

Working in Partnership Copeland
Minutes of the 7th meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership
Held at Thwaites Village Hall - 20 July 2022
Commencing at 6.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Ged McGrath	Chair
Kelly Anderson	NWS Community Engagement Manager (CEM)
Cllr Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council Officer
Cllr Maggie Cummings	Whicham Parish Council
Cllr David Savage	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC)

SUPPORTING ATTENDEES:

Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead
Anne Broome	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Dawn Walker	NWS Secretariat

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Dave Billing	Millom Town Council
Cllr David Savage	Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)

AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Voting members were recorded from each organisation.
- No changes to voting members were identified.
- No Declarations of Interest were received.

AGENDA 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION LOG

Minutes were approved as a true reflection of the meeting.

ACTION LOG 15.06.22

Agenda 2 15062022 1 - Circulate updated CIF policy to Partnership members.
This was sent to the Partnership by the secretariat.

Agenda 3 15062022 1 – Recruitment of new members to be added to the next meeting agenda.

Agenda 3 15062022 2 – CEM to present the various options for membership recruitment.
These items have been added to this meeting, agenda item no 7 for discussion with the members.

Agenda 3 15062022 3 - Stakeholder mapping document to be recirculated to members.

Agenda 4 15062022 1 - Dates of the field work to be confirmed and shared with members

Agenda 5 15062022 1 – Scenario Options Slides to be shared with members

Agenda 8 15062022 1- Regulators meeting agenda to be shared with members

These items have been sent out to the members by the secretariat

Agenda 8 15062022 2- Letter of support from the chair to Theddlethorpe Community Partnership
This was sent to the Chair of the Theddlethorpe CP by the secretariat.

Subgroup – Scoping engagement support and implementation plan, the framework has been confirmed and another meeting will take place in August.

AGENDA 3: CHAIRS UPDATE

Ged McGrath, Chair of South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, Andy Pratt, Chair of Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership and Mary Bradley, Chair of the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership met with Cllr Mark Fryer the Leader of the new Shadow Authority, to welcome him into his new role and discuss the role of Community Partnerships and the GDF siting process. The Chairs of each Partnership are to extend an offer of a non-voting seat on each Partnership. A letter of invitation has been drafted and will be sent with Partnership approval.

Action - The Partnership agreed to extend the offer of a non-voting seat to an appointed member of the shadow local authority.

The CEM informed the Partnership that requests for the Community Partnership agreement and Terms of Reference had been received through the Contact Centre and asked the members if they would be happy for these to be added to the website.

Q -Are the Partnership happy with these being added to the website for public reference.

A- The Partnership decided as they were now six months into the Partnership, they would like to review the agreement and make amends. Once reviewed, the CPA and Terms of Reference will be published on the website.

Action – Recirculate the Community Partnership agreement for review

There was also a misunderstanding in the local community that because a Partnership had formed to discuss the possibility of siting a GDF in South Copeland, that South Copeland was already thought of as a willing community. That is not the case, we are at very early stages of having a conversation, and the local community would have the final say as to whether or not they want a GDF in the area. The members of the Partnership are here to represent their communities and are not necessarily for or against the process.

The Chair thanked the engagement and communications team for the work they had undertaken for the four days of exhibition events in Millom and Haverigg. They noted that it was professional, informative, and well-branded, and those who attended were engaged with experts in geology, siting, and policy. Both events were well attended over the four days. A Partnership member raised a couple of questions they had received in feedback from members of the public.

Q- Why did members of the public have to sign into the events at Haverigg?

A- That was a building procedure for fire regulations. At the venue in Millom this was not the case, so they did not have to sign in.

Q – A member of public was told that when asking questions around siting that South Copeland was the preferred site for the GDF - The CEM assured the member that there is no preferred site, however, they would take that comment back to NWS.

