



South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Working in Partnership Copeland

**Minutes of the 12th meeting of the South Copeland Community GDF Partnership
Held at The Guide Hall, Millom – 11th January 2023
Commencing at 6:30pm**

PRESENT:

Cllr Ged McGrath	Chair
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Cllr David Savage	Cumbria District Association of Local Councils (CALC)
Kelly Anderson	NWS Community Engagement Manager
Jonathan Cook	Copeland Borough Council Officer
Cllr Maggie Cumming	Whicham Parish Council
Cllr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Shadow Authority Councillor
Cllr David Billing	Millom Town Council
Cllr Fee Wilson	Copeland Borough Council
Cllr Doug Wilson	Copeland Borough Council
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District

SUPPORTING ATTENDEES:

Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead
Anne Broome	NWS Community Coordinator
Rob Ward	NWS Community Partnership Operations Manager
Dawn Walker	NWS Secretariat
Chris Keenan	NWS Head of Property and Land
Sam King	NWS Head of Siting

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
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AGENDA 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Health and safety information and meeting etiquette was shared
- Community Partnership members introduced themselves
- Voting members were recorded
- No Declarations of Interest were received

AGENDA 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION LOG

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

ACTION LOG

Ref 09112022	Meeting Action Log	
Agenda 2 09112022 1	Hard copies of draft meeting minutes to be made available to members of the public at the next meeting.	Secretariat COMPLETE



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Agenda 2 09112022 2 1	Provide a statement from NWS in the minutes to clarify who owns the public opinion survey data and how it will/won't be used	CEM COMPLETE
Agenda 2 09112022 3	Include a section in the Community Partnership Agreement regarding ownership and use of public opinion survey data	CEM – This will be actioned as part of the CPA yearly review
Agenda 2 09112022 4	Clarify if the Learned Societies include people with international experience.	COMPLETE
Agenda 2 09112022 5	Share the Memorandum of Understanding with CP members	Secretariat COMPLETE
Agenda 3 09112022 1	Members to provide a biography for the website	Members TBC by 8.2.23
Agenda 3 09112022 2	Comms to organise a photo shoot for Partnership members.	CL TBC by 08.02.23
Agenda 6 09112022 1	Arrange a half day workshop in December to review the year and to look ahead to 2023.	Secretariat Cancelled and rearranged on the 11.01.23
Agenda 7 09112022 1	Set up subgroup to discuss name of the CP. (attendees – DS, AB, JC, GM)	Secretariat Completed – Panel decision To review annually
Agenda 10 09112022 1	Property Value Protection (PVP) scheme to be added to the agenda for the January meeting	Secretariat Agenda Item 7 11.01.23

AGENDA3: CHAIRS UPDATE

Community Investment Funding (CIF): The Chair confirmed that the £1 million CIF funding available to the South Copeland community in year 1 had been spent in full across 27 projects. A full update was provided in agenda item 6.

CIF Plaques: The CIF Panel also decided to supply recipients of CIF funding with a plaque to inform users of the facility that funding had been received from the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership. It would not be a condition of the funding to display the plaque, it would be up to the recipient to decide whether they wanted to display it or not.

Name of Community Partnership: A subgroup met on the 09.01.23 to discuss whether the name of the Partnership should be changed to reflect changes in Local Government following Local Government Reorganisation. After discussion, the subgroup found no compelling reasons to change the name of the Partnership but would review this on an annual basis.



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NFLA 2nd Letter & Response: A second letter had been received from Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA). This has been replied to and shared with the Partnership members and will also be added to the website.

Action: Reshare NFLA letter and response with members.

Action: Upload the NFLA letter and response to the SCCP website.

Letter received from Mid Copeland Community Partnership Chair: The Mid Copeland Community Partnership had met to discuss the changes to ward boundaries as a result of Local Government Reorganisation. They agreed to follow government policy and align their Search Area with the revised boundaries. This was in line with the decision made by South Copeland Community Partnership in November. From 1st April, Drigg and Carleton and Irton and Santon Parishes will no longer sit within the boundaries of the Mid Copeland Community Partnership and will move into South Copeland. As Irton and Santon sits wholly within the National Park, it will be represented by the CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) rep. Drigg and Carleton will have a voting seat on the South Copeland Community Partnership and will also be offered a non-voting seat on the Mid Copeland Community Partnership to reflect the fact that they are part of the place based community in Mid Copeland. This position will be reviewed annually.

Action: Letter to be sent to Drigg and Carleton Parish Council inviting them to join the South Copeland Community Partnership from 1st April 2023.

