



Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at Drigg and Carleton Village Hall

On Monday 27th March 2023

Commencing at 15:00 hrs

PRESENT:

Andy Pratt	Chair
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Julie Nugent	Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council Chair
Mike Slater	Farming Sector Lead
Lizzie Mawson	Chair of Seascale Parish Council
Bob Jones	Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council Chair
Yvonne Clarkson	Business Sector Lead
Gillian Johnston	GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community Partnership

Supporting Attendees:

Rob Ward	GDF Team, Community Partnership Operations Manager
Helen Conway	GDF Team, Grants Manager
Gill Thorne	GDF Team, Communications Lead
Sue Shepherd	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Claire Dobson	GDF Team, Community Coordinator
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council, Officer

In attendance:

Lisa Rothery	GDF Team, Secretariat Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership
Laura Hogg	NDA representative
Jessica Parsons	Representative from the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero
Thomas Rookes	Representative from the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero

APOLOGIES:

Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council Representative
Mark Fussell	Gosforth Parish Council Chair
Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead

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

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership members and 3 members of the public.

The Community Engagement Manager highlighted that most would be aware, a nationwide search is underway in England and Wales to find a potentially suitable location to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). This is based on achieving two aims of finding a suitable site, along with a willing host community. Currently there are 2 CPs in Copeland, one in South Copeland covering the electoral wards of Millom and Black Combe & Scafell, the other in Mid Copeland covering the electoral wards of Beckermet and Gosforth & Seascale.

The partnership is in the early stages of a very long process, through which our role is to act as the vehicle for dialogue between the community within the Search Area and the developer, including what hosting a GDF



could mean for the Community and how it could benefit. Being a member of the partnership in no way implies a particular stance on GDF.

Ref 28022023	MEETING ACTION LOG
Agenda 2 28022023 01	A member of the Community Partnership raised a suggestion about amending a comment from Agenda Item 6 in the previous Community Partnership Meeting Minutes, 9 th January 2023. This was agreed to be actioned - Complete
Agenda 3 28022023 02	Secretariat to send round the link to NWAA website to the Partnership members - Complete
Agenda 3 28022023 03	Secretariat to set up a WhatsApp group for reminders and information on events - Complete
Agenda 4 28022023 04	Chair to get in touch with the District Young Farmers to provide a contact for us - Complete
Agenda 4 28022023 05	Youth Lead to feed back to our next Community Partnership meeting on Monday 27 th March 2023, to give a quick overview on how the Shackles off programme is processing - Complete
Agenda 6 28022023 06	Head of Property and Land to take questions back for answers – In progress
Agenda 6 28022023 07	Head of Property and Land to work on some FAQs that we can put on the website – In progress
Agenda 7 28022023 08	Chair who is also the CALC Chair to add the issue of stopping Mid Copeland Community Partnerships Communications going to the South Copeland Community Partnership - Complete
Agenda 7 28022023 09	Community Engagement Manager to produce a process for nominating and recruiting a Chair – Ongoing
Agenda 9 28022023 10	Chair to put an Agenda item on for the next Community Partnership Meeting regarding NSD and Policy Consultation - Complete

AGENDA 2: ROUND THE ROOM INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by the Mid Copeland Community Partnership members and support team. Actions from the previous minutes were reviewed and agreed.

AGENDA 3: CHAIR'S REPORT

- The Chair informed the Partnership that he will be attending the Nuclear Waste Services conference on the 24th & 25th April 2023 and will feedback at the next meeting.
- The Chair will be engaging with Lowside Quarter Parish Council, they have an open seat on the Partnership which they will be invited to take, this follows concerns from residents during the last round of exhibitions.
- The Chair informed the Partnership that the Secretariat will be leaving to take up another post outside the organisation and thanked her for her work.
- The Chair also informed the Partnership that due to Local Government Reorganisation this will be last meeting with the current RPLA lead for Copeland Borough Council, Councillor Moore. Councillor Moore was thanked for all he has done for the Partnership and former Copeland Working Group.

AGENDA 4: NSD POLICY CONSULTATION

The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero Lead delivered a presentation on the proposals to update and consolidate the UK framework for Management of Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy and answered questions from the Partnership.

It was explained that the 12-week consultation is seeking responses to the draft proposals, and responses are strongly encouraged via Citizens Space before the closing date of 24th May 2023.

The questions raised by CP members during the session covered the following topics:

- The size and scale of a Near Surface Disposal facility



- The siting policy for a Near Surface Disposal facility
- Whether, once Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) sites transfer to Nuclear Decommissioning Authority ownership, could they eventually be selected to host a Near Surface Disposal facility
- Clarity as to why the proposals for a Near Surface Disposal facility would not be considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and therefore would be subject to a Town and Country Planning process

There was consensus that the Community Partnership members intend to submit a response to the consultation, and an action was taken to clarify the restrictions on NWS, as part of the NDA Group, in being involved in or supporting any consultation response.

AGENDA 5: CHAIR RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The current Chair was selected in July 2022 for a period of twelve months.

The Operations Manager gave an update on a draft recruitment process for the Chair. The Partnership asked for the process to be refined in line with some changes to the Community Partnership agreement, this will be actioned and added to meeting agenda on 18th May 2023.

He also highlighted that nominations for the Chair will be invited prior to the next meeting, in order for a Chair to be selected at the meeting in May.

