



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Wednesday 11th September 2024

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

Chair's Report

The Chair explained that since our last meeting, the NWS Property Value Protection scheme (PVP) has been shared with Community Partnership members and is on the Community Partnership website. With a further update on today's meeting agenda.

The Chair also informed the meeting that Theddlethorpe Community Partnership now has a new Chair.

Website Update

NWS Web and Productions manager provided an update on the current stage of the revised Community Partnership website. She explained the need for the new website came about due to feedback from the community. The feedback showed that people found the current website difficult to navigate. Rather than re-develop the current website, it was easier to develop a new website due to constraints on the current website's platform. The new website will have refreshed logo and branding and new features such as navigation tabs which can be easily amended, a secondary navigation tool, search bar, and embedded videos with transcript options.

PVP Update

NWS Property Value Protection (PVP) scheme Case Officer presented 'An introduction to the Property Value Protection scheme'.

Until Government decides and announces its preferred location for a GDF, this uncertainty may have an influence on the property market in the vicinity of a location NWS is considering. NWS recognises this and has introduced the PVP Scheme (published 30th August 2024). This is a discretionary scheme, not one required by law. It recognises the importance of aiding those eligible applicants who are most severely affected by the announcement of locations being considered to host a GDF.

Applicants who apply to the PVP scheme and meet the eligibility criteria will be recompensed for the actual loss in value on sale. The loss in value will be measured from the property's unaffected open market value (that is, what the value of the property would have been without any adverse effect arising from the search for a suitable site to host a GDF). NWS will recompense those applicants who apply to the PVP scheme and meet the eligibility criteria with an Assistance Payment. The Assistance Payment is the sum payable to a successful applicant, payable on completion of the sale of the property.

There is a PVP Panel set up to assess applications and make a recommendation. The PVP Panel is made up of five people. Three members are external to NWS. The other two members are a

representative of the NDA and a representative of NWS. The PVP panel will assess whether an application meets the specified criteria. It will then make a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NWS. The CEO will review the PVP Panel's recommendation and decide on whether to approve the application.

PVP guidance and the application form are available on the gov.uk website. A link to the PVP page is available on the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership's website (within Resource area). Applicants can also contact the NWS Helpdesk telephone (0300 369 0000) for more information or to request paper copies.

This PVP scheme will remain in place until the Secretary of State approves communities to proceed to the Site Characterisation phase of development; or until a Community Partnership is dissolved following a decision, by either NWS or the relevant principal local authority(s), to stop consideration of a GDF in that community. Where the search for a suitable site to host a GDF moves forward into the Site Characterisation phase, NWS expect new arrangements to be put in place to support affected property owners. These will be subject to engagement with communities

Policy and NSD Update

NWS Senior Policy Advisor briefed Partnership Members on the recently published "UK policy framework for managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning". This document is the culmination of a substantial review of many individual policy positions that have arisen on specific topics across all the governments of the UK since 1995.

It brings these all together into a single UK-wide policy framework to give a clearer and more consistent direction to those using radioactive substances and those responsible for decommissioning and managing radioactive waste. The one policy that still currently remains separate is the 2011 Scottish Government Higher Activity Waste policy which is currently under review.

The GDF siting process, previously set out in the "Working with Communities" Policy, has not been altered in any way and has been included in the new Policy Framework as an appendix. The only changes that have any relevance to the GDF siting process are that not all ILW has to go to a GDF, opening up the possibility of near surface disposal for wastes where the engineered protection of a GDF may not be required, and to update the level of new nuclear build waste that should be planned for from 16GWe to 24 GWe.

The requirement to take a risk-based approach to decision making also meant that the inventory for geological disposal was now described as the "most hazardous radioactive waste" and not "higher activity waste" as previously. The Senior Policy Advisor committed to keeping Partnership Members updated on progress with the Scottish Government's review of its Higher Activity Waste Policy.

NWS Near Surface Disposal Programme Delivery Director provided an update on the policy regarding Near Surface Disposal (NSD). It was explained that following the launch of the policy, NWS has been requested by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to look at the potential opportunities NSD may offer for accelerated or more proportionate disposal of suitable Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) which is currently destined for disposal in the GDF.

He stated that this work is at a very early phase and is focussed on understanding the range of wastes and concepts that could be considered. He confirmed to members that irrespective of any

future decisions on NSD implementation, it would only be suitable for a proportion of the total inventory for disposal and that for the significant proportion, a GDF is the only disposal solution.

Business Update

The business lead informed Partnership Members that a plan had been developed to look at better ways to engage with local businesses. A list of local businesses has been composed, it is intended that a letter be sent introducing the business lead, explaining what GDF is, what the Community Partnership is and what it does, and how we can answer any questions they may have.

Communication update

The Communications Lead recapped activity since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included a press release and social media from the Partnership on Community Visioning Forums; additions to the website including a video from NWS about Copeland geology, articles on Gosforth & District First Responders and Wasdale shuttle bus, plus details about the NWS' Property Valuation Protection scheme. Facebook adverts are currently running with details about Partnership Community Visioning Forums. Other NWS activity includes a drop-in event in The Beacon Portal, Whitehaven, on Sept 28, which is being advertised plus further advertising and communication around Journey to a GDF and why the Six Siting Factors are important in the GDF programme.

Community Investment Funding Update

The overview of CIF Yr3 to date is:

There have been 16 new awards made, plus 2 with funds allocated from Yr 3 as part of multi-year projects, total awarded to date **£545,177.15**.

There are 7 project applications for consideration at the next panel meeting on 16/09/24 totalling **£179,496.09**.

There are several potential applicants in the pipeline alongside 6 Expressions of Interest, the total value of these is **£385,329.00**.

The Grants team are also in early discussions with a few more interested organisations looking to develop projects and applications which may not be feasible for the current year but could be significant moving into Year 4.

The Grants team are also working on creating versions of the 3 application forms that can be added to the Mid Copeland Partnership's website.

Community Engagement Feedback

Mid Copeland Engagement update since last meeting 29th July 2024:

The team has attended a number of events since the last meeting, total engagement 305 people, this includes:

- 4 coffee mornings: Beckermest, Gosforth and Seascale 50+
- Gosforth Agricultural Show
- 2 Geology talks, U3A and West Lakeland Rotary

Engagement planned before next Community Partnership Meeting:

- 4 visioning forums throughout Mid Copeland
- NWS engagement event at The Beacon Portal, Whitehaven
- Gosforth Toddler Group
- Gosforth Scouts and Cubs
- Drigg Young Farmers

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

Issues for Escalation

Seascale Parish Council lead raised an issue taken from another meeting. It was stated that Sellafeld Ltd are having issues securing surrounding land due to the NDA owning it. It was stated that NWS had a holding option on this land for GDF. NWS team were asked to confirm the NDA position on land holdings around Sellafeld with regards to GDF.

The Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council raised an issue surrounding Community Investment Funding payment issues. NWS is aware of these issues and is working to mitigate for the future.

Public Questions

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- 14th October 2024, 3:00pm – 5:30pm at St Mary's Room, St Mary's Church, Gosforth.