

Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

The Lighthouse Centre Haverigg 13th September 2023 at 6.30pm

Present:

Cllr Ged McGrath	Chair
Cllr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Council
Kelly Anderson	Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)
Maggie Cumming	Whicham Parish Council
John Sutton	Sustainable Duddon
Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council

Supporting Attendees:

Anne Broome	NWS Community Engagement Coordinator
Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead
Charlie Rollason	Yonder
Liz Thomas	Principal Nuclear Safety Inspector, Office for Nuclear Regulation
Candida Lean	Nuclear Waste Assessor, Environment Agency
John Davenport	Nuclear Regulation Group, Environment Agency

Apologies

Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
David Billing	Millom Town Council

Agenda

Meeting Date:	13 th September 2023	Time:	18.30 – 20.30
Meeting Type:	Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/>	Virtual/Conference <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Location:	Baptist Church Hall Millom		
Additional Material enclosed? <input type="checkbox"/>			
<i>If so, list here</i>			
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 – 18.55	Chairs Update to include. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland Council Representative • Membership • Changes to Secretariat role • Dates for CP meetings 2024 	Chair
4	18.55 – 19.05	Review of Delivery Plan	Chair / KA
5	19.05 – 19.30	Regulators Update	ONR/EA
6	19.30 – 19.55	Opinion Survey Update	Yonder
7	19.55 – 20.10	Subgroups	KA
8	20.10 - 20.25	Public forum	Chair
9	20.25 - 20.30	AOB	Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the public, Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kate Willshaw, Friends of the Lake District and David Billing, Millom Town Council.

2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

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

Regarding **Action 120723 3 Check previous minutes to ensure there was an action to put workshop report and subgroup ToR on the website** it was noted that only the Overarching Subgroup ToR and the Workshop Reports are on the website not the individual subgroup ToR.

Action: Comms Lead to add Communications & Engagement Subgroup and Operations Subgroup Terms of Reference to website.

It was also noted from the LLWR visit that additional documents had been sent through to the attendees and there was a request to see if these could these be added to the website?

Action: CEM to check if LLWR are happy for these to be added to the website.

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
16.8.23 1	NWS to plan the dates and venues for the Community Partnership meetings from January to June 2024.	Secretariat Complete

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
16.8.23 2	Comms and Engagement subgroup to develop the scope for the Community Forum.	Secretariat Complete

3. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

Cumberland Council Representation

The Chair formally welcomed Councillor Bob Kelly to the Community Partnership. Bob will be the new Cumberland Council representative, replacing Councillor David Moore who has been representing the council on an interim basis since 1st April 2023. The Chair thanked Councillor Moore and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to him on behalf of the Community Partnership.

Action: Letter of thanks to be sent to Councillor Moore.

Membership

The Chair explained that the Membership Selection Panel had met to discuss 2 applications. These would be discussed with the Community Partnership members directly after the meeting.

Changes to Secretariat role

The current secretariat for the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership has now left NWS and going forward the Secretariat role will be a shared resource with Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership. The recruitment process for the revised role has started. The Chair thanked Dawn Walker and wished her well in her new role.

Opening of the Old Laundry, Waberthwaite

The Chair mentioned that he had attended the opening of the Old Laundry at Waberthwaite with the CEM and CEC. The project had been partly funded by Community Investment Funding and the Chair recommended that other Community Partnership members go and have a look and see how the grant funding had been spent.

Finland Visit

The Chair reminded the members that the Community Partnership had been invited to take 3 representatives to Onkalo, Finland to see their GDF and meet the local community. Representatives would include the Chair, the Local Authority representative and one other member. The dates for the visit have now been confirmed as 1 - 4 November 2023. Any member wishing to attend should let the CEM know by the end of the week.

Action: Those interested in attending the Finland visit to let the CEM know by Friday 15th Sept.

Dates for CP meetings 2024

Dates from January – June 24 confirmed.

Date	Venue
17 th Jan 24	Guide Hall- Millom
21 st Feb 24	Drigg & Carleton
20 th March 24	Haverigg
17 th April 24	Baptist Church - Millom
15 th May 24	Kirksanton VH
12 th June 24	The Guide Hall - Millom

There was a request for dates for the rest of the year to be added as well as dates for the subgroups.

