



MEETING BRIEFING

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 14th October 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 representatives from the Community Partnership, including himself, have been invited to attend an international conference in Vienna to discuss best practices on engagement. South Copeland and Theddlethorpe Community Partnerships will also be sending representatives.

The Chair attended a recent NWS Out of Search Area event at the Beacon Portal in Whitehaven. He said it went very well, with lots of positive in-depth conversations with the public. People were staying a very long time; and good feedback was received. They made good use of the VR headsets, interactive boards, videos and 3D Model.

Yonder delivered feedback from their recent resident's survey:

Between 21 July and 19 August 2024, Yonder oversaw a survey of 309 residents (aged 16+) via a combination of telephone interviewing and in-person face-to-face interviewing across the electoral ward of Gosforth. The programme of work replicates research conducted in 2022 and 2023 to provide updated insight into the attitudes of residents (16+) towards nuclear waste and geological disposal in the Search Area. Support for the potential construction of a GDF in the Search Area remained high and in line with previous surveying.

Yonder also gave an update on recent Seldom Heard audience research they delivered: -

Between 30 July and 30 August, they conducted a combination of individual and paired depth interviews with twelve working age residents from across the Gosforth electoral ward. All interviewees were in either full-time or part-time employment. Outcome from the research showed the following: -

- Personal and circumstantial factors combined with a lack of motivation prevented participation
- The length of time to a decision combined with the fact that this was not new news also deterred engagement
- Determining how to motivate the community will be a crucial step in engagement



Communications Feedback

The Communications Lead recapped activity since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included development of a questionnaire on community visioning which has been added to the website and used in communications materials. A leaflet is also being sent out this week to all homes in the Community Partnership area encouraging them to take part in the November visioning forums, plus some Facebook advertising. A newsletter is being planned and written to be sent out early December, plus an e-newsletter.

Community Investment Funding Update

To date in CIF year 3 we have awarded 22 new awards totalling £716,654.15 mainly covering the Community Wellbeing criteria.

We have one panel left for CIF year 3 on 28th October 2024, with several applications received so far to the value of £280,727.

Community Engagement Feedback

The Community Engagement Coordinator recapped activity which had taken place since the previous Community Partnership meeting. The team engaged with approximately 180 people at the following events:

- Gosforth coffee morning
- Beckermet Coffee Cake and Chat
- Shackles Off 50+ Club
- Out of Search Area – Beacon (NWS event)
- Gosforth Toddler Group
- Gosforth Scouts Project
- Beckermet Drop in Sat 12th

Visioning Forum events:

- 18th September Gosforth Public Hall
- 18th September Bailey Ground Hotel, Seascale
- 19th September Beckermet Reading Rooms
- 19th September Thornhill Social Club
- 1st October - Young Farmers' visioning session
- 9th October – SASRA committee visioning session



Future Engagement events: -

There are several events planned for the rest of the year, the Community Engagement Team will continue to inform Community Partnership members of these on a fortnightly basis.

Visioning Update

The Operations Manager delivered a recap on all the work the visioning subgroup had completed.

As well as the Community forums, the Community Partnership has also conducted a session with Drigg Young Farmers where there was 36 people (17 from the Gosforth ward) and also delivered was a small session with the SASRA committee members.

The Youth lead will continue to deliver projects to local youth groups, and these will feed into the overall vision.

Common themes from the Forums currently relate to transport links, health and wellbeing and lack of non-nuclear skills providers.

The Community Partnership has also put together an online questionnaire for the community to complete. This is on the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership website and Partnership members have been asked to promote this within their communities.

The next Visioning Forums will take place in November.

Issues for Escalation

None

Public Questions

No members of public were in attendance although questions had been received into the helpdesk. These were read out at the meeting and the Partnership will seek further clarification from Nuclear Waste Services who will send a reply.

Date of next meeting

Next Community Partnership meeting will be held:

- 2nd December 2024.
15:30hrs.