**Working in Partnership Copeland**

**Draft Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership**

**Held at** **Calderbridge and Ponsonby Village Hall**

**On** **Monday 26th June 2023**

**Commencing at** **15:00 hrs**

**Present:**

Andy Pratt Chair

Cllr David Moore Cumberland Representative

Julie Nugent Chair of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council

Mike Slater Farming Sector Lead

Lizzy Mawson Chair of Seascale Parish Council

Bob Jones Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council

Yvonne Clarkson Business Sector Lead

Karen Warmoth Drigg & Carleton Parish Council

Mark Fussell Chair of Gosforth Parish Council

Gillian Johnston GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community

Partnership

**Supporting Attendees:**

Gill Thorne GDF Team, Communications Lead

Helen Conway GDF Team, Community Investment Manager

**In attendance:**

Sue Shepherd GDF Team, Community Engagement Co-ordinator, also acting Secretariat

Barnaby Hudson Nuclear Waste Services Site Evaluation Manager

Ged Sojka Nuclear Waste Services Site Evaluation Manager

**Apologies:**

Deborah Naylor Youth Sector Lead

Jonathan Cook Cumberland Council, Officer

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

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Action: - Agenda item 1 18052023 01 still in progress. Communications Lead gave update. The Q & As are in the process of being finalised and expected to be shared with the Community Partnership members before going on to the website in Autumn.

Action: - Agenda item 3 18052023 01 Community Engagement Manager gave an update to say she has taken this concern to the NWS Senior Leader team.

Action: - Agenda item 8 18052023 08 Community Engagement Manager gave an update on the recruitment of a Secretariat.

The rest of the actions from the previous minutes were reviewed and agreed.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. No declaration of interest given by Members.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ref 18052023** | **MEETING ACTION LOG** |
| Agenda 1  18052023 01 | Communications Lead to follow up with the Land and Property team for Q & As for website In progress |
| Agenda 3  18052023 01 | Community Engagement Manager to take back to NWS SLT, concern from Community Partnership member re NWS conference in Bolton and social value to West Cumbria. Community Engagement Manager gave an update on this action 26/06/23. Complete |
| Agenda 8  18052023 01 | Community Partnership member raised the issues of not having a Secretariat for the Partnership – Community Engagement Manager to feedback to NWS SLT. Chair to write a letter to Siting Director re Partnership’s disappointment on this matter Complete |

**AGENDA 2: ROUND THE ROOM INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were made by the Mid Copeland Community Partnership members and support team.

**AGENDA 3: CHAIR’S REPORT**

Since the last meeting the Chair attended the NDA Innovation event at Energus, showcasing new and upcoming innovation. The event comprised mainly of NDA employees and stakeholders.

The Chair also attended a meeting with a French delegation. The Commission, **CNE2**, is a French national technical review board advising the Parliament on the management of nuclear materials and waste. They were visiting Sellafield but wanted an update on our communities, the GDF and work that Low Level Waste Repository has been doing to reduce waste over the years.

The Chair then went on to inform the Community Partnership that Allerdale Community Partnership has reached out to ask for help supporting an event their Chair has helped to arrange, ‘Green Space to Grow’ held at Energus 15th September 2023. Allerdale plans to do some visioning work around this, which will be shared with other Community Partnerships.

The Chair has invited the Community Engagement Manager from Allerdale to share their work on visioning with Mid Copeland Partnership visioning workstream members.

The Chair informed members that there is going to be a trip to Finland. Finnish nuclear waste management company Posiva Oy is the first in the world to be ready to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel, 400 metres below ground. This facility is being built in Olkiluoto, off the south-west coast of Finland, near one of the country’s nuclear power plants. It is looking to be operational from 2024. All West Cumbria Community Partnerships will be invited and are looking to take the Chair’s from each partnership, the RPLA lead and one other Community Partnership member from each Partnership. If any member is interested in the visit, please let our Chair know and if more than one Community Partnership member is interested, a name will be drawn at random.

A number of questions were asked regarding the Finland visit, which the CEM took away for answers:

* Clarity on exact dates
* A full itinerary
* The ability within the agenda to meet with members of the community
* A copy of Finland’s community engagement process

The Chair informed Community Partnership members we are looking to arrange a virtual session with Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO) from Canada. This will include hearing from one of their communities and will give a chance for our Community Partnership members to ask questions direct to the communities who are going through the process now in Canada.

**AGENDA 4: SITE CHARACTERISATION**

Site Evaluation Manager delivered a presentation on the Site Evaluation studies that have now been commissioned with specialist consultants.

