



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 11th December 2023 at Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale.

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership Members to the meeting. No members of the public attended.

Chair's Report

Finland Visit- The Chair circulated a copy of his report to Partnership Members in advance of the meeting.

Joint Chairs' Meeting – The Chair attended the monthly joint Chairs' meeting where the decision for Allerdale Community Partnership to withdraw from the GDF process was discussed. It was felt that the way in which the announcement was made, caused some mixed messaging across the other Community Partnerships. It was agreed that lessons needed to be learned from the Allerdale withdrawal and the Allerdale Chair has offered to share information and support the other Community Partnerships with this. The Chair noted that it was important for the Partnership to have a clear and robust exit strategy in place going forward.

The Joint Chairs' meeting also discussed the GDF process timeline, the need for a Community Vision and what support would be needed from the developer.

British Geological Survey visit has been arranged for March 2024. Any Partnership Members wishing to attend will need to let the Operations Manager know via email.

Mid Copeland CP, Subgroups for 2024 – The Chair noted that this year, the Community Partnership has set up two subgroups; one to support Youth Engagement and the other for Community Visioning. In light of the conversations around the withdrawal from the Allerdale Community Partnership, the Chair felt it was important for the Partnership to look at forming an Exit Strategy subgroup early in the new year. An email will be circulated to all Partnership Members from the Chair.

The Chair reported that the South Copeland Community Partnership held two film night events in Millom and Drigg, both well attended. The Chair felt that the format for the events was great, and the information was delivered at the right level for the audience. The Chair suggested this type of event could be something the Mid Copeland Community Partnership may consider doing in the future.

Allerdale Exit Process –

The Interim Head of Siting and Operations for Nuclear Waste Services provided an update on the recent decision to withdraw Allerdale from the GDF Process. In September NWS announced the withdrawal of the Allerdale Community Partnership from the process. The decision was made based on two key factors which was the absence of suitable host rock and the challenge this would bring to a safety case. An Allerdale Community Partnership meeting was held in October to discuss the technical aspects of the decision to withdraw in more detail and how the information is relayed to

the wider community. The Allerdale Community Partnership and the developers also discussed the program of activities required to be undertaken up to the point that Allerdale leaves the process (date yet to be confirmed).

The Allerdale Community Partnership has since held two community events to explain the decision to the community and gave them the opportunity to ask questions. The announcement was also published on the gov.com website. The initial feedback from the members of the public is that the engagement did provide clarity on the exit process.

NWS is aware that there are lessons to be learned from the announcement, that all Community Partnerships are different and welcomed the decision from the Mid Copeland Partnership to form a subgroup to review the need for an exit strategy.

AOB

Community Investment Funding Update - It was reported that Year 2 Community Investment Funding concluded on the 10th of November and the Grants Manager announced that the full £1 million for this year was awarded to community projects. There were 27 grants awarded throughout the 2nd year making a total number of 55 grants awarded over the two years the Community Partnership has been operational. It was noted that 56% of all grants awarded fell into the small grants category (up to £10k), with wellbeing and improvements to buildings & environment being the two most frequent funding criteria for funding applications.

Of the grants awarded this year, two grants were awarded to projects outside the Search Area, as they were able to demonstrate that the project would benefit the local people within the Search Area.

The Grants Manager reported that Year 3 CIF funding has started, however, there is already a funding commitment of approximately £125,000 for this year which relates to 2 multi-year projects which are already in progress and where the funding commitment was split across two funding years.

Communications Update - The Communications Lead recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included web articles on residents' research around geological disposal; Marine Geophysical Survey data assessment continuing and updates on the aerial surveys. The printed newsletter GDF News is being delivered to homes in the Search Area this week and an e-bulletin will be sent to online subscribers. Details of events for 2024 will be publicised early January. All news is also on the Partnership website.

It was raised by one of the Partnership members that some parish councils had received an email from Nuclear Free Local Authorities suggesting they hold a public survey in their relevant parishes to understand the sentiment towards the GDF process. It was noted that the email was sent to all local Parish Councils within the Search Area. Members of the Community Partnership will continue to work towards the Working with Communities Policy.

Engagement Update - Since the last Community Partnership meeting, the Engagement Team has not carried out any additional drop in events but has been planning for the upcoming events for 2024. Following on from the success of the Shackles Off project, the team met with the Seascale Scout Leaders to look at a potential youth project in the New Year.

The engagement team attended the usual monthly visit to the Beckermets Coffee Cake and Chat sessions.

Engagement forward look to 2024 – The following events are planned for the New Year.

Tues 12th December 2023 - 09.30am -1130am - Beckermets Coffee Cake &Chat

Tues 16th January 2024 - 09.30am - 1130am - Beckermets Coffee Cake &Chat

Thurs 18th January 2024 - 1pm - 5pm - Out of Search Area (OOSA) Phoenix Enterprise Centre, Cleator Moor

Thurs 25th January 2024 - 11am - 6pm - Out of Search Area (OOSA) The Beacon Portal, Whitehaven

Wed 31st January 2024 - 2pm - 5pm - Out of Search Area (OOSA) Methodist Church Hall, Main Street, Egremont

Thurs 1st February 2024 - 12.30pm - 4pm – Community Drop in, Gosforth St Mary’s Church Rooms

Wed 7th February 2024 - 12pm - 5pm – Community Drop in, the Reading Rooms, Beckermets

Thurs 8th February 2024 - 1pm - 5pm – Community Drop in, Seascale Methodist Church Hall

Tues 20th February 2024 - 9.30am -1130am - Beckermets Coffee Cake &Chat, the Beckermets Reading Rooms

Two Community Investment Funding events will be held to highlight the funding that has been awarded in the community. It will also provide the opportunity for potential projects to come along to find out more about the funding process. More information will be provided in the near future, posters were given to Partnership Members for circulation.

Wed 21st February 2024 - 11am - 3pm - Meet the CIF recipients

Thurs 29th February 2024 - 11am - 3pm - Meet the CIF recipients

Issues for Escalation - No issues for escalation were raised.

Public Questions – There were no questions from members of the public brought to the meeting.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held on 6th March 2024 at Calderbridge & Ponsonby Village Hall.