



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 22nd April 2024

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership Members. No members of the public were in attendance.

Chair's Report

Chair gave feedback from Joint Chairs' Meeting, (held in-person 11 April). Agenda items included:

- Test of Public Support (ToPS) - NWS plan to provide further ToPS clarification for Community Partnerships.
- Honorarium approach - NWS is progressing the honorarium approach to recognise Chairs' extra workload and additional time spent beyond Partnership meetings.
- NWS National Youth Forum - Chair informed the Partnership that the forum will be delivered by NWS and is in the process of formation. The initial purpose of the forum is to explore the best ways to engage with the young people sector. Note: Further details in AOB.
- The role of the Community Partnership and the Developer – Partnership roles were clarified, and discussions included individual Partnership member roles. NWS will be invited to present to the Partnership on this item.
- Level of NWS support staff – Levels of NWS support staff supporting the 3 Partnerships were discussed. NWS has offered facilitated support. Partnership would prefer locally sourced engagement support.
- Development Consent Order (DCO) – the DCO requirements for borehole investigations was discussed. NWS plan to present a timeline to the Partnership to aid understanding.
- Visioning - Chairs discussed visioning plans alongside long-term rural and environmental factors.
- Site Evaluation – The Site Evaluation team is progressing an updated Site Evaluation journey graphic and accompanying video and plan to share with the Partnership when complete.

Chair and Partnership members attended a visit to the British Geological Survey (BGS), Nottingham, (19 March). Chair reported that Partnership members found the visit very valuable; learning about rock with similar qualities to rock found in Cumbria, and the associated challenges and complications of the rock within the GDF project.

Feedback from Withdrawal Subgroup

Subgroup Chair reported:

A subgroup meeting was held on 11th April with representatives from NWS to discuss and clarify the right of withdrawal process as per policy guidelines. A subsequent meeting was also arranged for the 17th April. The meeting was attended by guest Jamie Matear, Director of Siting Coordination at

Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). Learnings from the Canadian GDF project were discussed alongside potential community benefits.

The subgroup's current focus includes if NWS or Local Authority take a decision to withdraw from the GDF process, nuclear waste would remain stored at Sellafield (within the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership's current Search Area) until it was redirected to a GDF located elsewhere and they would like to explore and understand this further. Members would also like to further understand the position of Cumberland Council with regards to withdrawal from the GDF process. The subgroup has requested clarity regarding Community Investment Funding approach post any potential withdrawal.

Feedback from Visioning Subgroup

Subgroup Chair reported:

Visioning Subgroup has recently delivered a visioning workshop facilitated by external supply chain companies. Parish Council representatives were invited to the initial sessions and asked to give their parish aspirations in the immediate, medium and long-term timescales. Six themes were identified: - tourism & attractions, health & wellbeing, employment & skills, transport, housing, and environment.

Following on from the initial visioning session it is proposed to plan more sessions throughout the summer in Beckermeth, Seascale, Gosforth, Thornhill. Partnership Members were asked to suggest participants that could offer different demographics. Also, visioning sessions in four local schools are proposed.

Feedback from Youth Subgroup

Subgroup Chair reported:

Youth Engagement Strategy

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Youth Engagement Strategy was circulated to all Partnership members. The purpose of the strategy is to clearly outline the Partnership's objectives for engaging with young people, recognising their importance as key stakeholders in the community. It is a working document and will be subject to annual review to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of young people. The strategy aims to establish better communication channels and increase engagement with younger people recognising their unique perspectives and the importance of including them in discussions about the GDF project. The intention is to tailor events and communications specifically to meet the needs and preferences of young people, including seeking feedback directly from them.

There are broader benefits of youth engagement beyond project awareness, and the Partnership would look for ways that it can include skills development, leadership opportunities, and capacity building within the community.

Youth Engagement Strategy is very much about Partnership and collaboration, working with local schools, youth groups, and other relevant forums and networks to ensure that a diverse range of perspectives are captured and considered. Feedback will be gathered from young people through

various platforms and will provide a responsive approach ("you said, we did") as well as evaluating the activities that are organised.

Engagement activities with Seascale Scouts

As part of youth engagement activities, the 2nd Seascale Scouts group in Seascale were approached to take part in a series of 3 sessions culminating in a celebration event which took place last Thursday evening. The sessions were designed to discuss with the young people about their hopes for the future of their community. They put a lot of thought into what could be put in place to ensure that Seascale is somewhere that the community is proud of. Their amazing ideas were captured in posters shared in the meeting.

This group was very environmentally conscious and wanted to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area and for wildlife to thrive. They were asked to think about what their community might look like in 5 years' time, they suggested a bridge over the railway, somewhere where they can play sport, possibly a seaside pool to attract more people to visit Seascale, and a history heritage trail. They could even imagine the area in 50 years' time. They suggested a monorail to get from A to B. The group was also very vocal about things they didn't like about the area.

Community Investment Funding Update

Grants Manager reported:

Panel met on 8th April and 3 awards were made on the day. Year 3 funding commitment is currently £415,281. Four panels remain in Year 3. Projects in the pipeline currently amount to £300,000. Following on from the success of CIF events held in February the Community Engagement team will be planning additional community investment funding focused events in February 2025.

Communication Feedback

The Communications Lead recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included a press release on Community Investment Funding and an e-bulletin to digital subscribers. A summer printed newsletter is being worked on and improvements are being planned for the website with work ongoing. Future comms activity will include a press release in May around a piece of community youth work.

A summary of Partnership website activity was given which included between 150-250 different users visiting the site each month; between 650-850 sessions of interaction with the website each month and time spent per person, per session, is around 1min 30secs which compares with an average for this type of site of around 54seconds.

Community Engagement Feedback

Community Engagement Manager (CEM) reported:

Since the last meeting the engagement team have attended the following:

- Coffee & Chat, Beckermat x 2
- U3A Chatty Lunch, Gosforth
- Shackles Off Over 50's club, Seascale
- Coffee morning, Gosforth

Upcoming engagements planned:

- May Coffee & Chat x 2
- May Over 50's Youth club.
- Summer Drop ins (Dates TBC)
- 1st June NWS Outside of Search Area GDF drop-in event, The Beacon Portal, Whitehaven
- 22 June Seascale Gala
- 21 July Rotating Wheels Show, Gosforth
- 17 Aug Gosforth Show

Partnership members are welcome to attend upcoming events. Please contact CEM for further details.

AOB:

NWS Youth Forum

Community Partnership Operations Manager gave an update on the NWS Youth Forum.

NWS has partnered with The Young Foundation and Arup to deliver this national project focussing on youth engagement across the GDF project. The purpose of the Youth Forum is to learn more about how to engage with young people meaningfully. The Forum hopes to recruit up to 15 young people within the 16-25 yrs. age group. The application process was open to young people across England and Wales via targeted advertising in schools, colleges, young people's networks and social media. The recruitment process has now closed after receiving higher than anticipated interest from across all regions. In-line with similar youth forums, members will be paid a Real Living Wage for their time, and the forum expects to meet quarterly. Output from the Youth Forum will be regularly shared with the Partnership and joint working with the Youth subgroup is envisaged.

Issues for Escalation

No issues for escalation were raised.

Public Questions

No members of public in attendance.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- Monday, 3 June, 3pm- venue TBC