



## **MEETING BRIEFING**

**Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at St Mary's Room, St Mary's Church, Gosforth.**

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership Members and one member of the public.

### **Chair's Report**

As promised, the slides from the Canada's NWMO Communities meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 have now been circulated to all members. The Chair has received no feedback from members so far but happy to take any comments from members so this can be built into our visioning.

The Chair reported that the joint Chairs' meeting had been cancelled last month due to the Allerdale Community Partnership exit announcement. The Chair has expressed disappointment to NWS on the timescales of the Allerdale decision. Chair expressed the urgency for this Partnership to work with Allerdale to look at lessons learned from the exit process to gain knowledge to help produce an exit strategy if needed in the future.

The Chair and two other members of this Partnership are due to travel to Finland later this week to visit Onkalo GDF, which is due to accept their first waste in 2024. Feedback from the trip will be shared with the other members on their return.

The Chair stated that he had received notice from Mark Fussell, our Gosforth Parish Council representative, that he was stepping down from the Parish Council in December and is awaiting to hear who the replacement representative will be on the Partnership. On behalf of the Partnership, he expressed his gratitude for all Mark's input and time whilst on the Partnership and wished him well.

### **Seismic Update**

Two NWS representatives delivered a presentation to the Partnership, providing an update on the inshore Copeland 2D and 3D seismic interpretation project and their work programme. They talked about the interpretation schedule and explained that the seismic data is only one part of Site Characterisation. Cross sections, derived from the initial seismic interpretation, were presented showing the structure and depth of rock in the 3D area. This data has indicated that there is potentially suitable geology within the Copeland area. The Engineering and Safety case teams will now undertake feasibility studies, that will include an investigation of the potential volume of host rock.

Sub surface work will continue in parallel with the feasibility studies and will involve a more detailed interpretation of the seismic data and an investigation of the properties of the rocks in the inshore area. These works will continue into Summer 2024. They will update the Partnership after each phase of these works.

They asked for feedback on the presentation delivery, expectation, how the Partnership fits in with the project and how the Partnership would like to be updated in the future.

### **Baseline Survey Results**

Yonder Consulting delivered a presentation on the Mid Copeland baseline survey results.

Between 19 July and 21 August 2023, Yonder conducted a survey of 182 residents (aged 16+) via a combination of telephone interviewing and in-person face-to-face interviewing across the electoral ward of Gosforth.

Quotas and weights were employed to ensure a demographically representative sample of the area's adult (16+) population.

The Mid Copeland Search Area (and therefore the survey research area) changed on 1 April 2023 to align with Local Government Reorganisation and the new Cumberland Authority. The new Search Area covers the electoral ward of Gosforth which includes Seascale, Gosforth, Beckermets, Calderbridge, Haile, Thornhill, Nethertown and Braystones. The parishes of Drigg and Carleton and Irton with Santon (previously in the Mid Copeland Search Area) are now located in the South Copeland Search Area, which is now made up of the electoral divisions of Millom and Millom Without.

Over half (56%) supported a GDF in the Mid Copeland Search Area, whilst 15% were opposed. NET support stood at +41%.

## **AOB**

### **Community Investment Funding Update**

This year's final panel resulted in 10 new applications, which takes the total number of applications for the Partnership's second year to 28 grant awards, discharging a total of £999,958.

To ensure a healthy number of applications for year three, it was agreed that the Community Investment team and Engagement team would look at putting on some events for groups interested in funding to come and meet previous community investment recipients. These will be planned for February/March 2024.

### **Communications Update**

Community Engagement Manager gave apologies for the Communications Lead and therefore no update given at the meeting.

### **Engagement Update**

The Engagement Team has delivered four coffee and chat sessions in Beckermets, Seascale, Gosforth and Egremont. These have not been well attended but thanked the Partnership members who supported these events. The engagement team attended the usual monthly visit to the Beckermets Coffee Cake and Chat sessions and attended openings for Beckermets Reading Rooms and Thornhill Playpark.

Community Engagement Manager informed the members that South Copeland Community Partnership is planning for two themed films nights with guest speakers in Millom and Drigg. As Drigg is Mid Copeland's neighbouring village, members were asked if they would agree to publicise the events. It was agreed that members would market these events within their communities but stressed that the event literature would need to make sure the community understand that it is related to South Copeland Partnership and not Mid.

### **Issues for Escalation**

Community Engagement Manager to speak to the Engineering team for future presentation to our members.

Community Engagement Manager to liaise with Geosphere Characterisation team to organise a trip to the British Geological Survey headquarters in Nottingham to help understand the current host rocks within our search area.

**Public Questions**

Member of public asked a question regarding the CORWM report which explains about the government decision re drilling for boreholes in 2026. He would like to know if NWS had been asked to look at the onshore area for headworks yet? Geosphere team reported that they hadn't been asked to look at onshore yet and a site had not been selected to host the headworks.

**Date of next meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 3pm at the Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale.