**MEETING BRIEFING**

**Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Meeting, Monday 02nd December 2024**

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

**Chair’s Report**

Chair explained that himself and other Partnership representatives attended a conference in Vienna since the last Partnership meeting. People from over 60 different countries took part, discussing best practices on engagement and how to move forward. The Chair informed the Partnership that he had met with an advisor to Cumberland Council, with a focus on building on local visioning activity aligned with plans and opportunities for Cumberland more widely.

The Chair explained they welcomed members of the Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership, as they attended the area for several days to gain insight into a nuclear area.

**NWS Programme Review**

The Chair welcomed NWS Siting & Communities Director who explained developments in the NWS Programme. He presented a GDF timeline for the coming years, explaining the different stages and processes. This included explaining that NWS will identify smaller ‘Areas of Focus’ in the Search Area, as the next step in the process of finding potentially suitable sites, which

is similar to the approach taken by other large infrastructure projects. Areas of Focus are identified using existing information and help NWS consider where may have the potential to host project infrastructure.

This stage isn’t to define an exact site, it’s to help decide which areas could be taken forward for more detailed investigations. This could include drilling boreholes to better understand the geology deep below the surface, where the underground part of a GDF would be built.

**Community Investment Funding End of Year Review**

The Community Investment Panel (CIP) has approved 33 new awards for Year 3.

The smallest award was £1,065 to Egremont Town Band to help them towards room hire for their rehearsals. The largest award of the year was £196,018 for Ponsonby and Calderbridge Village Hall to refurbish the Hall.

There are two applications that were deferred at the final panel meeting of the year. There are two small applications for consideration by the panel this Thursday, 05th December. The total for these is approximately £226k.

The CIF team are talking to several organisations and community groups about their planned projects and helping develop their proposals before they submit full applications.

**Communications**

The Communications Lead recapped activity since the previous Community Partnership meeting. This included finalising a newsletter to be sent out week commencing 9th December to homes in the Search Area, plus a digital e-bulletin to subscribers. A summary of residents’ research results has been added to the website, plus a Q&A on High Heat Generating Waste and information on the GDF siting process and how Areas of Focus are identified within Search Areas.

**Community Engagement**

The Community Engagement Co-ordinator explained that since the last CP meeting the team have engaged with approximately 230 people. The Community Engagement Team will continue to inform Community Partnership members of their future events on a fortnightly basis.

The Youth Lead on the Partnership gave an overview of Youth projects delivered since the Partnership last met, including the delivery of a visioning project with the 1st Gosforth Scouts. There is one more session planned in for February 2025, with an end of project celebration in March.

The Community Engagement team were invited to a newly established youth group in Beckermet to conduct a similar project on visioning. One session has taken place and will recommence in the new year. A celebration will take place 23rd January 2025.

All Community Partnership members will be invited to both end of project celebrations, calendar invites to follow.

The Youth Lead also mentioned the successful one-off visioning session delivered in collaboration with South Copeland Community Partnership at Drigg Young Farmers and explained the outcomes and the young farmers’ aspirations that came out of the session.

**Visioning Update**

The Operations Manager updated the Partnership on the work to carry out 9 Community Visioning Forums. These forums followed an earlier workshop with parish councillors.

The community visioning forums had a total of 48 attendees. Also delivered were 10 Youth sessions, engaging with a total of 185 young people at 1st Seascale Scouts, 1st Gosforth Scouts, Drigg Young Farmers and a re cap session with Shackles Off Youth Group.

There is also a Visioning Questionnaire on the website with 20 completed to date.

The next steps are pulling the common themes together in a draft vision and going back into the community in February to test the vision.

**Issues for Escalation**

* No Issues for Escalation.

**Public Questions**

* No Questions.

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**Date of next meeting**

Next Community Partnership meeting will be confirmed in New Year