

South Copeland Community Partnership Engagement Plan 2023-24

Revision record

Rev	Date	Description	Owner	Approver
1	28.04.23	Final Version 1	Anne Broome and Kelly Anderson	Communications and Engagement Sub-group (Community Partnership)

1. Introduction

The Copeland GDF Community Partnership was formed in December 2021 as part of Nuclear Waste Services' (NWS) role to find a host community for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The Community Partnership plays a key role in informing and engaging with the local community providing factual information and responding to requests for information.

Its main tasks are:

- To facilitate discussion with the community;
- Identify relevant information that people in the Search Area and Potential Host Community want or need about the process;
- Be the key vehicle for community dialogue with NWS;
- Review and refine the boundaries of the Search Area as NWS's investigations progress;
- Identify priorities for Community Investment Funding;
- Make recommendations to the relevant principal local authorities on the Community Partnership on whether to invoke the Right of Withdrawal and if and when to launch a Test of Public Support;
- Agree a Programme of Activities to develop the community's understanding of the siting process and the potential implications of hosting a GDF;
- Develop a community vision and consider the part a GDF may play in that vision;
- Monitor public opinion in relation to siting a GDF within the Search Area and the Potential Host Community;

This document will focus on South Copeland Community Partnerships Engagement with the Community. A Communications Plan will run adjacent to this document.

This document will be reviewed on an annual basis.

2. Policy requirements

The **Implementing Geological Disposal – Working With Communities** policy, [Implementing geological disposal – working with communities: long term management of higher activity radioactive waste - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) the government's policy framework for managing higher activity radioactive waste through implementing geological disposal, states:

6.51 "The Community Partnership will need to engage with the community over a long period of time. Getting people actively involved on any issue can be challenging and it is possible that vocal minorities can dominate debate. It will therefore be important to open up community participation through a wide number of channels"

6.53 "The CP could also consider engagement through social media, dedicated outreach work with particular groups (e.g., engagement with young people through schools and colleges) and using existing networks to reach out to [people]. It will be important to consider how to address diversity

and accessibility issues so that people within the Search Area or Potential Host Community are not excluded from participating”

3. Membership of the Community Partnership and Communications and Engagement Sub-group

This Engagement Plan is for use by the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, which currently (Sept 23) has membership from:

- South Copeland Community Partnership Chair
- Cumberland Council
- NWS
- Millom Without Parish Council
- Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
- Millom Town Council
- Whicham Parish Council
- Friends of the Lake District
- Sustainable Duddon

Following a workshop in January 2023, an Engagement Sub-group was formed with membership selected from the Community Partnership. This was amended in March 2023 to include Communications. The first meeting of the Communications and Engagement Sub-group took place in April 2023.

The role of the sub-group is to assist in the development and implementation of this Engagement Plan, as well as the Communications Plan.

3. Aims

The aim of this Community Engagement Plan is:

To enable residents and stakeholders across South Copeland to make their own, informed, decision on whether or not they support the development of a Geological Disposal Facility in their area.

To do this, people in the area must receive information in an accurate, balanced and timely manner, in a two-way dialogue where people can ask questions, raise concerns and receive answers about the GDF project to help them understand how it could affect their community.

Our objectives are to:

1. Deliver increased community awareness and understanding of a Geological Disposal Facility, the siting process and role of the Community Partnership (measured via opinion surveys).
2. Understand and respond to community questions and concerns relating to GDF and the siting process and use this to identify what people want or need to know about a GDF.

5. Public Engagement Tools & Methods

There is no simple solution, or a one-size-fits-all approach to identifying an effective engagement method. To be most effective it will be necessary to combine a range of complementary methods. Therefore, the methods of engagement selected by the Community Partnership will vary and depend on the stakeholders with whom they wish to engage with at any one time. It is essential to utilise a range of mechanisms and avenues to facilitate the widest possible participation. Linking to local community development networks and support organisations will be key.

Engagement can be wide-ranging, from a simple presence at a coffee morning, to a Lunch & Learn session with time-poor professionals, through to public exhibition events with Subject Matter Experts and technological aids such as virtual reality.

The list below gives examples of engagement tools and methods which the Community Partnership can consider using:

Ambassadors	Technical Info	Conversation	Social Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person/people who are seen as integral and trusted in the community, who has local knowledge, links, and is based with the local community e.g., postal worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings/technical reports • Exhibits & displays • Presentations • Panels & symposia on particular topics • Film nights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation Café • Community Forum • Interviews • Surveys • Meetings • Contact Centre • Lunch & Learn • Citizens Panel • Workshop • Drop In sessions • Internet Forum • Web conferencing • Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Twitter • LinkedIn • YouTube

6. Stakeholder Analysis

A separate Stakeholder Mapping Document will be linked to this document.

Every member of our community is our audience

It is important to include as many stakeholders as possible in engagement activities, as this will deliver a variety of viewpoints, ensure a robust engagement process, and promote acceptability of

engagement results. However, we do not have to engage with all stakeholder groups at the same time and with the same intensity. Different stakeholders may need to be engaged with in different ways, through different activities, or at different times. Being clear about whom we are engaging with, why and when is essential.

Initial stakeholder mapping suggests there are a number of key audiences that we will need to engage with. We will analyse and update this information every six months.

The list below is not exhaustive and an example that our audience will need different techniques and methods, as previously mentioned one size does not fit all:

- **Grassroots Organisations (Clubs & Groups)**

Residents Associations, Community Centres, Sports Associations, Group Leaders

- **Key Community Members**

Small Business Owners, Social Media Group Owners

- **Seldom Heard Groups / Disengaged**

Specific Groups & Charities, Care Homes, Education / Youth Providers Food Banks, Food Pantry etc

- **Local Authority and Planning Organisations**

Parish Councils, Town Councils, Unitary Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships

- **Businesses & Business Forums – Local and Regional**

Large Scale Employers e.g., HMP Haverigg, Chamber of Commerce etc

A separate Stakeholder Mapping Document will be established separate to this document.

7. Delivery

The following plan outlines planned and proposed activities for 2023/24. The proposal is to carry out:

- One Community Partnership meeting per month
 - Could be preceded by Meet the CP
 - Themed meetings
- One Community Outreach event per month
 - Supporting sports Events
 - Attending coffee mornings
 - Opportunities to speak and present
- One Drop-in style event per month
 - Rotating around the Search Area
 - Permanent venue drop-ins

These events will primarily be about giving consistent information and collecting community questions, views, and concerns to inform larger scale exhibition style events in the Autumn.

Information covered will include:

- What is a GDF?
- Why a GDF?
- Why here?
- Role of the Community Process
- The siting process
- Community Investment Funding

The information provided will also look to answer information requirements identified in local surveys, for example, safety reassurances, environmental protection, transportation of the waste, the local economic impact, and the impact on future generations.

The information provided will need to evolve to meet the requirements of particular stakeholder groups and to reflect the most up to date information from the developer.