

Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at Calderbridge and Ponsonby Village Hall

On Wednesday 6th March 2024

Commencing at 7pm

Present:

Andy Pratt	Chair
Sam Pollen	Cumberland Council, Representative
Gillian Johnston	NWS Community Engagement Manager
Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Julie Nugent	Chair of Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council
Jackie Atkinson	Gosforth Parish Council
Mike Slater	Farming Sector Lead
Yvonne Clarkson	Business Sector Lead
Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead

NWS Support:

Sue Shepherd	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Katy Arnott	Acting Secretariat
Gill Thorne	Communications Lead

NWS Technical Support:

Iain Phimister	Senior Lead Engineering Manager
Sarah Vines	Safety Case Lead
Kurt Smith	Senior Safety Case Engineer

Apologies:

Helen Conway	NWS, Grants Manager
Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council
Cllr David Moore	Seascale 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 speakers. No members of the public were present.

Previous meeting minutes were approved.

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. To be discussed in Joint Chairs meeting.
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 Withdrawal 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 a Withdrawal Strategy/Withdrawal subgroup early 2024. Complete

AGENDA 2: ROUND THE ROOM INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by the Mid-Copeland Community Partnership members, NWS Support Team, and NWS Guest Speakers.

AGENDA 3: 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 accepted decision for the current representative of Drigg & Carleton Parish Council (Karen Warmoth) to continue in non-voting seat on the partnership for a further 12 months. CEM to write to Chair of Drigg and Carleton Parish Council regarding the decision to renew.

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, partnership 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 subgroups- Youth, Withdrawal and Visioning. Partnership members present approved the increase in meeting duration from 2hrs to 2.5hrs.

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.

AGENDA 4: ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY AND SITE SAFETY

4.1 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.

4.2 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.

AGENDA 5: BASELINE SURVEY 2024

Community Engagement Manager reported:

NWS conduct annual surveys through an independent market research company -Yonder. 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. The Community Partnership agreed to this approach. Appropriate Comms would be provided to ensure local people would know when and where the surveys would be taking place. Full details will be provided by CEM.

It has been identified from previous survey results, a lack of engagement with 'Women of working age' within the seldom heard demographic. Yonder have suggested holding a specific Focus Group to identify the best ways to communicate with this target 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. The Community Partnership agreed this could go ahead.

AGENDA 6: AOB

6.1 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 5 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.

6.2 Communication Update

The Communications Lead recapped 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. Comms activity also includes planning a refresh of the website, including the introduction of an interactive map.

6.3 Community Engagement Update

The Community Engagement Manager (CEM) recapped activity that had taken place since the previous Partnership meeting. This included 2 Partnership events held in February (in Beckermeth 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 Nuclear Waste Service (NWS). 47 people attended.

The Partnership's general GDF drop-in events continued in February with 3 events in Beckermeth, Seascale and Gosforth. 17 people attended. The Community Engagement team have also given 2 community talks and attended 2 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 Beckermets Coffee & Chat
- 18-19 March Partnership Members visit to British Geological Survey.
- 21 March Gosforth Chatty Lunch,
- 26 March Shackles Off over 50's Group
- 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.

6.4 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, Partnership members are requested to send any updated DOI forms direct to the Community Coordinator.

AGENDA 7: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No members of the public present.

AGENDA 8: ISSUES FOR ESCALATION

No issues for escalation were raised.

AGENDA 9: DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- 22nd April, Beckermets Reading Rooms, 3pm-5.30pm.

REF: 06032024	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. To be discussed in Joint Chairs meeting 11/4/24

Agenda 6 20092023 01	CEM to explore options to potentially support relevant Parish Councils re: updates to Local Plans. Complete
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 03 11122023	CEM and Comms Manager to discuss with NWS potential events in the wider communities within Cumberland. Ongoing
Agenda 5 03 11122023	CET to liaise with the Shackles Off project Officer in relation to Community Investment Funding. Ongoing
Agenda 3 06032024 01	Partnership to formally write to Drigg & Carleton Parish Council to inform of partnership decision to invite Karen Warmouth to continue as Drigg & Carleton Parish Council non-voting representative. Complete
Agenda 4 06032024 01	Comms Lead to provide FAQ sheet for Partnership Members – To aid learning on Heat Generating Waste. Simple language to be used. Ongoing

Ref 06032024	MEETING DECISION LOG
Agenda 3 06032024 01	Partnership members present accepted decision for the current representative of Drigg & Carleton Parish Council (Karen Warmoth) to continue in non-voting seat on the partnership for further 12 months.
Agenda 3 06032024 02	Partnership members approved the increase in partnership meeting duration from 2hrs to 2.5hrs.