# Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

**Thwaites Village Hall, 12th July 2023 at 6.30pm**

### Present:

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| Cllr Ged McGrath | Chair |
| Cllr David Moore | Cumberland Council |
| Kelly Anderson | Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) |
| David Savage  Carl Carrington  David Billing | Cumbria Association of Local Councils  Millom Without Parish Council  Millom Town Council |
| Maggie Cumming | Whicham Parish Council |
| Kate Willshaw | Friends of the Lake District |
| Bob Kelly | Cumberland Councillor |
| Chris Gigg | Drigg & Carleton Parish Council |
| John Sutton | Sustainable Duddon |

### Supporting Attendees:

Anne Broome NWS Community Engagement Coordinator

Lucy Clarke NWS Communications Lead

**Apologies**

Bob Kelly Cumberland Councillor

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### Agenda:

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| **Meeting Date:** | | 12th July 2023 | | **Time**: | 18.30 - 20.30 | | |
| **Meeting Type:** | | Phone Call | | Virtual/Conference | | In Person | |
| **Location:** | | Thwaites Village Hall | | | | | |
| **Additional Material enclosed?**  *If so, list here* | | | | | | | |
| **Agenda** | | | | | | | |
| **Item No.** | **Time** | | **Description** | | | | **Lead** |
| 1 | 18.30 - 18.35 | | Welcome & Introductions. Declaration of Interest. | | | | Chair |
| 2 | 18.35 - 18.40 | | Approval of minutes/Action Log | | | | Chair |
| 3 | 18.40 - 19.00 | | Chairs Update to include:   * LLWR Tour * Membership Selection Panel * Development Officer (Cumbria, Council for Voluntary Service) | | | | Chair |
| 4 | 19.00 - 19.15 | | Mission Statement | | | | Chair |
| 5 | 19.15 - 19.35 | | Community Forum | | | | Chair/CEM |
| 6 | 19.35 - 20.00 | | Communications & Engagement Subgroup Update | | | | KW/CEO |
| 7 | 20.00 - 20.15 | | Public Forum | | | | All |
| 8 | 20.15- 20.30 | | AOB and Close | | | | Chair |

## Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the public, Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bob Kelly, Cumberland Councillor.

## Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting subject to some amendments that a member had previously sent through.

| **Action Reference:** | **Description:** | **Assigned to:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 140623 1 | Share a copy of the Site Evaluation Roadmap with members | Secretariat |
| 140623 2 | Publish a copy of the Site Evaluation Roadmap on the Community Partnership website once members are happy with it. | Comms Lead |
| 140623 3 | Visit details and LLWR security forms to be emailed to Partnership members. | CEC |
| 140623 4 | The Communications and Engagement subgroup to discuss the work to be carried out by Inspira. | Comms & Eng subgroup |
| 140623 5 | John Sutton to be appointed to the Membership Panel. | Secretariat |
| 140623 6 | The Chair to take an urgent action back to the developer regarding development of the website. | Chair |
| 140623 7 | Communications and Engagement subgroup to consider whether questions and answers into the contact centre should be published on the website. | Comms & Eng subgroup |

The second action was deferred until the next meeting as there hadn’t been time for members to digest all of the information in the roadmap.

There was also a request to plan another visit to LLWR as not all members were able to make the 15th August date.

## Chair’s Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

**LLWR Tour**

The Low Level Waste Repository tour for CP members was going ahead on the 15th August. Those members who wanted to attend had been provided with security forms to fill in.

As requested in the actions, another tour will be arranged later in the year for those who can’t attend on 15th August.

**Membership Selection Panel**

The membership selection panel had met on 10th July to consider 2 applications for membership. As discussions with the applicants haven’t taken place yet, it was inappropriate to say anything further in the CP meeting.

**Development Officer – Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service**

CVS has now appointed a development officer and the Chair had met the successful candidate today. He has only just started in post but is keen to hit the ground running. David Savage had been on the recruitment panel and gave an update on the successful candidate’s credentials.

This post had been funded through Community Investment Funding.

A member asked to see the job description for the post. This isn’t a Partnership appointment, but we will contact CVS to request the job description.

**Action:** Contact CVS to request copy of Development Officers job description.

## Mission Statement

John Sutton took members through the proposed Mission Statement that the Operations subgroup had been working on.

A Mission Statement is regularly used by organisations to give a summary or explanation of what the organisation does. The Operations sub group thought it would be a good idea for the Community Partnership to have a Mission Statement as we need to make it clear what it is we do as not everybody understands.

The draft Mission Statement is set out below:

* *The South Copeland GDF Partnership aims to assist everyone in the local community through the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process, whatever their views.*
* *We will seek out and share relevant information, discuss concerns, and find answers to questions the community has about all aspects of the siting process, including what hosting a GDF could mean. We will work to ensure that whether a GDF is delivered in South Copeland or elsewhere, there will be benefits and a positive legacy for our communities.*

To support the Mission Statement, the subgroup thought it would be helpful to have a secondary document giving more detail about what we are here to do and what we want to achieve.

The members were taken through all of the supporting information and a number of members thanked John for all his work pulling it all together. The Chair then opened to the floor for questions.

**Question**

Will the Mission Statement be tested by the public?

**Answer**

The Chair said that this was the CPs explanation of what they feel they do but asked the members of the public present in the room what they thought of the proposal.

Those in attendance felt that it worked well.

**Question**

Can I challenge the section that says members will take a neutral stance. This is fine for individuals but sometimes the collective that we represent do not have a neutral stance.

