



## Working in Partnership Copeland

### Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

**Held at** The Reading Rooms, Beckermet

**On** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Commencing at** 15:30

**Present:**

Andy Pratt	Chair
Sam Pollen	Cumberland Council, Representative
Gillian Johnston	GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community Partnership
Clr David Moore	Seascale Parish Council
Julie Nugent	Chair of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Mark Fussell	Chair of Gosforth Parish Council
Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead (for part of the meeting)
Mike Slater	Farming Sector Lead
Yvonne Clarkson	Business Sector Lead

**NWS Support:**

Claire Dobson	GDF Team, Community Engagement Co-ordinator
Gill Thorne	GDF Team, Communications Lead
Ruth Letourneur	Nuclear Waste Services, Major Permissions, Land Use Planning Manager
David Palmer	Nuclear Waste Services, Major Permissions, DCO Manager
David Collier	Nuclear Waste Services, Community Engagement Support -Visioning

**Environment Agency:**

Jonathan Davenport	Nuclear Regulation Group, Environment Agency
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**In attendance:**

Katy Arnott	NWS Community Coordinator- acting Secretariat
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**Apologies:**

Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council
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#### **AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS TO INCLUDE DOI, MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND ACTION POINTS**

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

Actions from the previous minutes were reviewed and agreed. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.



**To note:** New partnership member Sam Pollen has not completed a Declaration of Interest form required by the Partnership. A verbal declaration was received in the meeting noting his employment at Sellafield Ltd.

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. <b>Ongoing</b>
Agenda 3 26062023 01	Community Engagement Manager to provide clarity on Finland visit. <b>Complete. Update given in CP meeting 20/09</b>
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. <b>Complete. Chair gave update in meeting 20/09</b>
Agenda 4 26062023 01	Site Evaluation Manager to provide timeline of siting activity to Community Partnership members before going on the website. <b>Under review</b>
Agenda 4 26062023 02	Community Engagement Manager will share the twelve-month delivery plan with Community Partnership members when it has been finalised. <b>Actioned. On website</b>
Agenda 5 26062023 01	Chair to help with the contact for Young Farmers group for future project work. <b>Actioned.</b>
Agenda 5 26062023 02	Farming Sector Lead to provide Community Engagement Co-ordinator with contact for Egremont YFC. <b>Actioned</b>
Agenda 6 26062023 01	Communications Lead to find out if the Chair of Beckermeth 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. <b>Update given by Communications Lead in meeting 20/09. Note: Communications Lead clarified copyright ownership rules of photography procured on behalf of the Partnership.</b>
Agenda 6 26062023 02	Communications Lead to check if Lowside Quarter, Haile and Wilton received the postal newsletter. <b>Update given by Communications Lead in meeting 20/09. Communications Lead confirmed all postcodes in Mid Copeland were included. Next postal newsletter planned for early Dec. Communications Lead will monitor and follow-up as necessary.</b>

## AGENDA 2: ROUND THE ROOM INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by the Mid Copeland Community Partnership members, NWS support team and guest speakers.

## AGENDA 3: CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair gave an update on recent Partnership member changes. Lizzie Mawson (Chair of Seascale Parish Council) has withdrawn as Partnership member. David Moore will become the Seascale Parish Council representative on the Partnership. Sam Pollen was welcomed and introduced as the new Cumberland Council representative on the Partnership. The Chair has sent letters to Lizzie and David thanking them for their valuable contributions. The Chair has also written to Sam welcoming him to the Partnership. Sam is currently completing the onboarding process.

The Chair was not able to attend the recent Joint Chairs' Meeting (6 Sept). A summary of the meeting will be forwarded to members in due course. The next Joint Chairs' Meeting will be 28th September. Agenda items will include Visioning, and the sharing of learnings/approaches across the 4 GDF Community Partnerships.



The Chair has met with a member of the Theddlethorpe community. Discussions included Partnership approaches and strategies and how Partnerships could learn from each other.

The Chair, and other Partnership members, attended a recent online call organised by Canadian organisation - Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO). They were introduced to 2 Canadian communities - one involved and one formerly involved in GDF to gain insight into lessons learned. Feedback will be shared with Partnership members.

During summer, a baseline survey was conducted by Yonder, on behalf of the Community Partnership, at Gosforth Show and Rotating Wheels, a telephone survey was also completed alongside this. Initial findings on the recent baseline results shows a small increase in support. Yonder representatives are invited to the next Partnership meeting (30 Oct) and will share the results in more detail. This year was a bigger sample size. As an example of findings, trust in the Community Partnership has risen from 46% in 2022 to 60% in 2023.

Events 'Outside of Search Area' have been delivered by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) independent of the Partnership. Feedback from the events identified a need for greater awareness and understanding of the GDF project beyond the Search Area. More events will be planned in the future.