This gave an insight into the topics to be studied when considering feasibility of the Mid Copeland Search Area and adjacent inshore area, initially works would be “desktop” studies.

Studies will be aligned to the published six siting factors: -

**Safety and Security / Community / Environment / Engineering Feasibility / Transport / Value for money**

The feasibility studies will contribute to the NWS recommendation of potential communities to be considered for site characterisation (current planning assumption - 2025/2026).

**AGENDA 5: UPDATE ON SHACKLES OFF SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT**

Community Engagement Co-ordinator gave an update on behalf of our Youth Lead. The Shackles Off social action project was held for an 8-week period, which culminated in a celebration event on 22nd May 2023. The Youth Leader of Shackles Off and the young people themselves are keen to remain involved in the discussion and it is important, if we are to maintain their trust, that we act on some of the suggestions they made. As a Community Partnership, we need to consider their suggestions and implement those we feel are realistic and achievable. The Youth Lead would like the Partnership to consider some of the suggestions made in the report and agree which ones they would like to take forward including providing any contacts for other youth groups in the area that we could approach for engagement. The Youth lead will work with the Community Engagement Coordinators to develop a programme of activities and timeline leading up to the development of our Youth Strategy.

**AGENDA 6: AOB**

Community Investment Funding Update

Community Investment Manager reported that at the last panel on 1st June they had four applications, of which one was rejected and one deferred. The two awarded were for a small grant and a large grant. Collectively in year two we have awarded approximately £660,000, leaving £340,000 available with three panels to go. To date Mid Copeland have awarded 41 projects, predominantly within the Community Wellbeing and Natural and Built Environment criteria.

Community Engagement Manager reported that we had received good feedback from recent awardees of the fund including Gosforth Show and Little Lifers. Little Lifers have agreed to do a case study on the impacts of their work within the community, after receiving the funding.

Communications Update

The Communications Lead recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included press releases on young people giving their views on GDF and Beckermet Play Park officially opening following GDF Community Investment Funding, plus four website articles including reappointment of Chair and appointment of the Partnership’s Farming Lead. The printed newsletter went out to homes in Mid Copeland w/c June 12 and this was followed by an e-newsletter to 720-plus digital subscribers. Other communications work includes advertising in the programmes of two local shows and looking at the Partnership website with a view to developing it to make it more user friendly. A press release round-up of Community Investment Funding awarded so far in year two of the Partnership will be published later in the summer.

Engagement Update

Since the last meeting the Community Engagement team has completed five weekly Seascale drop ins and twelve other events, including Out of Search Area events, and attending other people’s events/coffee mornings and a talk to the Whitehaven U3A.

The weekly drop-in at Seascale is not having the footfall anticipated but there are a further four dates until the end of the trial period. Learning from this, has led us to believe that we are potentially not quite ready for permanent residency within the Search Area.

The next baseline survey is planned for the summer.

The Chair informed the Partnership members NWS’s Head of Siting and Engagement is moving to another role with NWS and, Head of Land and Property, will cover this role in the interim.

**AGENDA 7: ISSUES FOR ESCALATION**

No issues for escalation.

**AGENDA 8: PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions.

**AGENDA 9: DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7th August 2023 1pm St Mary’s Church Hall, Gosforth.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ref 26062023** | **MEETING ACTION LOG** |
| Agenda 1  26062023 01 | Communications Lead to follow up with the Land and Property team for Q & As for website. In progress |
| Agenda 3  26062023 01 | Community Engagement Manager to provide clarity on Finland visit. |
| Agenda 3  26062023 03 | Chair and Community Engagement Manager to set up a session for the Community Partnership members with the Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO) in Canada with their communities. |
| Agenda 4  26062023 01 | Site Evaluation Manager to provide timeline of siting activity to Community Partnership members before going on the website. |
| Agenda 4  26062023 02 | Community Engagement Manager will share the twelve-month delivery plan with Community Partnership members when it has been finalised. |
| Agenda 5  26062023 01 | Chair to help with the contact for Young Farmers group for future project work. |
| Agenda 5  26062023 02 | Farming Sector Lead to provide Community Engagement Co-ordinator with contact for Egremont YFC. |
| Agenda 6  26062023 01 | Communications Lead to find out if the Chair of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Councillor can share the video of the opening of the playpark with an outside organisation, who wish to use this for future promotions. |
| Agenda 6  26062023 02 | Communications Lead to check if Lowside Quarter, Haile and Wilton received the postal newsletter. |