



## Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

### Working in Partnership Copeland

### DRAFT Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

**Held at** St Mary's Church Room, Gosforth

**On** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Commencing at** 15:00

**Present:**

Andy Pratt	Chair
Sam Pollen	Cumberland Council, Representative
Gillian Johnston	GDF Team, Community Engagement Manager – Mid Copeland Community Partnership
Cllr David Moore	Seascale Parish Council
Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council
Julie Nugent	Chair of Beckermet with Thornhill Parish Council
Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Mark Fussell	Chair of Gosforth Parish Council
Mike Slater	Farming Sector Lead
Yvonne Clarkson	Business Sector Lead
Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council

**NWS Support:**

Claire Dobson	GDF Team, Community Engagement Co-ordinator
Helen Conway	GDF Team, Grants Manager
Mike Brophy	NWS, Head of Social Impact and Community Funding
Fiona McAvoy	NWS, Head of Geosphere Characterisation
Jason Canning	NWS, Principal Geosphere Characterisation Geoscientist

**Yonder Consulting:**

Charlie Rollason	Associate Director, Yonder Consulting
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**In attendance:**

Sue Shepherd	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator- acting Secretariat
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**Apologies:**

Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead
Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council, Officer
Gill Thorne	GDF Team, Communications Lead

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

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership members, guest speakers and one member of the public.



Actions from the previous meeting

**Action Agenda 6 20092023 01** - Partnership member asked if local Parish Councils could apply for Community Investment Funding to commission the supply chain to support the Parish Councils in updating their local plans. This will be taken back to NWS to look at all options available.

The rest of the previous meeting actions were reviewed and agreed. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Ref 200923	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 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 10 20092023 01	Community Engagement Coordinator to circulate 2024 Partnership meeting schedule. <b>Complete</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**

As promised, the slides from the Canada's NWSMO Communities meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 have now been circulated to all members. 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.

Chair reported that the joint Chairs meeting had been cancelled last month due to the Allerdale Community Partnership exit announcement. This time has been used by NWS to work with the Allerdale Chair on the exit strategy. Chair has expressed disappointment to NWS on the timescales of the Allerdale decision. He had not expected this to happen as fast as it had. Chair had been told that the Community Investment Funding for Allerdale will end in March 2024, but present funding bids will be honoured. 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 exit strategy if needed in the future.

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.

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 we are 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.

### **AGENDA 4: Marine Geophysical Survey 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.

They suggested that a trip to the British Geological Survey headquarters in Nottingham, for the members, would help with understanding the geology in Cumbria. They are happy to arrange this.

### **AGENDA 5: 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 Council authority. The new Search Area covers the electoral ward of Gosforth which includes Seascale, Gosforth, Beckermest, 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%.

Full details will be publicised on Mid Copeland's website:

<https://midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/mid-copeland-community-partnership-resident-research-2/>

## **AGENDA 6: 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 £1 million pounds. The last panel's applications were: -

- **Gosforth Show**  
Sheep pens, tables and chairs, bird boxes £4150
- **Drigg Young Farmers**  
Training rig and tug of war equipment £4,200
- **Egremont Fairtrade and Local Campaign Group**  
Farmers market £2,000
- **Egremont Amenity Committee**  
Egremont winter wonderland £2,500
- **Wasdale Mountain Rescue**  
Vehicle update, radio, thermal imager £49,482
- **Gosforth First Responders**  
Kit, training, awareness and publicity, contingency £17,510
- **Haile Village Hall**  
Community consultation & survey work for Village Hall £5,500
- **St Mary Church, Gosforth**  
Options study for historical artefacts £4,000
- **Westlakes U3A**  
IT equipment for online courses/training £3,014
- **Voluntary Action Cumbria (ACT)**  
Mid Copeland Warm Spots £6,650

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.



Comms Update

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

Community Engagement Update

The Engagement Team has delivered four coffee and chat sessions in Beckermet, Seascale, Gosforth and Egremont. These were not well attended but the Partnership members who supported these events were thanked. The engagement team attended the monthly Beckermet Coffee Cake and Chat sessions and attended openings for Beckermet 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.

**AGENDA 7: ISSUES FOR ESCALATION**

Community Engagement Manager to speak to the Engineering team for future presentation to 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 the search area.

**AGENDA 8: PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Member of public asked a question relating to a recent CoRWM report. He would like to know if NWS have been asked to look at an onshore site for the GDF? Geosphere team reported that they have not been asked to look at onshore in Mid Copeland.

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

Mon 11th Dec, Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale. 3pm-5pm

REF 301023	MEETING ACTION LOG
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 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 6 20092023 01	CEM to explore options to potentially support relevant Parish Councils re: updates to Local Plans. <b>Ongoing</b>
Agenda 3 01 30102023	Chair and members of the Partnership who will be attending Finland will give feedback at the next meeting. <b>Report completed and circulated round members</b>



## Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Agenda 3 02 30102023	CEM to arrange agenda item on exit process for the next meeting in December and discuss members for a subgroup. <b>On Agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Agenda 4 01 30102023	CEM to liaise with Geosphere Characterisation team to arrange a trip to British Geological Survey headquarters for any of the Partnership members that are interested. <b>Complete, date circulated</b>
Agenda 4 02 30102023	CEM to arrange for the Engineering Safety Case team to deliver an update on their findings to the Partnership members in early spring 2024 meeting. <b>Ongoing</b>
Agenda 4 03 30102023	CEM to work with Geosphere and Communications team to look at how the seismic data is presented in the Community. <b>Ongoing</b>
Agenda 5 01 30102023	Communications Lead to publicise the Baseline survey results on Mid Copeland website. <b>Complete</b>
Agenda 5 02 30102023	Secretariat to share Yonder presentation of the baseline survey results with Partnership members. <b>Complete</b>
Agenda 5 03 30102023	CEM to add to agenda item in 2024 meeting to discuss the next baseline survey and consider type of questions and methodology of the next one in Summer 2024. <b>Planned for March</b>

Ref	MEETING DECISION LOG
Agenda 6 01 30102023	Partnership members agreed to publicise South Copeland's Film night in Drigg, with their community, with a caveat that the advertisement makes it clear, South Copeland are delivering this not Mid Copeland, therefore will not be able to answer questions related to Mid Copeland. <b>Complete</b>