Chair reported the Youth Strategy is in progress and the Partnership plans to continue to talk to the youth sector to gain their views. The Youth Lead reported positive feedback from the Shackles Off project.

#### **AGENDA 4: ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE STUDIES**

NWS Major Permissions representatives delivered a presentation on Environmental baseline surveys.

It was explained, that at this stage, NWS is planning to apply for permission to do intrusive investigations of deep boreholes only and not permission to build the GDF. Two key permissions will be needed.

- Planning permission - Development Consent Order (DCO)
- Environmental Permits

NWS is required to collect relevant data as part of the DCO process. The surveys will provide data to support a robust environmental baseline of information so impacts of any proposed works in the inshore region can be assessed.

Environmental Assessments will contain information from desktop studies and data gathering, Geophysical surveys, Aerial surveys and Land Surveys. Aerial surveys will commence in October the inshore area of both Mid and South Copeland Partnerships. The target ecology for surveys will include birds, marine mammals and other marine animals (e.g., turtles, basking sharks.) NWS and the Partnership plan to communicate the dates of aerial surveys to the wider communities once confirmed.

Data will be gathered over a number of years to support the DCO application. NWS Major Permissions Team will work fully with the Partnership throughout the stages of the DCO application.

**To note:** Comms Lead confirmed the Aerial Survey press release has been sent out and has been published on Partnership's website.

#### **AGENDA 5: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Environment Agency representative delivered a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of the Environment Agency (EA) and Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in 'Regulating the Geological Disposal of



Radioactive Waste'. It was explained how a future geological disposal facility will require both an Environmental Permit and a Nuclear Site Licence.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency (EA) will jointly regulate any future geological disposal facility (GDF) in England and are responsible for making sure that any such facility meets the required high standards for protecting people and the environment when it is being developed, while it is operating, and after it has closed.

As regulators, the EA and the ONR have no role in the decision-making process for selecting a potential site for a geological disposal facility, however, to inform the siting decision-making process, they will provide regulatory advice and comment on environmental, safety and transport matters, within their respective regulatory remits, and will aim to make their regulatory advice available to the public.

The EA and the ONR stressed that they are independent regulators and will refuse proposals if they do not meet regulatory requirements. Regulators do not consult Government when making regulatory decisions.

A short animation about the regulators' role in geological disposal is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HY9gcwhCDB4>

More information at:

The Office for Nuclear Regulation: <http://www.onr.org.uk/geodisposal.htm>

The Environment Agency: : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulating-the-geological-disposal-of-radioactive-waste-environmental-protection>

**To Note:** Next Environment Agency 'Meet the Regulator' event date:19<sup>th</sup> October 15:30-17:00.

## **AGENDA 6: FEEDBACK FROM VISIONING SUBGROUP**

Community Engagement Manager introduced the independent consultant who will support the Partnership in drafting initial visioning plans. The visioning workstream will use publicly available Local Plans (including plans from Cumberland Council, local Town & Parish Councils and other relevant data sources. Postcards are issued in engagement events asking 3 questions:

1. What do you think would make this area a good place to live and work for future generations?
2. What big change would you like to see?
3. What do you value most about living in this area?

**To note:** Partnership member highlighted that some Parish Council Local Plans in the area may be out of date for visioning work and asked whether the Partnership/NWS offer support to those Parish Councils to update their Local Plan? CEM to follow-up.

## **AGENDA 7: AOB**

### Community Investment Funding Update

Community Engagement Manager reported:

The Community Investment Panel (CIP) has approved 18 awards in total for Year Two. Since the last Partnership meeting the Panel has awarded the following:



£9,999	St Mary's Church, Gosforth	New projection equipment
£48,000	Seascale Primary School	Outdoor Learning Area
£27,280	Mental Health NW CIC	Creation of Wellness Walks Group
£74,000	Seascale Golf Club	Electric Greenkeeping equipment
£119,016	Gosforth Parish Council	Gosforth Play Park (requires approval at NWS CIF Committee 10/10/23)

£922,573.82 has been committed to date. **Note:** this assumes that Gosforth Parish Council application is approved at NWS CIF Committee on 10/10/23. This leaves a balance of £77,426.18 with one Panel remaining scheduled in CIF Year 2. New applications will be reviewed at the start of CIF Year 3 (November 2023).

Beckermet Reading Rooms were awarded a grant by the Partnership to make improvements to the building. The works are now completed, and the official opening will be Saturday, 23 September.

Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team was awarded a grant in 2022 to purchase an emergency vehicle. The Chair and Partnership member David Moore recently visited the centre.

