



Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Copeland GDF Working Group

Held at **Microsoft Teams**
On **Thursday 29th July 2021**
Commencing at **09.00**

PRESENT:

Mark Cullinan	Independent Chair
Nick Gardham	Independent Facilitator
Gary Bullivant	Irton Hall Ltd
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council, Nuclear Projects Manager
Chris Shaw	Copeland District Association of Local Councils, Liaison Officer
Gillian Johnston	RWM Community Engagement Manager
Claire Dobson	RWM Copeland Community Coordinator
Gillian Thorne	RWM Working Group Communications Lead
Rob Ward	Nuclear Sector Manager for Copeland Borough Council
Barnaby Hudson	RWM Siting Manager
Andy Ross	Genr8 North
Cllr Andy Pratt	Copeland District Association of Local Councils (CALC), Chair
Pat Graham	Chief Executive Copeland Borough

IN ATTENDANCE:

Guy Esnouf	RWM Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Agenda Item 3
Steve Wilkinson	RWM Project Manager Agenda Point 6
Karen Agnew	RWM Secretariat Copeland Working Group Minutes

APOLOGIES

David Faulkner	Private Resident
Mark Walker	Genr8 North

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees confirmed.



AGENDA 1: IDENTIFY VOTING MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- Recorded voting members from each organisation.
- Any changes to voting members to be notified.
- Assuming members attending the meeting hold the vote for themselves/their organisation unless they say declare otherwise.
- Minutes of previous meeting are a correct record – amendment requested by Rob Ward to clarify discussion topic in relation to Workstream 3 and Community Partnership(s) Membership
- Confirmation of no required amendments to members declarations of interest.

AGENDA 2: OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AND REVIEWS

Chair reviewed outstanding actions,

CWG005	Yonder Survey results to be shared to Parish Councils Shared and on website	CALC/KA Completed
CWG008	Key decisions from WS3 recommendations to be added to WG Agendas	GJ/SW Completed
CWG011	Comms Leaflet to be shared which includes QR code and Live Exhibition details	GT Completed
CWG011	Photo of surface works for newsletter to be shared with WG	GT Completed

AGENDA 3: RWM WASTE DIVISION UPDATE

A RWM representative discussed the structure of the amalgamation of LLWR, RWM and NDA’s Integrated Waste Management Programme. This included explaining the legal and Executive Board structure. He confirmed that Simon Hughes would still be responsible for the GDF Siting Process and Guy Esnouf would remain as Director of Communications.

Questions were invited

Q - A single comms team for LLWR (local) and RWM (national) may not work as the comms approaches are quite different, are we able to keep the current approach in terms of community engagement?

A – Yes, our plan is to keep the same agreement as exist now in LLWR. Not looking to change something that is working well.

Q - Is there any synergy between a near surface disposal and the GDF?

A - The two entities have been considered separate, development at the LLWR site has just been to benefit LLWR’s activities, not the GDF. LLWR investigations have included boreholes undertaken within LLWR’s current/regulatory framework are much to shallow to help a GDF. None of the work is preparatory to a GDF.



Q - The departmental review said that there was a plan to merge LLWR and RWM into one company?

A – It will be in one company from end January 22, which will have three operational arms; Waste Services, Waste Operations and Major Capital Programs, and an integrated waste strategy capability. Major Capital Programs will manage the GDF under the same policy as now.

Q - As you are going to be Director of Communications, you should be aware that there is currently local concern regarding Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) and the drilling activity. The community were previously happy with LLWR which was down too communication and engagement. The Local Community are concerned with regards to any change to the current life of the operations.

A – New Directorate responsibilities only come into effect from end January. I know the current team have worked closely with you. I have taken your point on board and look forward to working with them in the future on this.

Q – There appears to have been a recent information leak regarding recent news in Lincolnshire, what will be the impact on the Copeland Working Group.

A - There should be no implications, nothing has changed in terms of RWM having initial conversations and raising awareness across England. This is what we have always said that we will do. So, whilst this information was released (not by RWM) it does not impact any plans or activities within the Working Group.

Q - Now that it is in the public domain, do you anticipate any crossover into West Cumbria, will this impact how our communities view any potential Community Partnership(s) or hosting a GDF.

A – We think that some people who challenge a GDF in Cumbria might have started talking to people in Lincolnshire. RWM's aim has always been to find a willing community and site which is suitable to host a GDF. A positive of this news is that it normalizes these announcements. A Negative is it was released without context and responses are reactionary.

Q - On this announcement, 80% of waste is already located in Cumbria. If the GDF is in Lincolnshire, at what stage would there be any involvement with Copeland to have a say about how the waste leaves the county?

A - One of the things that will be involved in the site evaluation is transport. Clearly in Copeland the transport of waste may be a relatively small distance but still needs careful consideration. At some point RWM will need to decide which location with a willing host community may be the most suitable. However, this is not a decision that will be made for many years, but the impact of the transport route would need to be involved.

No further questions

AGENDA 4: OPPORTUNITY FOR UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

RWM Update



Parish Councils representatives will be invited to the planned exhibitions and this will be added to the Workstream Update.