The Chair asked the members to consider the possibility of meetings in public. After a wide discussion it was agreed in principle that meetings would be held in public, but that further consideration was required around meeting protocols and how a new approach would be implemented. The Chair was asked to have a conversation with the Mid Copeland and Allerdale Chairs for consideration of a joint meeting protocol for all three Partnerships.

Action – The Chair to discuss having a joint meeting protocol for public meetings with the Chairs of the other Cumbrian Partnerships.

Action – DM and CC to obtain policy protocol guidance around public meetings and send to the secretariat.

The Chair addressed the concerns that had been raised on social media regarding the marine geophysical survey, the recent protest leaflets and the petition handed into Copeland Borough Council objecting to the Marine geophysical survey.

The CEM informed the Partnership that the Marine Management Organisation have received a pre action letter from Radiation Free Lakeland regarding its role in relation to the permissions required for the marine geophysical surveys.

NWS are committed to environmental protection and have complied with all relevant requirements which relate to the permissions required to carry out the surveys.

There had also been concerns raised that wildlife may be harmed.

The way we've designed the surveys and the technology we use means we won't cause any harmful disruption to marine animals and no long-term harm to the environment. NWS worked closely with the Environmental Regulators, so we have a detailed understanding of the local environment and are in full compliance within the law, guidance, and best practice. An example of this is that a marine mammal observer will be on the boat at all times.

Q – Why have the local communities not been involved in the decision process to undertake these surveys? The community feels both sides of the process has not been openly reported.

A- All the relevant environmental organisations have been consulted with and the relevant permission have been given. There were Marine Geophysical Survey experts at all the community engagement events, they were there to inform the public of the procedure in an open and transparent way. The CEM informed the Partnership that a full update on the Marine Geophysical Survey would be available to them from the Geophysical experts if they wanted one. The members agreed that they would like an update and the secretariat agreed to arrange. A teams meeting invite would be sent out to partnership members. There was a request for the detailed Q&A for Community Partnership members that Mid Copeland has received to also be sent out to South Copeland partnership members.

Action – Share the Q&A with Community Partnership members

Action - Share the Geophysical survey update meeting invite with Partnership members.

The Programme of Activities is currently being worked on and has been shared with the Chair who has asked for some amendments before presenting to the Partnership at the next meeting

A Partnership member suggested that maybe the Partnership we should attend one or more of the local agricultural shows to promote the work of the Partnership rather than just hosting our own engagement events.

Action – CEC to look at CP attendance at a local agricultural show.

AGENDA 4: COMMS UPDATE

The Comms lead informed the Partnership that communications on social media are being monitored and addressed. Those with questions are encouraged to get in touch with the contact centre; however, we have now received approval to reply to comments on social media. In addition, we are currently in the process of compiling community guidelines for communication and commenting on social media which will be posted on our website once these have been approved, as well as guidance for staff and Community Partnership members should they receive online abuse.

Q- How will the comments on social media be replied to? Who will respond? Will they be from a member of the SCCP? There is also the issue that no one ever wins a social media argument.

A- The contact centre and Social Media Manager will be responding. There will be a set of frequently asked questions and responses which the contact centre will issue, but we will also receive new questions which will require a tailored response managed between the contact centre, Social Media Manager and Communications Manager. In certain cases, with some questions, it is better to take the question to an offline discussion.

The Chair addressed concerns around feedback from the contact centre. It was agreed that feedback on the questions and answer flow from the contact centre would be sent to the CP on a weekly basis. The CL and CEM agreed and have already been in discussion with the contact centre. There was a wider discussion around the Contact Centre operation and social value.

Q- Not all people use social media how do we reach those who don't use social media?

A- We cover as many communications channels as we can, including print, flyers through doors, online and offline advertising, print media, website and newsletters.

The Chair noted that the one option for getting in touch, "write to us", had been missed from the advertisements for those who still prefer this method of contact. There was agreement to ensure this was included in future.

Action - The Chair to raise the issue of the call centre/local social value at the next joint Chairs meeting.