Action: Community Engagement Team to add further dates and venues from June – Dec 24 and add subgroup meeting dates for the year ahead.

4. Review of the Delivery Plan

The CEM took the members through the first 2 quarters of the Delivery Plan highlighting the 2 deliverables still outstanding:

Redesign newsletter – due to waiting for the opinion survey results and feedback received at the Community Forum this has been slightly delayed but is on the agenda for the next Comms & Engagement Subgroup meeting in October.

Engage with key stakeholders on Community vision – Visioning work has not started yet, however, an initial conversation will happen at the Community Forum.

Looking ahead to the second half of the year, the CEM mentioned that the Community Impacts Report deliverable may slightly slip and the March target may not be achieved. This was due to Partnership member holidays and illness and the fact that they are volunteers and are giving of their time freely to draft the scope. It was also felt that comments or suggestions from the Community Forum should be added into the draft scope.

There was also discussion around the wording of one of the deliverables which members weren't quite sure what it meant – **Assure the Community that key concerns are fully integrated into the developing process for Community Withdrawal**

The Chair mentioned that conversations around this had already begun in the Chairs group. However, all members felt that wording of this task could be better.

Action: John Sutton to re-word the deliverable to make it more understandable

5. Regulators Update

The Chair introduced Candida Lean and John Davenport from the Environment Agency. They took members through a presentation giving information on:

- The Environment Agency's role as an Environment Regulator
- What they do
- Standards & Expectations
- Priorities
- Stages of Environmental Regulation

They also discussed how the Environment Agency is an independent regulator who will say 'No' if proposals do not meet their regulatory requirements and as Regulators they do not consult with Government when making regulatory decisions.

Liz Thomas from the Office for Nuclear Regulation was then introduced, and she took members through a presentation giving information on:

- The Office for Nuclear Regulations role as a Regulator
- What they do
- What is a Nuclear Site Licence
- Examples of Regulatory controls which might apply throughout the development, operation and closure of a Geological Disposal Facility

It was also stated that both the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation will not be involved in discussions to select a potential site for a GDF. Their regulatory role will start after a site (or sites) has been selected for site investigation. However, prior to this, if requested they will support Working Groups and Community Partnerships by increasing awareness and understanding, explaining their regulatory role and process and providing information and advice on environmental protection.

Q. What are your thoughts on retrievability

A. NWS would have to make a case regarding retrievability.

Q. Can you provide your positions on retrievability after the meeting?

A. Yes

Action: EA and ONR to provide their positions on retrievability.

They mentioned that more information can be found at:

Link to our webpages on geological disposal:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulating-the-geological-disposal-of-radioactive-waste-environmental-protection>

<http://www.onr.org.uk/geodisposal.htm>

Link to our annual scrutiny reports (due late autumn):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geological-disposal-scrutiny-of-rwms-work-annual-reports>

Link to our guides to regulating geological disposal:

<http://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2019/geological-disposal-joint-working.pdf>

<http://www.onr.org.uk/documents/2019/geological-disposal-overview.pdf>

E-mail us at:

nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk

contact@onr.gov.uk

and that members can sign up to their Mailing List

Next Environment Agency ‘meet the regulator’ event (all EA nuclear regulation): 19th October

Register interest using the above email.

Action: Regulators slides to be PDF’d and circulated to all members.

Action: Regulator contact details to be added to the website.

6. Opinion Survey Update

The Chair introduced Charlie Rollason from Yonder who took the members through a presentation on the findings from the latest South Copeland Resident Research.

Between 6 and 14 June 2023, Yonder oversaw a survey of 187 residents (16+) interviewed in person across the wards of Millom and Millom Without. The interviews were conducted by Red Research, on behalf of Yonder. Quotas and weights were employed to ensure a demographically representative sample of the area’s adult (16+) population.

Yonder also conducted ten in depth interviews with residents from across the wards Millom and Millom Without.

Each interview utilised a flexible discussion guide. Interviews were conducted over the phone and lasted approximately 30 minutes and each interview was moderated by an experienced Yonder researcher.