**Answer**

That’s a fair challenge and we will look at that section again.

**Question**

Can we add a bullet to say that we can commission independent research.

**Answer**

Yes, we will take that away.

**Action:** Operations subgroup to revisit Mission Statement to add a bullet on commissioning independent research and to look at the neutral stance wording.

## Community Forum

Kate Willshaw, Chair of the Comms and Engagement subgroup took members through the proposed approach to the Community Forum.

* The Forum is planned to take place on 20th September with the venue TBC.
* We will be able to accommodate up to 40 people but if there is more interest we will arrange further dates.
* The Forum will be led by the CP with help from facilitators to take notes.
* The format will be round table discussion with tables of 8-10 people discussing a number of different questions.
* We want it to be a civilised discussion where everyone has an opportunity to have a say.
* Information will go out end of Aug beginning Sept advising people of the event and how to register.

**Question**

How many will there be per year?

**Answer**

This first one is just a pilot and we will review after it has taken place. We would like to have another early in the new year to discuss the Community Impacts Study.

**Question**

Do members of the CP have the experience to run this event?

**Answer**

Yes, a number of individuals on the CP have experience of running these kinds of events.

## Subgroups

**Communications & Engagement**

The Communications and Engagement subgroup met on 6th July 2023. Kate Willshaw, Chair of the Comms and Engagement subgroup took members through the discussions.

**Youth Engagement**

* Presentation given by Deb Naylor (Inspira) with examples of youth engagement in Mid Copeland and Allerdale
* Options were discussed and the subgroup decided they wanted to use a combination of approaches from Mid Copeland and Allerdale
* Inspira asked to contact Millom school to see if they would work with them

**Draft Communications Plan**

* Circulated to members and will be approved at the next subgroup meeting.

**Scope of Community Forum**

* Discussed in previous agenda item.

**Community Impacts Report**

* David Savage, Kate Willshaw and Carl Carrington are pulling together the draft scope of the report.
* It will be a piece of independent academic research.
* We are aiming to have the report ready by end of March 2024.
* The report will include the impacts of boreholes, construction and operations.

**Questions for Website**

* We are in the process of developing the FAQs section of the website.
* New and relevant questions will be posted on the website.
* There will be a six monthly review mechanism.

**Community Engagement Update**

* 15th June – Drop In session Muncaster Parish Hall, Ravenglass
* 20th June – Drop In session Millom Library, Community Hub Millom
* 28th June – Presentation to Millom Pensioners
* 8th July – Chair attended an event at Millom Sea Anglers Association
* 12th July – Drop In session Millom Library, Community Hub Millom

**Community Engagement Forward Look**

* 18th July Come and join us for coffee / cake & a chat at Make Do & Mend 10am – 2pm
* 27th Jul Come and join us for coffee / cake & a chat at Make Do & Mend 10am – 2pm
* 27th July The Lighthouse Centre Atkinson St, Haverigg 3pm – 7pm
* 1st August The Tin Chapel Mainsgate Rd, Millom LA18 5JZ 2pm – 6pm
* 15th August Drigg & Carleton Village Hall, Drigg 4:30pm – 7pm
* 22nd July from 1pm Haverigg v Millom Cricket Match

## Public Forum

15 minutes is allocated on each Partnership meeting agenda for a Public Forum, to enable members of the public to ask questions directly of Community Partnership members.

Responses to any questions submitted in advance of the meeting via the website/contact centre are addressed before opening to the floor.

### Responses to questions submitted in advance:

No questions had been submitted in advance.

**Responses to questions from the public:**

**Question 1:**

Where and when were the seismic surveys carried out?

**Answer:** Last August out in the Irish Sea.

**Comments:**

* People aren’t interested or bothered. You need to take the conversation to them to make them interested.
* It sounds like the process is taking place the wrong way round. They should have found out whether the geology was suitable first.

## AOB

## It was noted that the workshop report was not yet available on the website, though it was recalled that publishing it had been discussed. Similarly, ToRs were not available. In compliance with our stated openness, the workshop report and ToRs for all groups should be published on the website.

## Action: Publish the workshop report and the ToRs of all groups on the website.

There was then a discussion about whether having deputies for members was a good idea when they often don’t have the knowledge to participate. This led on to a discussion about the expectations on members. It was decided that the Operations subgroup should look at this in more detail.

**Action:** Operations Subgroup to look at member expectations and deputies and come back with a recommendation.

Finally the Chair reminded members that this was David Savages final meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership. David is now Chair of the Millom Town Deal and he needs to prioritise his work there.

The Chair thanked David for all of his support and hard work as a member over the last 18 months and the work he’ll continue to do as a member of the Community Investment Fund panel.

## New Actions

| **Action Reference:** | **Description:** | **Assigned to:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 120723 1 | Contact CVS to request copy of Development Officers job description. | Community Engagement Coordinator |
| 120723 2 | Operations subgroup to revisit Mission Statement to add a bullet on commissioning independent research and to look at the neutral stance wording. | Ops subgroup |
| 120723 3 | Check previous minutes to ensure there was an action to put workshop report and subgroup ToR on the website | Community Engagement Coordinator Comms Lead |
| 120723 4 | Operations Subgroup to look at member expectations and deputies and come back with a recommendation. | Ops subgroup |

## Next Meeting

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | 16th August 2023 |
| **Time** | 6.30 – 8.30pm |
| **Venue** | Baptist Church Hall, Millom |