

Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

The Guide Hall, Millom 11th October 2023 at 6.30pm

Present:

Ged McGrath	Chair
Cllr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Council
Kelly Anderson	Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)
Maggie Cumming	Whicham Parish Council
John Sutton	Sustainable Duddon
David Billing	Millom Town Council
Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District

Supporting Attendees:

Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead
Helen Conway	NWS Grants Manager
Mike Brophy	NWS Head of Social Impact

Apologies

Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
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Agenda

Meeting Date:	11 th October 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:	Guide Hall, Millom LA18 4DD		
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 - 19.00	Chairs Update to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflections on Community Forum 	Chair

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allerdale Community Partnership December meeting Finland visit Membership 	
4	19.00 - 19.25	CIF Quarterly Report	HC
5	19.25 - 19.50	Communications Quarterly Report	LC
6	19.50 - 20.10	Subgroups Update	CEM
7	20.10 - 20.25	Public Forum	All
8	20.25 - 20.30	AOB and Close	Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the public, Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Chris Gigg of Drigg and Carleton Parish Council.

2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

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

Some members hadn't received the minutes from the September meeting but others confirmed they had been sent to all members on 26th September 2023. The CEM agreed to recirculate them so that everyone had a copy.

Action: CEM to recirculate September minutes to all CP members.

On action 13.9.23 15 John Sutton agreed to draft some wording on community withdrawal for the website.

Action: John Sutton to share proposed wording for the website with Lucy re: community withdrawal

John Sutton had circulated a response on **action 13.9.23 16** to members of the Operations subgroup as requested but agreed to circulate it to all members.

Action: John Sutton to circulate information regarding the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool to all Community Partnership members.

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
13.9.23 1	Add Communications & Engagement Subgroup and Operations Subgroup Terms of Reference to website.	Complete
13.9.23 2	Check if LLWR are happy for circulated documents to be added to the website.	Ongoing

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
13.9.23 3	Letter of thanks to be sent to Councillor Moore.	Complete
13.9.23 4	Those interested in attending the Finland visit to let the CEM know by Friday 15 th Sept.	Complete
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.	Ongoing
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.	Complete
13.9.23 7	EA and ONR to provide their positions on retrievability.	Ongoing
13.9.23 8	Regulators slides to be PDF'd and circulated to all members.	Complete
13.9.23 9	Regulators contact details to be added to the website.	Complete
13.9.23 10	Previous opinion survey results to be circulated to members.	Complete
13.9.23 11	Next opinion survey to be scheduled for Autumn 2023.	Complete
13.9.23 12	Results of the opinion survey to be released in the same way as the last results.	Complete
13.9.23 13	Invite Maggie Cumming & Bob Kelly to the Community Forum pre meeting.	Complete
13.9.23 14	Ensure any reference to photography is removed from Community Forum registration site.	Complete
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.	Complete
13.9.23 16	Look at the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool and report back to the Operations Subgroup.	Complete

3. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

Reflections on Community Forum

The Chair reported that he was very pleased with how the Community Forum had gone and would be keen to repeat it. It had been well attended, there had been useful conversations and the feedback from the public had been excellent.

Members agreed with this sentiment.

Allerdale Community Partnership

The Chair advised members that Allerdale had been withdrawn from the GDF siting process by the developer. All members should have received an email with the full press release attached.

An extract from the press release was included in the slide pack:

“Following a comprehensive and robust evaluation of information it was concluded only a limited volume of suitable rock was identifiable and the geology in the area was unlikely to support a post closure safety case. NWS has therefore taken the decision not to take Allerdale further in the search for a suitable site to host a GDF”.

The Chair stated that he will be watching with interest to see how the withdrawal is handled.

There was a question about whether the Allerdale Community Partnership had now ceased to exist and a request to see the report of the developers’ decision to withdraw Allerdale.

The CEM advised that someone would come along to the November CP meeting to talk in more detail about the Allerdale withdrawal.

December meeting

A proposal was put to the members to make the December Community Partnership meeting a closed workshop rather than a normal meeting. Like last year, this would allow members to focus on their plans for 2024.

The proposal was agreed by the membership and it was asked that the website be updated accordingly to reflect that the meeting in public would now not go ahead.

Action: Comms Lead to update the meetings section of the website to reflect that the December meeting is now not a meeting in public.

Finland visit

The Chair shared that he had recently been made aware that the CP visit to Finland was part of a larger visit including MPs/Government officials. The CP has therefore decided to withdraw from the visit as it could damage the reputation of the CP and show a lack of integrity if they were to be there at the same time as MPs etc.

The CEM confirmed that they had struggled to get a date for the CP visit due to the operational nature of the Onkalo site. Instead of postponing the visit until 2024, NWS were keen to get members to Finland asap and therefore joined the CP visit up with a wider visit.

Members shared their disapproval at the lack of thinking, concern and understanding and questions will be raised with Chris Keenan when he attends the meeting next month.

The members also thought it was regrettable that the other CPs are still going on the trip. The Chair said that this was a matter for each CP but the group took an action to write to the other CP Chairs expressing concern that they were still visiting. There was also a request for a statement to be published on the website. John Sutton agreed to take the actions.

Action: CP to write to other CP Chairs expressing concerns about the visit to Finland.

Action: Statement to be drafted and added to the website about the visit to Finland.

Membership

One applicant had been recommended for co-option to the CP by the membership sub-group. The applicant would represent the business sector and the co-option would be for 1 year. The paperwork had now been shared with all members and the Chair asked if that decision could be ratified or if it required a discussion at the end of the meeting.