#### Comms Update

The Communications Lead recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included a press release, web stories, social media, plus a double page spread in Cumbria Guide magazine on Community Investment Funding awarded to local groups. Other activity included adverts in Rotating Wheels and Gosforth Show programmes, print and digital adverts detailing Sept/Oct community drop-in events. Work on the next newsletter is under way and includes an article written by a group of young people at Shackles Off community project and an article from NWS on aerial surveys. All news is also on the Partnership website.

#### Community Engagement Update

The Community Engagement coordinator reported that since April the Partnership has engaged with 670 people. From April to September, 26 events have been delivered, including drop-in events, 6 Out of Search Area events, 10 residency sessions at Shackles off, Seascale, plus attendance at 4 coffee mornings. Partnership representatives have also attended the recent opening of Beckermet Reading Rooms and Beckermet Play Park.

The Partnership were stall holders at two local shows in Gosforth. The Community Engagement team engaged with 48 people at Rotating Wheels and 130 people at Gosforth Show.

The Community Engagement Team have also delivered a number of 'Out of Search Area' events, allowing engagement with a lot of new people.

4 drop-in events are planned for September and October:

- 28th Sept, Seascale Methodist Church, 2pm-6pm
- 29th Sept, St Marys Church Hall, Gosforth, 2pm-6pm
- 5th Oct, Falcon Club, Egremont (Covering the Lowside quarter) 2pm-5pm
- 7th Oct, Beckermet Reading Rooms, 10am-3pm

#### Enthuse Partnership

Community Engagement Manager gave details on the NWS organised and delivered ENTHUSE project. The ENTHUSE projects will be run independent of the Partnership. Enthuse Partnerships improve young people's attainment and engagement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, (STEM) subjects and



develop awareness and understanding of STEM careers through supporting high-quality teacher training, inspirational student activities, quality assured resources and a focused package of coaching support from STEM Learning UK.

Primary and secondary schools have been identified in West Cumbria to deliver improvement in STEM. NWS Social Value Manager will be leading on this project, working alongside the schools. Schools in the Search Area will be identified and contacted to take part.

**Community Partnership Agreement**

The Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) was recently revised and amended due to Local Government Reform and Partnership member feedback. Members were invited to sign the paper copy in the meeting. An option to sign electronically was given to members.

**Finland Trip**

Partnership representatives Andy Pratt, David Moore and Mike Slater will attend the NWS organised visit to Finnish Nuclear Waste Management company Posiva Oy.

**AGENDA 8: ISSUES FOR ESCALATION**

No issues for escalation

**AGENDA 9: PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**AGENDA 10: DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next meeting:

- Mon 30th Oct, St Mary’s Room Gosforth. 3pm-5pm
- Mon 11th Dec, Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale. 3pm-5pm

**Community Partnership Meeting Dates 2024: Venues to be confirmed.**

- Mon 22 Jan 3pm-5pm
- Wed 6 March 3pm-5pm
- Mon 22 April 3pm-5pm
- Mon 3 June 3pm-5pm
- Mon 15 July 3pm-5pm
- Wed 11 Sept 3pm-5pm
- Mon 21 Oct 3pm-5pm
- Mon 2 Dec 3pm-5pm

Ref	MEETING ACTION LOG	
Agenda 1 26062023 01	Communications Lead to follow up with the Land and Property team for Q & As for website. <span style="color: red;">ongoing</span>	



**Mid Copeland  
GDF Community Partnership**

Agenda 4 26062023 01	Site Evaluation Manager to provide timeline of siting activity to Community Partnership members before going on the website. <b>Under review</b>	
Agenda 3 20092023 01	CEM to share meeting notes and documents from recent Canada NWMO call with partnership members- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 4 20092023 01	CEM to plan a workshop with Major Permissions team and Partnership members (to clarify the Partnership’s role in the DCO process), to be planned late 2023- <b>postponed until 2024</b>	
Agenda 4 20092023 02	Comms Lead to forward Aerial Survey press release content to Partnership members to be used by Parish Council social media- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 4 20092023 03	Comms Lead to liaise with NWS Comms team to forward known dates of Aerial Surveys to Parish Councils and other stakeholders in advance in order to share on stakeholder social media- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 05 20092023 01	Community Engagement team to circulate the EA presentation 20/09 slides to CP Members- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 6 20092023 01	CEM to explore options to potentially support relevant Parish Councils re: updates to Local Plans- <b>ongoing</b>	
Agenda 7 20092023 01	Community Engagement Coordinator to circulate dates of planned upcoming Community Engagement events- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 7 20092023 02	Community Engagement Manager to explore future community engagement plans. Potential to include Wasdale /Eskdale Show, and Egremont Crab Fair- <b>complete</b>	
Agenda 10 20092023 01	Community Engagement Coordinator to circulate 2024 Partnership meeting schedule.- <b>complete</b>	

Ref	MEETING DECISION LOG	