Times of Community Partnership Meeting The Community Partnership meetings which are currently scheduled will remain in the diaries	