



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 29th July 2024

The Chair welcomed the Community Partnership Members and Guest Speakers. 1 member of the public was in attendance.

Chair's Report

Chair explained that since our last meeting, we have changed the community section of the website to enable members of the public to ask any questions at Community Partnership meetings instead of just items on agenda. It was felt that this would hopefully attract more members of the public to the meetings.

Visioning work planned for Summer has been delayed due to the two pre-election periods and now scheduled in for September and November.

Rotating Wheels Show was well attended with a lot of new faces coming for information, there was 105 people on the day. Gosforth Show is coming up on 17th August and if any Partnership members would like to come along, please let us know.

The 'Working with Communities' policy has now been integrated into a new policy called 'Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning: UK policy framework'. Copies were given out to CP members on the night.

NWS Senior Policy Adviser has offered to come along to a Partnership meeting to explain the minor changes in policy if the Partnership require this. The Partnership felt this was appropriate and requested this be actioned.

Development Consent Order (DCO) update: Development Consent Order (DCO) update:

Head of Major Permissions and the team provided an explanation of what a DCO is and gave the Partnership members an overview of the stages of the DCO process. They explained that Development Consent (a type of planning permission) via a DCO is needed for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and that the Planning Act 2008 categorises both deep boreholes (>150m deep) and a GDF as an NSIP. The National Policy Statement for Geological Disposal sets out national planning policy for GDF and deep borehole NSIPs.

NWS must comply with a number of legislative and regulatory Major Permissions requirements and will need a number of DCO's – one for the site characterisation (boreholes) stage of works and one for later construction of a GDF. They confirmed that at each stage, it will be one DCO process for both Mid and South Partnerships. Focus will be on boreholes in the inshore region but may also include onshore boreholes within the application.

The Site Evaluation and Geosphere teams will decide the order of boreholes and identify where they could go. However, extensive environmental impact assessment work and stakeholder and public consultation will be undertaken as part of the DCO pre-application process. This includes undertaking environmental baseline studies and surveys to support environmental assessment work. Such studies cover various aspects of marine and terrestrial ecology and include things such

as bird surveys and these will need to be over a number of seasons – typically over at least two years and two winters/summers.

NWS will also require an Environmental permit which will be approved in stages. The Environmental permit is being developed at present, as there is no other project like this, it will include a permit for:

- boreholes
- constructing of accessways and a disposal system (vaults)
- placing of the materials

Update on Visioning Subgroup and Community Visioning Forums

Operations Manager delivered a recap on all the work the visioning subgroup had completed and the work the NWS supply chain, have delivered with the Parish Council visioning workshops. An update was given via a visual flow chart, detailing the Visioning outputs, which will be attached with this briefing.

CP members where each issued with visioning business cards to be given out to community members to encourage sign up to our first set of visioning forums on: -

Wednesday 18th September 2024	9am - 11am	Gosforth Public Hall
Wednesday 18th September 2024	2pm - 4pm	Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale
Thursday 19th September 2024	10am - 12 noon	Beckermet Reading Rooms
Thursday 19th September 2024	2pm - 4pm	Thornhill Social Club

Any members who haven't received the visioning cards, please get in touch with team as we need CP members to help drive people to attend.

Cumberland Council representatives are working with the Partnership on visioning and very willing to help with this work. A letter has been sent to the Chair from Cumberland Council to confirm this and will be shared amongst the partnership members.

Feedback from Youth Subgroup

Youth Lead updated the Partnership on some amendments to the Youth Strategy. The amended copy will be emailed to members with this briefing. The amendments are to reflect that NWS is currently assessing its capability around education and its approach to engaging with schools locally and nationally. The Community Partnership continues to work with local youth groups and will expand this further over the coming 12 months. Youth Lead and Community Engagement Coordinator are speaking to another Youth group in Gosforth to hopefully start a project in Autumn with them.

Community Investment Funding Update

The Community Investment Panel (CIP) has approved 16 new awards for Year 3 and has 2 funding commitments awarded during CIF Year 2 allocated from CIF Year 3.

Of the 71 awards made to date:

- 37 awards met the Community Wellbeing CIF criteria.
- 15 awards met the Improvements to Natural / Built Environment CIF criteria.
- 13 awards met the Community Wellbeing and Natural / Built Environment CIF criteria.
- 3 awards met the Community Wellbeing and Economic Development CIF criteria.

- 3 awards met the Community Wellbeing, Built Environment and Economic Development CIF criteria.

Total committed for CP year 3 is £545,177 (not including current pipeline) with two panels remaining

CP members felt that, to drive more CIF applications, we need to look at the application process again and suggested we consider having a funded post to help support local organisations with grant applications.

Communication Feedback

The Community Engagement Manager recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included a printed newsletter sent to homes in the Community Partnership area, an e-newsletter sent to 750+ digital subscribers and information around the annual residents' survey which is taking place.

Communications updates in the coming weeks are to include information on how people can take part in the Partnership's community visioning forums and a video around the 'Journey to a GDF' from Nuclear Waste Services.

The Partnership were also updated on website redevelopment which has used Partnership feedback to progress a new draft design, layout and ideas for improving clarity and accessibility.

Community Engagement Feedback

Mid Copeland Engagement update since last meeting 22nd April 2024

- 3 coffee mornings: Beckermet, Gosforth and Seascale 50+
- Shackles off youth group revisit with David Moore (Seascale PC) – resulting in CIF application for Sports Activities

We then stopped engaging due to PEP until w/c 15 July 2024: -

- Coffee mornings at Beckermet and Seascale 50+
- Happy Healthy Neighbours (Icanfitness) x 2, Gosforth and Thornhill
- Rotating Wheels Show with 105 ppl
- Visited Game on Sports first week of their sessions – Euros

This week: -

- Meeting with Gosforth Scouts re another youth project
- Coffee mornings at Gosforth and Beckermet on Thursday
- Happy healthy neighbours in Gosforth Wed evening, although we are monitoring this due to road closures

The Community Engagement Team will send out details of engagement activity fortnightly, so Partnership members can attend if available.

AOB:

Operation Manager will be reviewing the current Community Partnership Agreement and will be sending out the tracked changes to all the Partnership Members this week for comments.

Seascale Parish Council lead updated the Partnership on a recent CIF funded project that came out of working with the youth in Seascale. They said they didn't have any activities within Mid Copeland in the School holidays. Seascale Parish Council secured local trained Sport Coach to deliver 11 free multi sports activities to children in Mid Copeland. These have been well attended so far and also includes delivering coaching, safeguarding and DBS qualifications to two local youngsters, who are also volunteering at the sports camps, getting valuable experience to enhance their qualifications. Feedback from parents has been very positive and it is something we need to think about collectively for all the Parish Councils going forward.

The Mid Copeland Community Partnership Delivery Plan will be shared with the members this week after a short delay.

Community Engagement Manager reported that we have now secured a permanent Community Partnership Assistant to join the team and will cover the Secretariat role for the partnership, resource shared with South Copeland.

Issues for Escalation

Cumberland Council Officer wanted it noted that he felt the Mid Copeland Community Partnership's visioning process is very good and should be shared with South Copeland Community Partnership.

Public Questions

One member of public attended the meeting and had questions for the DCO team relating to boreholes and who owns the land of interest 'onshore' and whether NWS were having conversations with them in advance of the process.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- 11th September 2024
3pm – 5.30pm at Beckermest Reading Rooms