



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Wednesday 6th March 2024 7pm

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

Chair's Report

The Drigg & Carleton Parish Council non-voting seat is up for review. Karen Warmoth is the current representative and members were reminded of her valued contribution to the Partnership and support at community engagement events. Partnership members invited the current representative of Drigg & Carleton Parish Council (Karen Warmoth) to continue in non-voting seat on the partnership for a further 12 months.

Upcoming Joint Chairs meeting will be held in-person, 11th April at Pelham House, Calderbridge. Details of the agenda will be shared with Partnership members in due course. In the meantime, members can discuss potential agenda items with the Chair.

Chair proposed to increase Partnership meeting length from 2hrs to 2.5 hrs. This was considered necessary to provide time for feedback from Youth, Withdrawal and Visioning subgroups Partnership members present, approved the increase in meeting duration.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council recently confirmed withdrawal from South Holderness GDF Working Group. Partnership members were requested to speak to the Chair or Community Engagement Manager directly for more details.

Engineering Feasibility and Post-Closure Safety Presentations

Engineering Feasibility Presentation Summary:

A presentation on Engineering Feasibility was given by NWS Senior Lead Engineering Manager. Engineering Feasibility is one of the six siting factors which needs to be considered throughout the GDF siting process. Studies will be taken to assess whether the relevant requirements relating to Engineering Feasibility can be satisfied considering Flexibility, Ability to Characterise, Ability to Design and Construct, Inventory for Disposal, Sustainable Design, Waste Conditions and Packaging, and Retrievability.

Engineering feasibility studies for Mid Copeland will include 'Sub-surface' facility studies and 'Surface' facility studies. The presentation focused on the sub-surface facility studies only. Those studies will include Disposal concept evaluation, Operational concept development, Sub-surface facility configuration development, and Accessways.

Disposal concept evaluation is how the engineering will work with the geology to provide post closure safety. Disposal concept is influenced by the geological environment, inventory for disposal, and safety concept. NWS's assessments are building upon extensive international research and

development. Disposal concept examples were discussed and examples that provide learning applicable to the geology in Mid Copeland were presented from Andra (France), ONDRAF (Belgium), Nagra (Switzerland), and SKB (Sweden).

NWS are developing an understanding of the geology in the accessways corridor. This knowledge will inform assessment of the feasibility of accessways, potential accessways construction alignments and techniques, the potential cost, programme, excavated material types and quantities, and construction material types and quantities.

The estimated provisional volumes of excavated material from accessway construction were discussed. The initial assessments will inform excavated material management strategies, and these will be updated when subsurface engineering and master planning feasibility studies are more mature.

Post-Closure Safety Presentation Summary:

A presentation on Post-Closure Safety was given by NWS Environmental Safety Case Lead & Senior Safety Case Engineer.

NWS is currently updating their site understanding, assessing the post-closure safety implications of a GDF, and defining and updating information needs. A recap on Copeland specific was given reminding members that NWS has carried out marine geophysical surveys in the area as well as reprocessing pre-existing data (including 2D and 3D seismic data). Cross sections, derived from the initial marine geophysical interpretation, are being used in post-closure feasibility work. This data has indicated that there is potentially suitable geology within the Copeland 3D area.

Safety will be a key factor in how NWS characterise a site and how a facility is constructed and operated. Once the facility is closed, NWS need to know that it will remain safe for people and the environment. To protect people and the environment the GDF needs to isolate the wastes, contain the wastes, and protect the engineered and geological barriers.

To understand the feasibility of developing a GDF in an area, consideration is given to the rock type and structure, the groundwater behaviour, natural processes such as earthquakes, crustal uplift and glaciation, and natural resources which could affect the potential for inadvertent human intrusion into the GDF.

NWS is currently refining the questions about the geology and discussing these with the site characterisation team to help evaluate the feasibility of making a post-closure safety case.