Charlie also gave feedback from the survey which included:

- 57% of people recalled seeing, reading, or hearing something in the past year. Two-in-five (42%) attributed their awareness to a leaflet or newsletter.
- When prompted, two-in-five claimed that they had seen and read the newsletter. Of those, a majority agreed that it was easy to understand and informative.
- Awareness of the Community Partnership and the South Copeland Search Area had decreased since 2022.
- 37% of respondents were aware of the UK’s current storage method, though 35% admitted they were not sure.
- One-in-five (19%) were able to identify the accurate description of a GDF.
- 39% supported a GDF in the South Copeland Search Area, whilst 27% opposed it. One-in-three were neutral. NET support stood at +11.

- Residents primarily wanted information about the approach, the location of the potential site and safety.
- Half wanted to receive information via the post. 15% wanted more information via in-person meetings / events and 14% cited Facebook.
- Participants wanted to receive more information through local events, online forums, postal information, and social media platforms.
- Interviewees emphasised the importance of hearing from experts.
- 2023 data points were consistent across the new revised Search Area and the former Search Area.

There was then an opportunity for members to ask questions:

Q. There is a concern over residents being over-surveyed (sited Canada)

A. The two sets of survey results are very different, so more surveys are needed to get an accurate understanding of the current position in South Copeland

Q. There are a high number of people who don't want information.

A. Only 1 in 5 don't want more information, many people do.

Q. The Local feeling is people want more detailed information on the area.

A. The survey showed most people wanted more generic information.

Q. Could I have a copy of the last survey results?

Action: Previous survey results to be circulated.

Q. How do quotas work?

A. Yonder use a myriad of approaches and must meet quotas for each Parish area.

After discussion it was decided that further surveys were needed prior to the Environmental baseline results, so that findings can be reviewed, an average taken so there is confidence that there is a baseline.

Q. When can the next survey be undertaken?

A. If the next survey was undertaken in November the results would be with the Community Partnership early in the new year.

Action: Next survey to be scheduled for Autumn 2023.

Action: Results of the survey to be released in the same way as the last results.

7. Subgroups

Operations Subgroup

The Operations subgroup has not met since their previous meeting on 3rd August.

Communications and Engagement Subgroup

The Communications and Engagement subgroup met on 7th September and discussed the following:

Community Forum

Advertising: The CEM talked through all the different ways the Community Forum had been advertised. Every avenue for advertising had been used to promote the Forum and the final one was that the Newsletter was due to drop through every letterbox in South Copeland and would have information about how to register for the forum.

CP member roles: Members of the Community Partnership are going to facilitate the discussions (Carl Carrington, John Sutton, Kate Willshaw and Ged McGrath) and Bob Kelly and Maggie Cumming (post meeting) offered their services as facilitators if needed.

How the day will run: The format for the forum will be to have a series of 3 round table discussions facilitated by a member of the Community Partnership. Each table will also have a notetaker capturing the discussion on flip charts which will then be photographed for the report as confirmation of the discussions.

The 3 discussions for the round table aspect of the forum will be:

- **Impacts of a GDF (positive and negative)**
- **The Community Partnership**
- **Community**

A pre meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday for members of the Community Partnership to familiarise themselves with the event.

Action: Invite Maggie Cumming & Bob Kelly to the Community Forum pre meeting.

Communications Update:

- Newsletters are being delivered to every household in the Search Area this week.
- The newsletter format will be discussed at the next Comms & Engagement Subgroup meeting 5th October at Millom Town Council Offices – subsequently reverted back to a Teams Meeting.
- Comms & Engagement Plans are now on the website.
- Quarterly comms update will be provided at the next CP meeting.

