



Working in Partnership Copeland

DRAFT Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Held at St Mary's Room, St Mary's Church, Gosforth

On Monday 29th July 2024

Commencing at 3:30pm

Present:

Andy Pratt	Chair
Sam Pollen	Cumberland Council Lead
Gillian Johnston	NWS Community Engagement Manager
Cllr David Moore	Seascale Parish Council
Jackie Atkinson	Gosforth Parish Council
Julie Nugent	Chair of Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council
Karen Warmoth	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Mike Slater	Farming Sector Lead
Deborah Naylor	Youth Sector Lead
Jonathan Cook	Cumberland Officer

NWS Support:

Anne Broome	NWS, Community Partnership Operations Manager
Andrew Monaghan	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Sue Shepherd	NWS, Acting Secretariat
Chris Bundock	NWS, Grants Manager

NWS Technical Support staff:

Steve Pearce	NWS Design Requirements Manager
Malcolm Orford	Head of Major Permissions
Bill Gregory	Development Consent Order Manager

Apologies:

Yvonne Clarkson	Business Sector Lead
Bob Jones	Chair of Calderbridge & Ponsonby Parish Council
Gill Thorne	NWS, Communications Lead

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. One member of the public was present.



Previous meeting minutes were approved, although concern was raised about an outstanding action *Agenda 4 26062023 01 - Site Evaluation Manager to provide timeline of siting activity to Community Partnership members before going on the website. **Under review.*** This concern has been noted.

Actions from the previous meeting

REF: 22042024	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. NWS to present to the Partnership at 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 - as part of site evaluation work
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. Complete
Agenda 4 06032024 01	CEM to provide FAQ sheet for Partnership Members – To aid learning on Heat Generating Waste. Simple language to be used. Ongoing
Agenda 3 22042024 01	CEM provide clarity re: Community Partnership member restrictions on length of term. Update to be made today at the meeting
Agenda 3 22042024 02	OM Work with CP Members to review CP Member Terms of Reference/ CPA Update to be made today at the meeting
Agenda 3 22042024 03	CEM review public participation at CP Meetings Complete
Agenda 4 22042024 01	CEM/OM to review concerns arising from Withdrawal Subgroup meeting and report findings back to Partnership. Ongoing
Agenda 5 22042024 01	CEM/OM to provide visioning workshop purpose for CP members. What is the compelling reason to take part. What is it for? Why is it important? Why important to be diverse? Complete
Visioning Agenda 5 22042024 01	CEM to clarify timescales and lead-times re: proposed visioning workshops in summer. Complete
Visioning Agenda 5 22042024 02	Comms Lead to explore a visioning piece in upcoming newsletter (July) including any available details of visioning workshops. Complete
Visioning Agenda 5 22042024 03	CET to circulate Visioning Board from Parish Visioning Workshop to all partnership members. Complete



Agenda 6 22042024 01	CEM to explore Community Investment opportunities arising from Seascale Scouts community ideas and possible joint support with Seascale Parish Council. Complete
Agenda 6 22042024 02	CEM to explore Partnership support to develop a potential Youth Group at local facility. Complete
Agenda 10 22042024 01	OM provide Chair with breakdown of applicants of NWS National Youth Forum by postcode/geographical area. To identify those from Cumbria and potentially involve them in Partnership. Ongoing, the start of the forum has been slightly delayed

Ref 22042024	MEETING DECISION LOG
	N/A

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

Chair explained that since the 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 on 21st July was well attended the team spoke to 103 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'. Hard copies were given out to CP members.

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



AGENDA 4: DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER (DCO) CONSULTATION UPDATE

Head of Major Permissions and the team provided an explanation of what a DCO is and gave the Community 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 DCOs – 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

AGENDA 5: VISIONING

Update on Visioning Subgroup and Community Visioning Forums

Operations Manager delivered a recap on the work the visioning subgroup had completed with the NWS supply chain, at the Parish Council visioning workshops. An update was given via a visual flow chart, detailing the visioning outputs, which will be attached with these minutes.

Community Partnership members were each issued with visioning business cards to be given out to community members to encourage sign up to the 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 contact the team as we need Community Partnership members to encourage people to attend.