Kirkstanton has been added as an exhibition location with a potential date of 3/9/21 or 18/9/21.

Two new Community Engagement Coordinators will be joining RWM on the 9th August. These appointments are to support with the current workload and their onboarding the plan is the Coordinators will be working alongside the current Community and Engagement Team.

Copeland Borough Council

It was reported that the Council's Executive had recently considered the latest draft of the Community Partnership Agreement and made some recommendations as to what the Council would want to see considered within the Agreement, should a recommendation from the Working Group be forthcoming to establish a Community Partnership sometime in the future

Q - In the paper it says the council would not accept the Community Partnership(s) being Quorum if their representative(s) were not present, this has not been discussed within the Working Group or Workstream?

A - This has still to be reviewed by RWM, this is a statement of the Council's position.

Q - Community Investment Fund is acceptable to the Council, or is this different to the current view?

A - Whatever process is put in place, we want to ensure that this is aligned with the Council priorities.

Q - So can communities outside of the Search Area(s) benefit from the Community Investment Fund?

A - We have always accepted that funding may be spent outside a Search Area(s) as long as it benefits the communities within the Search Area(s).

Minutes

In response to point raised in Agenda Item 1, Community Partnership Membership discussion had been documented in the previous Minutes.

Search Area(s)

An update was requested with regards to the progress of supporting materials to support the identification of a Search Area(s). It was confirmed that RWM have conducted a series of meetings internally with subject matter experts to ensure there is alignment and an understanding of materials required to support the identification of the Search Area(s), at this stage we are not experiencing any resource issues.

Local Government Review

Concern was expressed that proposed changes in local government organizations across Cumbria will create a risk of funding being spent outside of the Search Area(s) on other



priorities if not explicit in the Terms of Reference. It was confirmed there is no intention of funding not being used to the benefit of those Communities within the Search Area(s). The Community Investment Panel will be the key decision maker when allocating funding, Copeland Borough Council are only stating that they wish to see the funding used in line with their priorities. It was confirmed a Community Investment Panel will be made up of members of the Community Partnership, who are reflective of the Search Area(s). This should provide a level of assurance that allocation is likely to be focused on supporting initiatives that benefit the communities within the Search Area(s).

AGENDA 5: FEEDBACK FROM POP UP EVENT

Cleator Moor

Questions raised covering jobs and local economy. Acknowledged low numbers but overall a positive event.

Thwaites

A positive morning, a lot of negative comments but everyone left better informed.

Afternoon challenging due to limited facilitators.

A high number of people arrived at once and the team captured as many questions as possible. Many of the questions were focused on potential impact to house prices around specific locations within the community and there was a negative feel for GDF in general.

Traders Fair Whitehaven

It is understood that Radiation Free Lakeland is planning on attending event.

As a precaution safeguarding measures are being reviewed to ensure the welfare of RWM staff.

Future Popup Events are planned in Egremont, Seascale and Millom where further support is being considered.

There was a discussion around the number of people who should attend a Pop-Up Event as the venues are small and reassurance was given that the numbers will be managed by the team.

Q - Would it be possible for the Working Group members from Copeland Borough Council to engage or provide introductions to Ward Councilors/Reps to attend the events which are in their areas?

A - All the Council can do is circulate the events to the members, we cannot tell members to attend.

Q - Would this be possible for exhibitions planned in September?

A - We can do the same again, Working Group members can attend the exhibitions. Happy to promote amongst our members.

Q - Feedback regarding the Popup Event from a Parish councilor was around the advertising communications, they felt that it could have been better advertised locally and that nothing had appeared in the local Newspaper.



A - A variety of communications were sent out, and this included press releases to the local newspaper group, it was each papers decision to include. Communications were also sent out via CALC.

A - This was also highlighted in the feedback from the Pop-up Events with requests to post on local Facebook pages, attendees were also advised of the planned Mail Drop for the whole of Copeland. An action to check on the Policy regarding this has been agreed.

AGENDA 6: WORKSTREAM UPDATE AND DECISION MAKING

Update on Workstream 3 progress

Reminder that WS3 meetings are now open to all members.

Key Activities

Community Partnership(s) Agreement

A review meeting was held on the 23rd July.

An updated draft document is intended to be circulated by the 5th August and presented to the Working Group on the 12th August. The draft Community Partnership(s) Agreement will then be circulated to Copeland Borough Council before the final draft is returned to the Working Group. The objective is to produce a document which can be signed should a Community Partnership(s) be formed, It is acknowledged that any Community Partnership will have the option to be periodically reviewed the agreement.

Members were asked and agreed to using the term “Community Partnership Interim Membership”

Membership of Community Partnership(s)

There are still a number of complex issues which need to be reviewed in Workstream 3.

A number of key decisions are planned for the 12th August.

However, it is recognized that meeting this date could be challenging.

One key discission is with regards to which prospective Community Partnership(s) members are being invited to join any Community Partnership(s) and the selection process for any non-invited members if required.

Handover Pack

To support the transition of relevant information and decisions it is recognized a “handover pack” is required to support the formation of a Community Partnership(s).