CVS Development Officer: CIF funding had been awarded to CVS (Cumbria Voluntary Service) to fund a Development Officer to work in South Copeland to assist people applying for funding to support projects in the area. They have requested that a member of the Partnership sit on the interview panel.

Outcome: David Savage will represent the Partnership to assist CVS with the interview process.

Joint Chairs Meeting: The Chairs had been taken through the Allerdale Community Partnerships approach to Visioning.

Newsletter: The Chair asked for feedback from Partnership members regarding the newsletter which had been sent to all homes in the Search Area in December. It will continue to be shared across all social media channels.

Bootle Rural Community Project Opening: The Chair of South Copeland Community Partnership will attend the opening ceremony of this CIF funded project w/c 16.01.23

Karen Wheeler Deputy CEO of Nuclear Waste Services: Karen has announced her departure from NWS after three years leading the GDF Programme. In the interim, Corhyn Parr CEO of NWS will cover her duties.

AGENDA 4: PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair opened the meeting up to members of the public for questions:

Q – Regarding the appointment of the CVS officer, are they going to be helping with CIF applications?

A – Yes, they will assist with applications for CIF and any other funding that may be available.

Q – Will the feedback from the workshop that you held this afternoon be available?

A – Yes this will be available at the next meeting



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Q - Did the workshop discuss the possibility of commissioning an independent organisation to look at all the concerns raised by the general public. In December, an email was sent to the Parish Council requesting that this be raised?

A – No this wasn't discussed as part of the workshop but will be discussed as and when the Partnership feel that this work needs to be addressed.

Q – Where were the people situated that took part in the survey?

A – They were demographically split across the whole Search Area.

Q – Where can I access the full report?

A – The full report is available on the South Copeland Community Partnership website.

Q – Can there be a Community Partnership meeting held in the Drigg and Carleton area?

A - Yes, we will ensure that there are meetings in the Drigg and Carleton area.

AGENDA 5: COMMS UPDATE

The Comms Lead updated that the 2nd Community Partnership newsletter had been delivered to every household in the area in December.

A news article was published in December highlighting some of the recipients of the CIF funding complete with photographs. Further news articles surrounding individual CIF projects will be published in due course along with some videos. A new You Tube channel has been launched to house these videos and the group were asked if they had any other suggestions for video content.

A review of the Partnership website has started to make it more accessible for the general public.

A basic facts leaflet will be distributed to all households in the Search Area in February. It will reiterate some basic information about a GDF and the Community Partnership and will explain what the boundary changes will mean for the South Copeland Community Partnership Search Area.

Finally, at the workshop, it was agreed that a subgroup be set up to assist the Comms Lead in dealing with all communications matters rather than taking up time at the main meeting. The Comms Lead would welcome any volunteers who are interested in joining the subgroup.

Q – Will there be a news article on the new members of the Partnership?

A – Yes there will be a news article on all the members of the Partnership, plus a biography and photograph will be added to the website.

AGENDA 6: COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING UPDATE – 1st YEAR REVIEW

The Grants Manager gave Partnership members an overview of the first year of GDF CIF funding including a breakdown of the projects funded, an overview by Parish, confirmation of the CIF priorities and a look ahead to next year:

Breakdown of grants awarded

- Total grant awards – **27 - £1,000,000**
- Total applications received – **37** (includes 3 rejected/4 withdrawn/3 deferred/1 closed)
- Funding criteria split:

Community Wellbeing – 11

Improvements to Build Environment – 10



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- Economic Development - 1
- Economic Development & Community Wellbeing – 1
- Economic Development & Improvement to Natural Environment – 1
- Community Wellbeing & Imp Nat Environment – 1
- Community Wellbeing & Imp Built Environment – 2

Breakdown of projects funded

- Small – under £10,000 – 7
- Medium grants - £10,000 to £50,000 – 16
- Large grants – above £50,000 – 4

Smallest grant awarded - £2,000 – Millom STEM Club

Largest grant awarded - £190,935 – Howgill Family Centre – for a project specific to South Copeland.

Breakdown of awards by Parish

- **Eskdale (2)** - £34,548
- **Muncaster (0)**
- **Bootle (2)** - £43,424
- **Waberthwaite (1)** - £37,240
- **Ulpha (0)**
- **Millom Without (0)**
- **Whicham (3)** - £62,116
- **Millom (14)** - £508,779
- **South Copeland (whole) (4)** - £318,893

Funding Enquires

- 661 funding enquiries to date (total across all CP's)
- 145 South Copeland specific

Pre-Application SouthCop...	116
General Enquiry SouthCo...	29

The Grants Manager then explained to the Partnership that a number of lessons had been learned through the first year of CIF, most importantly:

- Streamlining the application process for grants less than £10,000 – the application form is currently under review and should be available very shortly in a much easier format.
- Publicity surrounding CIF awards, each grant recipient has the right to decline publicity surrounding the grant, it is not a condition of award and therefore each organisation has the right to decide if they wish to partake in publicity.
- Preapplication support is vital to assist with the application process and is tailored to the individual's application.