AGENDA 6: FEEDBACK FROM POA WORKSHOP

The Operations Manager gave feedback from the PoA Workshop held on 3rd March 2023. It was discussed that the aim of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership is to share information, discuss concerns and find answers to questions its community have about all aspects of the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process, including what hosting a GDF could mean and how its community could benefit.

The Operations Manager also highlighted that the Partnership had agreed on 8 areas of activity. The Partnership were happy with what had been agreed and moving forward they requested the implementation of annual reviews.

AGENDA 7: CANADIAN NWMO VISIT

The Partnership were reminded of the Canadian NWMO visit in April 2023; the following topics of relevant discussion were highlighted as being useful for the meeting:

- An overview of the NWMO journey from 20+ communities to 2
- Youth Strategy and Community Engagement
- Exit strategy (how did the communities feel who weren't chosen, were there any lasting legacies)
- Important lessons learned
- Dos and Don'ts for us as a Community Partnership at the start of the journey

AGENDA 8: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

Youth deputy lead explained that the Shackles Off social action project was 3 weeks into its 6-week project with the aim of the project to generate ideas/methods on how to engage with young people. Part of the project will involve some presentation training with certificates for willing members. The project will finish with the young people presenting their findings to Partnership members in May at a celebration event.

AGENDA 9: AOB TO INCLUDE: ENGAGEMENT UPDATE, COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING (CIF) UPDATE

Engagement Update

The Community Coordinator gave feedback from the recent Exhibitions. She outlined that the events were predominantly positive, with good public feedback. A breakdown of questions, themes, statements, and concerns was provided.

- **Friday 10th March 2023 – Thornhill Social Club**
Total attendees: 22 CP Members: 6



- 25 Questions, 17 Statements / Concerns
- **Saturday 11th March 2023 – Gosforth Public Hall**
Total attendees: 39 CP Members: 3
24 Questions, 16 Statements / Concerns
- **Friday 17th March 2023 – Windscale Club, Seascale**
Total attendees: 22 CP Members: 2
23 Questions, 8 Statements / Concerns
- **Saturday 18th March 2023 – Drigg & Carleton Village Hall**
Total attendees: 24 CP Members: 1
22 Questions, 11 Statements / Concerns
- **Feedback Cards**
18 completed - 10 positive (55%) 6 Neutral (33%) 2 Negative (11%)

Currently the engagement team have 31 upcoming events booked and as always requested Partnership support.

The Engagement Team will also be engaging with communities outside the Search Area, such as Westlakes Science and Technology Park, Egremont, Whitehaven, Cleator Moor and St Bees. It was highlighted that these events will be conducted as Nuclear Waste Services and not as Mid Copeland. These events will be led by the Community Coordinators and not the Engagement Manager who is a Partnership member.

Communications Update

The Comms Lead recapped on the activities which had taken place since the last Partnership meeting. This included publication and delivery of the first newspaper-style newsletter to homes in the Search Area. This was distributed early March and has received some good feedback. There had also been a website article on GDF progress in Finland and a press release on some initial GDF site evaluation studies. Sky News attended a Mid Copeland exhibition in Seascale, this resulted in a balanced news piece on Sky News. The next printed newsletter will be distributed in mid-June and content so far includes a focus on jobs and skills; site evaluation initial studies; Community Partnership members and Community Investment Funding updates.

General Community Investment Funding Update

The Grants Manager highlighted that there have been no additional awards since the last Partnership meeting. A funding panel was due to take place directly after the Partnership meeting, with a total 5 new grant applications. There was also 1 deferred and 1 active grant (variation request) to be reviewed. The Grants Manager fed back from Gosforth outdoor gym opening. The event attracted good feedback from residents with one member expressing that due to CIF funding in the area he had been able to retain his apprentice.

AGENDA 10: ISSUE FOR ESCALATION

No issues for escalations

AGENDA 11: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions from a member of the public on timescales, have been sent through to Nuclear Waste Services for a response.

AGENDA 12: DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting is as follows:

Thursday 18th May 2023, 6-8pm 2023 at The Kellbank. (Please note this has now been changed to Seascale Golf Club) Members of the public welcome.



Ref	MEETING ACTION LOG
Agenda 6 28022023 06	Head of Property and Land to take questions back for answers
Agenda 6 28022023 07	Head of Property and Land to work on some FAQs that we can put on the website
Agenda 7 28022023 08	Community Engagement Manager to produce a process for nominating and recruiting a Chair
Agenda 5 27032023 01	Refined changes to the Chair recruitment process in line with the Community Partnership agreement
Agenda 6 27032023 02	Implementation of annual reviews for the PoA Workshop
Agenda 6 27032023 03	Community Partnership members to express their interest in being put forward position of Chair
Agenda 7 27032023 04	Community Partnership members to contact the Community Engagement Manager if they would like to attend the Canada Visit / Rosehill Theatre Presentation
Agenda 7 27032023 05	Community Engagement Manager to add to the Canada Visit agenda, the exit process for some of the communities to leave the process.
Agenda 7 27032023 06	The Community Engagement Coordinator to share to the Community Partnership members, the NMWO (Canadian GDF Website) before the Canada Visit
Agenda 12 27032023 07	Invite NWS Lead to next meeting to deliver a seismic Data and Site Characterisation update