A Handover Pack continues to be populated, this includes a Programme of Activities for any the Community Partnership to consider and RWM are continuing to collate and track this. As there is no fixed process for the termination of the Working Group, it is simply a decision to do so which is recorded in the Minutes.

A Working Group member confirmed that to support progress Workstream 3 meetings will continue to take place out with Working Group meetings.

AGENDA 7: WORKPLAN UPDATE AND REVIEW

A Working Group member provided summary



Forth coming key activities

An overview of outstanding tasks/actions were shared with the Working Group. Key activities are the forth coming exhibitions and the collation of a feedback summary, which is intended to be shared with the Working Group following the exhibitions. On the 27th September the Working Group are planning on completing a review of progress made to date with regards to the Working Group objectives.

Risks to Working Group Progress

One of the key risks which needs to be considered is the recent local Government restructure and formation of a Unitary Authority, as this may influence stakeholder focus.

Any delays in decision making also need to be considered as a risk and a pre review meeting will be scheduled for September (possibly 8th) with the Workstream convenors, prior to the September meeting.

It is however anticipated the Local Government review will have no direct impact to the Working Group. Copeland Borough Council and RWM have been working to create a consistent communication message and this topic.

Working Group members acknowledged the review will have no impact to the Working Group, but it is of interest. From a GDF Siting perspective, any boundary changes would require a review of the Search Area(s), which will influence the areas of consideration. Cllr Moore advised the boundary commission are not carrying out any reviews and the new boundaries will likely be the County Council Electoral Divisions.

Agreed action communication Line to be produced and shared

Chair

Acknowledged there is a series of complex decision making between Copeland Borough Council, RWM and the Working Group. All groups waiting on decisions is something which needs to be avoided to maintain progress. The solution could be that the activities have been broken down between August and September. For example recruitment of Community Partnership(s) interim members is required to launch and time and space to recruit has to be allowed for.

To note, should there be more than one Search Area(s) identified, Community Partnership(s) could have differing launch dates. A Working Group member was opposed to this suggestion due to the complexities of Working Group/Community Partnership transition and no further discussion arose.

No further questions.

Chair thanked Working Group members for their contribution

AGENDA 8: COMMS AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Media Roundup

Articles relating the pop-up events appeared in the following publications:



Cumbria Crack
News & Star
Whitehaven News
Egremont Town Council

Media and Comms Next Steps

July 30th – Piece in Copeland Nuclear Newsletter
Early August – Around the Coombe magazine
Aug 2nd – Press release on the Copeland Exhibitions with revised dates
Aug 11th – Exhibitions print and digital advertising to run for 3 weeks
Aug 16th - Mailshot to all Copeland households
Sep 1st - Exhibitions start

Newsletter

302 Subscribers

Comms Dashboard – June – July

See end of Minutes

Q Press release, town councils have asked to put on website, can additional text be added?

Forthcoming Meetings

Site Stakeholder Group meeting on the 3rd August is a public meeting and the public are invited to ask questions. Both Allerdale and Copeland Working Groups are attending and RWM are presenting on wider Policy work and are first on the Agenda.

No further questions

AGENDA 9: AOB

Options for utilizing zoom as an engagement platform are under reviewed

AGENDA 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12th AUGUST 2021

Ref	Meeting Decision Log	Status
290721		
CWG005	Agreed use Community Partnership(s) interim Membership going forward	



Ref	Meeting Action Log	
CWG001	Amend 150721 Minutes	KA
CWG005	RWM Policy checks on posting to Local Facebook Pages in community engagement	GJ
CWG006	Include items 1 – 6 from the Workstream Action/Decision log to the August Agenda	KA
CWG006	Include items 7 – 14 from the Workstream Action/Decision log to the September Agenda	KA
CWG007	Comms statement around unitary boundaries to be prepared and shared	GT
CWG008	Share Comms and Engagement slide deck with Working Group	GT



Working in Partnership Copeland

Comms Dashboard - July 2021 (23 June – 22 July)

Summary

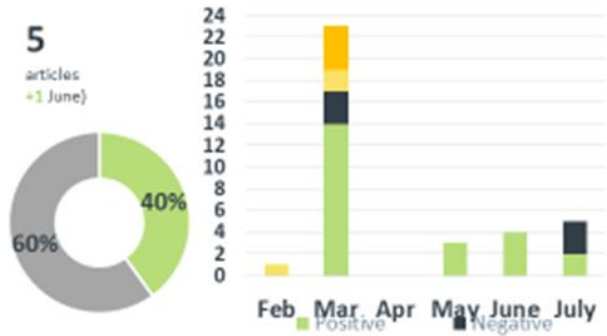
- Website saw 467 unique visits (274 June) of which 418 were new (217 June)
- Virtual Exhibition received 8 unique visits (5 June) of which 8 were new users (3 June)
- Development of walk through exhibitions and direct mail.
- Contact Centre: Case sentiment 25% Negative, 75% Neutral

Metrics

Contact Centre



Media



Social Media



Twitter & Facebook Inbound Sentiment