Looking ahead, the Grants Manager would like to engage with the communities not represented in the awards made to date and is looking at how to be able to offer more face-to-face access to the CIF team.

Q – Are the grants measurable, project budgets spend etc?

A – Yes, they are and these form part of the grant agreement.

Q - Can we have a regular report on grant application activity and how effective the funding has been with each.



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A – Yes, as previously we can get reports on progress, we need to pull together a list of what information you as Partnership would like to know, this would be best addressed by the CIF panel subgroup and then this can be fed back into the Partnership.

NOTE: All CIF awards made by the South Copeland Community Partnership must be specific to South Copeland and benefit the population of the Search Area.

Action: Work with the CIF panel to detail how progress and efficiency of CIF awards are reported to Partnership members.

AGENDA 7: PROPERTY VALUE PROTECTION

Chris Keenan, Head of Property and Land on the GDF programme introduced himself to the Partnership members. He explained that he and his team are responsible for any matters relating to property or land that arise from the communities who are involved in the siting process. This could include working with homeowners, tenants, landowners, and Community Partnership members. The internal team of experienced professionals are supported by independent property consultants, who have access to local knowledge and understand the communities we work within helping to deliver robust, up to date and transparent information.

Chris gave an overview of the key themes that he is hearing from members of the community. These fell under 4 main headings:

- Uncertainty
- Compulsory purchase
- Property searches
- Should we get a valuation?

Uncertainty surrounds everything for a community, especially if the area hasn't been part of a large infrastructure project before.

Compulsory purchase is not a driver in this process, NWS wants to work collaboratively with landowners and avoid the need for compulsory purchase. However, it was noted that this would be some time off and not until a community(s) had been selected.

Independent property market research has been commissioned in the Search Areas. This work has been ongoing for about 12 months looking at the housing market from a national, regional, local and hyperlocal level. The Land Registry is the biggest indicator in this process as it enables us to see any trends in house prices, number of sales etc. We receive this information monthly, so we have up to date information to answer queries at all times.

The Working with Communities Policy commits NWS to work with the Community Partnerships to identify if there are any impacts to the property market and whether a property scheme is required.

Where homeowners, land or property owners have concerns, we are committed to arranging confidential meetings to discuss these.

As further information becomes available it will be shared with the Partnership. The Land & Property team are committed to attending engagement events in the area and to be available for communities throughout the process.



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Q – Will there be a direct route to the Land & Property team?

A - Yes, queries can be addressed to the Call Centre or via the Partnership which will then be directed to the team.

Q – Has there been any demonstrative evidence that the value of property has declined in the Search Area?

A – No, there has been no evidence of a decline in house prices.

Q – Blight hasn't been mentioned and I am aware of two houses in the search area that have lost sales because a GDF is being considered in this area.

A – There are two forms of blight, statutory and generalised, the firm we use has qualitative and quantitative data from the Land Registry about this and the agents we work with have direct contact with local Estate Agents to get factual data of the current market.

Q- What about tenant farmers who rent land, can you commit to speaking to those people?

A – Yes, we are open to having conversations with all members of the community.

Q - Can we clarify for local searches that the proposed GDF facility information is being shared with prospective buyers by the Local Authority?

Action: - Confirm whether the Local Authority is letting prospective buyers know about the GDF process in local searches

Action: Presentation slides to be attached to the minutes

AGENDA 8: AOB/NEXT MEETING

Venue: Kirksanton Village Hall

Date/time 8th February 2023 @ 6.30pm

Ref 11012023	Meeting Action Log	
Agenda 3 11012023 1	Reshare NFLA letter and response with members.	Secretariat
Agenda 3 11012023 2	Upload the NFLA letter and response to the SCCP website.	Secretariat
Agenda 3 11012023 4	Letter to be sent to Drigg and Carleton Parish Council inviting them to join the South Copeland Community Partnership from 1 st April 2023.	CEM/Chair/Secretariat
Agenda 6 11012023 1	Work with the CIF panel to detail how progress and efficiency of CIF awards are reported to Partnership members.	GM/Secretariat
Agenda 7 11012023 1	Confirm whether the Local Authority is letting prospective	CIlr Moore



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	buyers know about the GDF process in local searches	
Agenda 7 11012023 2	Presentation slides to be attached to the minutes	Secretariat