Baseline Survey 2024

NWS conduct annual surveys through an independent market research company – Yonder – on behalf of the Community Partnership. For the last 2 years, surveys have been carried out with members of the public visiting Rotating Wheels Show and Gosforth Agricultural Show, alongside telephone interviews. Yonder propose to add a ‘door knocking’ survey to complement the existing approach and increase sample size. Appropriate communications would be provided to ensure local

people would know when and where the surveys would be taking place. Full details will be provided by the Community Engagement Manager.

It has been identified from previous survey results that some further engagement could take place focusing on 'Women of working age' which is a seldom heard group in Mid Copeland. Yonder has suggested holding a specific Focus Group to identify the best ways to communicate with this group. The focus group would comprise of 10-12 women, and, in line with industry standard, attendees could receive payment for their time. Yonder would look to hold the Focus Group in May.

AOB:

Community Investment Funding (CIF) Update

Community Engagement Manager reported on behalf of Grants Manager.

To date, awards totalling £169,309 has been awarded in Year 3. Note: The Community Investment Panel (CIP) has 2 funding commitments awarded during CIF Year 2 allocated from CIF Year 3. The Panel has approved 4 further awards in Year 3.

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| 1. West Cumbria Domestic Violence | £10,000 | Counselling project |
| 2. Seascale Events | £2,190 | Seascale Gala Week |
| 3. Gosforth Parish Council | £10,000 | Gosforth Public Hall Refurbish Design |
| 4. Egremont & Area Regen Partnership | £24,360 | Growing Creative Opportunities for Mid Copeland |

Mid Copeland CIF Pipeline for Year 3: There are a number of funding enquiries being progressed which equate to approx. £350,000. Together with the funding commitment to date, this totals approx. £519,309. This does not include two significant potential capital investment projects currently undertaking enabling phase activities. There are five Panels remaining in CIF Year 3.

The community CIF events were well attended and have generated several enquiries. More CIF events will be planned later in the year.

Communication Update

The Communications Lead updated the meeting on activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included a press release and digital advertising around events in January/February including GDF drop-ins and Community Investment Funding events with Cumberland Council and NWS.

Cumberland Council leader, Mark Fryer, wrote a blog for the Partnership which is on the website and will be used in the March e-bulletin plus a future printed newsletter.

An infographic summary of Partnership activity over the past year is also on the website and a press release on the recent funding events will go out on 11th March, along with the e-bulletin to digital subscribers. Communications activity also includes planning a refresh of the website, including the introduction of an interactive map.

Community Engagement Update

The Community Engagement Manager (CEM) outlined activity that had taken place since the previous Partnership meeting. This included two Partnership events held in February (in Beckermest

and Gosforth) to help people find out more about Community Investment Funding and meet successful applicants who have already provided new community facilities. Also, present were other local funders, including Cumberland Council, Copeland Community Fund and NWS. 47 people attended.

The Partnership's general GDF drop-in events continued in February with 3 events in Beckermest, Seascale and Gosforth. 17 people attended. The Community Engagement team have also given two community talks and attended two coffee mornings.

During January, NWS Community Engagement team held GDF drop-in events in the wider Copeland area of Whitehaven, Egremont and Cleator Moor. 44 people attended. A further event in Whitehaven is planned in June.

Upcoming Community Engagement before April meeting:

- 14 March Visioning Workshop
- 14 March Beckermest Coffee & Chat
- 18-19 March Partnership Members visit to British Geological Survey
- 21 March Gosforth Chatty Lunch
- 26 March Shackles Off over 50's
- 4 April Gosforth Coffee Morning
- 17 April Discussion with Jamie Matear - Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)– Partnership Members invited.
- 18 April Seascale Scouts Showcase Event, Seascale School. To showcase visioning work. Partnership members invited to attend.

Declaration of Interest (DOI) forms

As per the Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) it is good practice for Partnership members' Declaration of Interest forms to be reviewed every 6 months. Partnership members were reminded to review their previous declaration form and update as necessary. If no updated form is received it will be assumed Partnership members have no new declarations of interest. If applicable, members are requested to send any updated DOI forms direct to the Community Coordinator.

Issues for Escalation

None

Public Questions

No members of the public present.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- 22nd April, Beckermest Reading Rooms, 3pm-5pm.