Community Engagement Update

The following engagement had taken place since the last Community Partnership meeting:

- 22nd August 10am - 2pm Make New & Mend
- 26th August Millom & Broughton Show
- 4th September 11am – 2pm Kirksanton Village Hall
- 4th September 3pm – 6pm Silecroft Village Hall
- 6th September 3pm – 6pm Thwaites Village Hall
- 13th September 1pm – 16.30pm Millom Library
- 13th September 6.30pm – 8.30pm Community Partnership Meeting, Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg

Community Engagement – Look Forward

The following engagement is planned:

- 20th September 6pm – 8pm Community Forum
- 11th October 6.30pm – 8.30pm Community Partnership Meeting, Guide Hall, Millom
- 6th November time tbc - Soup plus, Kirksanton Village Hall
- 8th November 6.30pm – 8.30pm Community Partnership Meeting, Kirksanton Village Hall
- 16th November 10am - 2pm Make New & Mend
- 24th November 6pm – 8pm Film Night, Beggars Theatre, Millom
- 25th November 2pm – 4pm Film Afternoon, Drigg & Carleton Village Hall
- 28th November 10am - 2pm Make New & Mend
- 13th December 6.30pm – 8.30pm Community Partnership Meeting, Baptist Church, Millom

The CEM stated that due to the low numbers of attendees at Drop-In sessions this method of engagement would need to be reflected on and reviewed by the Comms & Engagement subgroup.

8. 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.

There were no questions submitted in advance.

Questions asked at the meeting:

Q. Will people be moving from table to table at the Community Forum

A. No, each table will cover all 3 topics.

Q. I am disappointed with the questions for registration of the Community Forum. It asks for consent for a photographer to take pictures.

A. We have not asked for a photographer at this event. This is likely to be a generic template they have used; we will make sure the question is removed from the registration process and I can reassure you there will be no photographer at the event.

Action: Ensure any reference to photography is removed from Community Forum registration site.

Q. In Sep 2019 the Working Together video states that Communities will be at the heart of the process. Can you tell me what community they are talking about?

A. This video is from prior to formation of the Community Partnership but I assume it is those that live in the Search Area.

Q. Can NWS and the CP stop this myth that Communities can pull out of this process. National coverage with Simon Hughes and Neil Hyatt was quoted. Cumberland can withdraw, not the community!

A. The wording aligns with the wording from policy although we understand it can be misleading. We will feed this back into NWS.

Action: Communications Lead to feed back to NWS that using the wording ‘communities can withdraw from the process at any time’ is misleading.

Q. I would like to ask some members of the Community Partnership. How do you feel about all of this mis information being given out in your name?

A. All communications are reviewed, commented on and scrutinised by the Community Partnership prior to them being released.

The information that is being released is still very generic and not site specific as results of surveys etc come in we will have more site-specific information,

9. AOB

John Sutton mentioned that he had attended a CoRWM (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management) meeting where Kate Tulley had presented on an Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool.

Action: John to look at the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool and report back to the Operations Subgroup.

No further business was discussed.

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
13.9.23 1	Add Communications & Engagement Subgroup and Operations Subgroup Terms of Reference to website.	Comms Lead
13.9.23 2	Check if LLWR are happy for circulated documents to be added to the website.	CEM / CEC
13.9.23 3	Letter of thanks to be sent to Councillor Moore.	CEM/ Chair
13.9.23 4	Those interested in attending the Finland visit to let the CEM know by Friday 15 th Sept.	All
13.9.23 5	Community Engagement Team to add further dates and venues from June – Dec 24 and add subgroup meeting dates for the year ahead.	CEC
13.9.23 6	Re-word the deliverable ' Assure the Community that key concerns are fully integrated into the developing process for Community Withdrawal ' to make it more understandable.	John Sutton
13.9.23 7	EA and ONR to provide their positions on retrievability.	EA/ONR
13.9.23 8	Regulators slides to be PDF'd and circulated to all members.	CEM / CEC
13.9.23 9	Regulators contact details to be added to the website.	Comms Lead
13.9.23 10	Previous opinion survey results to be circulated to members.	CEC
13.9.23 11	Next opinion survey to be scheduled for Autumn 2023.	Yonder
13.9.23 12	Results of the opinion survey to be released in the same way as the last results.	Comms Lead
13.9.23 13	Invite Maggie Cumming & Bob Kelly to the Community Forum pre meeting.	CEC
13.9.23 14	Ensure any reference to photography is removed from Community Forum registration site.	
13.9.23 15	Communications Lead to feed back to NWS that using the wording 'communities can withdraw from the process at any time' is misleading.	Communications Lead
13.9.23 16	Look at the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool and report back to the Operations Subgroup.	John Sutton

Next Meeting

Date 11th October 2023
Time 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Venue The Guide Hall Millom