

Working in Partnership Copeland

DRAFT Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale

On Monday 11th December 2023

Commencing at 15:00 hrs

Present:

Andy Pratt	Chair
Sam Pollen	Cumberland Council, Representative
Gillian Johnston	NWS Community Engagement Manager
Cllr David Moore	Seascale Parish Council
Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby 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

NWS Support:

Helen Conway	NWS, Grants Manager
Sue Shepherd	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Claire Dobson	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator – Acting Secretariat
Gill Thorne	NWS, Communications Lead
Chris Keenan	NWS, Head of Siting & Communities

Apologies:

Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead
Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Council, Officer
Julie Nugent	Chair of Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council

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

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership members and guest speaker. No members of the public were present.

Amendments to the Minutes

The Community Partnership members were made aware of an amendment to the minutes of 30/10/2023. Agenda item 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 the **headworks** for the GDF? Geosphere team reported that they have not been asked to look at onshore in Mid Copeland”. This has now been amended to say “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". This was agreed by the members and the amendment made.

Actions from the previous meeting

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. Under review
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. Postponed until 2024
Agenda 6 20092023 01	CEM to explore options to potentially support relevant Parish Councils re: updates to Local Plans. Ongoing
Agenda 3 01 30102023	Chair and members of the Partnership who will be attending Finland will give feedback at the next meeting. Report completed and circulated round members
Agenda 3 02 30102023	CEM to arrange agenda item on exit process for the next meeting in December and discuss members for a subgroup. On Agenda for 11th December
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. Complete, date circulated
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. Ongoing
Agenda 4 03 30102023	CEM to work with Geosphere and Communications team to look at how the seismic update is presented in the Community. Ongoing
Agenda 5 01 30102023	Communications Lead to publicise the survey results on Mid Copeland website. Complete
Agenda 5 02 30102023	Secretariat to share Yonder presentation of the survey results with Partnership members. Complete
Agenda 5 03 30102023	CEM to add to agenda item in 2024 meeting to discuss the next survey and consider type of questions and methodology of the next one in Summer 2024. Planned for March

Ref	MEETING DECISION LOG
Agenda 6 01 30102023	Partnership members agreed to publicise South Copeland's Film night in Drigg, within 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. Complete

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

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

In relation to the Finland Visit report, one member of the Community Partnership asked the Chair if he could provide a more in-depth response to the Community Engagement aspect of the trip, focusing on how Community Engagement was delivered, what were the pros and cons, was the engagement successful? The Chair reported that during the visit, there was little interaction with the Finland community. Their project is 10 years ahead of **ours** and therefore most Community Engagement activities had already been completed. The Chair did note that of the people they did speak with during the visit, they felt the sentiments amongst the communities and the approach taken by the Community Engagement team was very positive.

Joint Chairs' Meeting – The Chair attended the monthly joint Chairs' meeting where the Allerdale Community Partnership withdrawing 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 asking for volunteers.

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 good, 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.



The Cumberland Council representative asked if a brief overview of Theddlethorpe Community Partnership could be given to provide a better understanding of the area. This was delivered by the Seascale Parish Council Representative.

AGENDA 4: Allerdale Exit Process

The Interim Head of Siting Operations, Nuclear Waste Services, provided an update on recent announcement 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 more importantly how this information is relayed to the wider community. The Allerdale Community Partnership and the developer also discussed the program of activities required to be undertaken up to the point that Allerdale leave the process (date yet to be confirmed).

The Allerdale Community Partnership have since held community events to explain the decisions 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 are 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/withdrawal strategy.

One of the key points raised by one of the Mid Community Partnership members was that the short notice between the decision to withdraw the Allerdale Community Partnership and the public announcement. It was noted that some key people had less than 48 hours' notice and felt that such announcement had an impact on the other Community Partnerships through lack or early awareness.

AGENDA 5: 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.

First panel meeting was held on Friday the 8th of December with 2 small grants applications considered and both were awarded funding. Further details of these projects will be provided in the near future.

A question was raised as to whether there has been a change to policy regarding the Community Investment Fund awarding 100% of funds to a project and on what basis does the Community Investment Panel base their decision to fully or partially fund a project. The Grant Manager explained that there has been no change to policy, that although projects can be funded 100% of their required funding, there is an expectation that projects will seek funding from other providers to support their application. The Grants Manager also stated that before the applications are presented to the Community Investment Panel, due diligence is carried out by the grants team using 12 assessment criteria. This provides the panel with the relevant information to make an informed decision to fully/ partially award or decline funding.

Communication 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.

Community 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 events in 2024. Following on from the success of the Shackles Off project, the engagement team and Youth Lead met with the Seascale Scout Leaders to look at a potential youth project in the New Year.

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

Engagement events planned for 2024: -

Date	Time	Venue
Tues 12 th December 2023	9.30am - 1130am	Beckermets Coffee, Cake & Chat
Tues 23 rd January 2024	9.30am - 1130am	Beckermets Coffee, Cake & Chat
Thurs 18 th 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 Marys Church Rooms
Wed 7th February 2024	12pm - 5pm	Community Drop in, the Reading Rooms, Beckermet
Thurs 8th February 2024	1pm - 5pm	Community Drop in, Seascale Methodist Church Hall
Tues 20th February 2024	9.30am - 1130am	Beckermet Coffee, Cake & Chat, the Beckermet Reading Rooms

Two Community Investment Funding (CIF) 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.

CIF event dates: -

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 21st February 2024	11am - 3pm	The Beckermet Reading Rooms
Thurs 29th February 2024	11am - 3pm	Gosforth Public Hall

AGENDA 7: ISSUES FOR ESCALATION

No issues for escalation were raised.

AGENDA 8: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

AGENDA 9: DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held on 6th March 2024 at Calderbridge & Ponsonby Village Hall, 5pm – 7pm.

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. Under review
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. Postponed until 2024

Agenda 6 20092023 01	CEM to explore options to potentially support relevant Parish Councils re: updates to Local Plans. Ongoing
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. Today's meeting
Agenda 4 03 30102023	CEM to work with Geosphere and Communications team to look at how the seismic update is presented in the Community. Ongoing
Agenda 3 03 11122023	Op Manager to send the email invite for the BGS visit to the Gosforth Parish Clerk. Completed
Agenda 5 03 11122023	CEM and Comms Manager to discuss with NWS potential events in the wider communities within Cumberland. Ongoing
Agenda 3 04 11122023	Chair to email all CP Members asking for interest to sit on the Exit Strategy Subgroup. Completed
Agenda 5 03 11122023	CET to liaise with the Shackles Off project Officer in relation to Community Investment Funding. Ongoing

Ref	MEETING DECISION LOG
	Amendments to the minutes regarding Agenda 8 – Public Questions. The members agreed this amendment to the minutes should stand. Complete
	The Community Partnership members agreed to form an Exit Strategy/Withdrawal subgroup early 2024. Complete