Cumberland Council Officers are liaising with the Community Partnership on visioning. A letter has been sent to the Chair from Cumberland Council to confirm this, the letter will be shared amongst the Partnership members.

AGENDA 6: AOB

6.1 Feedback from Youth Subgroup

Youth Lead updated the Partnership on some amendments to the Youth Strategy. The amended copy was forwarded to members with the meeting 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.

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

Community Partnership 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.

6.3 Communication Update

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 Community Partnership's community visioning forums and a video around the 'Journey to a GDF' from Nuclear Waste Services.

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

6.4 Community Engagement Update

Mid Copeland Engagement update since last meeting 22nd April 2024

- 3 coffee mornings: Beckermest, 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 the Pre-Election Period 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 103 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
- Happy healthy neighbours in Gosforth

6.5 General AOB

Operations Manager will be reviewing the current Community Partnership Agreement and will be sending out a tracked changes copy to all the Partnership members for feedback.

Seascale Parish Council lead updated the Partnership on a recent CIF funded project that was a result 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 young people, who are also volunteering at the sports camps, getting valuable experience to enhance their qualifications.

Feedback from parents has been very positive.

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

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 Community Partnership, a resource shared with South Copeland.

AGENDA 7: 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 'inshore' and whether NWS were having conversations with them in advance of the process.

AGENDA 8: 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.

AGENDA 9: DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

Wednesday 11th September 2024
3pm – 5.30pm at Beckermet Reading Rooms

REF: 29072024	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

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Agenda 4 06032024 01	CEM to provide FAQ sheet for Partnership Members – To aid learning on Heat Generating Waste. Simple language to be used. Ongoing
Agenda 3 22042024 01	CEM provide clarity re: Community Partnership member restrictions on length of term. Complete
Agenda 3 22042024 02	OM Work with CP Members to review CP Member Terms of Reference/ CPA Complete - Update given at 29/07/24 meeting – CPA with amendments to be sent out see agenda action 5.6 27072024 01
Agenda 4 22042024 01	CEM/OM to review concerns arising from Withdrawal Subgroup meeting and report findings back to Partnership. Ongoing
Agenda 10 22042024 01	OM provide Chair with breakdown of applicants of NWS National Youth Forum by postcode/geographical area. To Identify those from Cumbria and potentially involve them in Partnership. Ongoing the start of the forum has been slightly delayed
Agenda 3 29072024 01	CP members would like an overview on Near Surface Disposal from NWS Senior Policy Officer. CEM to arrange
Agenda 3 29072024 02	CP members would like NWS Senior Policy Officer to attend the next CP meeting and to run through the minor changes in policy within the new 'Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning: UK policy framework'
Agenda 4 29072024 01	NWS to confirm the timeline to borehole aspiration by 2030. DCO team to clarify
Agenda 4 29072024 02	NWS to provide information to the Community Partnership members, from Sellafield about the borehole investigations that are taking place around Tarn Farm
Agenda 5 29072024 01	Chair to share the letter he received from Cumberland Council supporting our visioning work
Agenda 5 29072024 02	CEM to arrange another evening slot in Gosforth for a visioning forum to meet community requirements
Agenda 6.1 29072024 01	CET Youth lead to circulate Youth strategy with amendments to CP members for feedback/approval
Agenda 6.2 29072024 01	CIF Manager to investigate whether we can get some paper copies of the CIF application to give to CP members to help with enquiries
Agenda 6.2 29072024 02	CEM/CIF Manager to investigate whether it is possible to have a funded resource to help people with bigger grant applications



Agenda 6.3 29072024 01	CEM to send out the details of when the door knocking residents' survey starts
Agenda 6.3 29072024 02	Comms lead to share the new geology video with Partnership members before being released
Agenda 6.4 29072024 01	CET to send out Bi-weekly schedule of CET engagement activities to CP members
Agenda 6.4 29072024 02	CET will arrange to go along to 'chatty lunches' in Gosforth in September
Agenda 6.5 29072024 01	CP OM to circulate the proposed amendments to the CPA to all CP members for review and feedback
Agenda 7 29072024 01	CEM to invite the Crown Estate to come along to a CP meeting in autumn

Ref 29072024	MEETING DECISION LOG