Action - CL to feedback to the Partnerships comments/enquiries/social media received by the call centre/comms team.

AGENDA 5: COMMUNITY EVENTS FEEDBACK

The CEC gave feedback on the four Community Events - 2 days at the Tin Chapel in Millom and 2 days at The Lighthouse Centre in Haverigg. Over the 4 days there were 201 attendees. Of the people

attending in Millom, most people stayed for between 40 – 60 mins. In Haverigg approx. 12% of the attendees stayed for over an hour, however most people stayed between 30 mins and 1 hour. Although the attendance numbers may not seem excessive people stayed for a significant amount of time and they were engaged in conversation for most of that time. The attendee split was 59% male and 41% female. The exhibition flowed around the room with a mix of information banners and story boards. People were interested in the information and did take the time to read the banners and they helped to spark discussion with the Subject Matter Experts.

Literature was available to people who attended: Introduction to Geological Disposal; Community Guidance; Site Evaluation; a South Copeland folder containing GDF info sheets; our most recent Newsletter. Additionally, there was eco-friendly merchandise.

Over the 4 days, questions and statements were captured. The most frequently asked questions will be published on our website.

A discussion then took place on how we take Engagement forward whilst working on the Engagement Strategy and Plan.

Action – Each Partnership member to consider further engagement in their community

Action – Would you like us to attend your event added to the website/Facebook

AGENDA 6: MEMBERSHIP

A discussion took place around increasing the membership of the Community Partnership. This was welcomed and the engagement team were asked to pull together a recruitment pack and process prior to the next meeting.

Action – Draft selection criteria for applications with a person specification.

Action – Create a recruitment pack

Action – Prepare a communications campaign

Action – Share the recruitment pack with members prior to the next meeting.

AGENDA 7: AOB

Action - Circulate the information from the banner detailing membership of the Community Partnership.

Action – To Book a stall at the Millom and Broughton Agricultural Show

The Chair thanked the members for their contribution to the meeting.

Next meeting -17th August 2022 – Millom Guide Hall at 6.30pm

Ref 20072022	Meeting Action Log	
Agenda 3 20072022 1	The Partnership agreed to extend the offer of a non-voting seat to an appointed member of the shadow local authority.	Secretariat

Agenda 3 20072022 2	Recirculate the Community Partnership Agreement and TOR for review	Secretariat
Agenda 3 20072022 3	The Chair to discuss having a joint meeting protocol for public meetings with the Chairs of the other Cumbrian Partnerships.	Chair
Agenda 3 20072022 4	DM and CC to obtain policy protocol guidance around public meetings and send to the secretariat.	DM/CC
Agenda 3 20072022 5	Share the Q&A for Community Partnership members	CL
Agenda 3 20072022 6	Share the Geophysical update meeting invite with Partnership members.	Secretariat
Agenda 3 20072022 7	CEC to look at CP attendance at a local agricultural show.	CEC
Agenda 4 20072022 1	The Chair to raise the Contact centre/local Social Value at the next joint Chairs meeting.	Chair
Agenda 4 20072022 2	CL to feedback Partnerships comments to the contact centre/comms team	CL
Agenda 5 20072022 1	Each Partnership member to consider further engagement strategies for their community	ALL
Agenda 5 20072022 2	Would you like us to attend your event added to the website/Facebook	CL
Agenda 6 20072022 1	Drafts election criteria for applications with a person specification.	CEM/CEC
Agenda 6 20072022 2	Create a recruitment pack	CEM/CEC/CL
Agenda 6 20072022 3	Prepare a communications campaign	CL
Agenda 6 20072022 4	Share the recruitment pack with members prior to the next meeting.	Secretariat
Agenda 7 20072022 1	Circulate the information from the banner detailing membership of the Community Partnership.	CEC
Agenda 7 20072022 2	To Book a stall at the Millom and Broughton Agricultural Show	CEC

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