The members asked for a discussion at the end of the meeting and the co-option was subsequently approved.

Action: CEM to advise the applicant of the successful outcome of his application and arrange onboarding.

The Chair then asked about how we fill the other unfilled sectors such as farming, youth etc? The CP discussed how the Community Forum would be a good mechanism for recruiting new members. The decision was taken to include this discussion at the December workshop.

Action: Include a membership discussion on the December workshop agenda.

4. CIF quarterly report

The Chair introduced Helen Conway, Grants Manager at NWS.

Helen took the members through an update on Community Investment at the halfway mark of Year 2 and advised that a CIF Year 2 six month review would be made available to Community Partnership members shortly including case studies.

In Year 1 there had been:

- 27 grant awards; 7 small (under £10K), 16 medium (£10K - £50K), 4 large awards (over £50K)
- £1m awarded.
- Smallest grant - £2,000 - Millom STEM Club – Haverigg Environmental Science Project.
- Largest grant - £155,118 - Millom Town Council – St George’s Park Pathways Upgrade.

In Year 2, so far there has been:

- 18 grant awards; 10 small, 5 medium, 3 large grant award.
- Largest award to date – Moore Arts Millom - £328,207 – a three year programme.
- Target Outcomes – 450 young people engaged p/annum, 5 FTE people living locally employed.

The Year 2 projects funded between July and October are:

- Millom Stepping Stones – Baby/Toddler Outdoor Play Area - £10,000
- Shackles Off – Equipment & materials for Youth Club, Millom - £9,995
- Cumbria Community Foundation – Winter Warmth Fund 2023 - £60,000
- Millom Town Council – Redevelopment of Green Space in St. George’s Park - £224,361 * requires NWS CIF Committee approval.
- Millom ParkPlay – One year delivery of Parkplay - £5,000
- Friends Of Eskdale School – Grant variation - £5,363
- Restoring Hardknott Forest – Conservation and Management/Bat Walks - £9,971.87

So far this year there has been a **TOTAL COMMITMENT of £704,648***

A further grant commitment had been made that day taking the total to 19 grant awards and 804k committed this year. The pipeline of projects looks positive so once again it looks like we will be dispersing the full £1M. We will however do a final comms push for applicants to come forward before December.

There was then a discussion and questions from members.

The first discussion related to Cumbria CVS' employment of a development officer and the impact that had had on this process. Members were told to re-ask the question in 6 months once the individual had properly established themselves. It was suggested that there could be a piece in the newsletter in the New Year introducing the Development Officer and the role.

Action: Piece for the newsletter in the New Year about the Development Officer.

There was discussion around reaching the limit on projects needing support. Could we do a programme working with local groups allowing them to tap into their potential and what could be done, increasing their capacity? Should we have a role in approaching people? A CIF panel member confirmed that sustainability is a requirement of all projects funded via CIF.

There was then a discussion about the recipient of one of the larger grants and how the money was split. Was all money given in year 1 or was it split over a number of years? A detailed answer was given regarding how the money was split and an explanation of how projects are monitored was also provided. For this specific project there are objectives they have to meet each year to get the next instalment on an annual basis. All projects are monitored and have to have approved outcomes.

A member raised a concern that the application process was too complicated for small projects and needs to be made simpler. Everyone agreed with this and asked that there was a push for smaller projects to be encouraged to apply. Mike Brophy agreed to look into this.

Action: Mike Brophy to look into simplifying the application process for small grants.

5. Communications quarterly report

The Chair introduced Lucy Clarke, Communications Manager at NWS.

Lucy took the members through a Communications update for the previous quarter (July – September)

Recent activity had included:

- **Communications Plan** finalised and published on the website.
- **Website updated** and improved in terms of functionality and content, including FAQs, what is a GDF page, member introductions etc.
- New process in place for **CP reporting on enquiries/social media responses**
- **2x newsletters** delivered to 5,478 households across South Copeland
 - Search Area change; Delivery Plan; site evaluation studies; CoRWM; international focus – Canada & Sweden; regulating a GFD – Environment Agency & ONR; engagement; new members (environment); aerial surveys.

- **1x leaflet** delivered to households on ways of engaging with the Community Partnership
- **3x press releases:** CIF, events, Community Forum; NWS 2x press releases: Allerdale CP leaving the process, and aerial surveys.
- **Engagement and Community Forum campaign** utilising paid, owned and earned media.
- **Community Research results** published on the website with an explanatory piece from independent research consultant, Yonder, and reaction of the Chair; circulated through communications channels.
- **1x e-bulletin** to 607 subscribers covering much of the above.
- Minimum of **3x social media posts** per week; now sharing in Facebook.

Lucy then updated members on the latest analytics from the website, social media and enquiries. This included information such as how many visitors there had been to our channels, which pages were most popular, how engaged people were with our social media posts and how many contact centre queries had been dealt with.

Finally, there was a forward look at activities being planned for 2024. These currently include:

- 12/10 Community Investment Funding (CIF) press release – encouraging applications before December.
- 24-25/11 Film Talks: Exploring GDF – campaign in advance – leaflet delivered to households; press release; online/print advertising etc.
- Wc 27/11 newsletter delivered to households,
 - The sub-group decided to keep the current format. Improvements: 1. More ‘real’ people and CP views 2. Visually appeal – design and photography
 - Next issue: Introduction from the Chair – Allerdale, what’s in; Community Forum (view of an attendee and CP member); Community Impacts Report; Community Resident Research Results; aerial surveying; siting factors; international focus on France; CIF update
- Early 2024 **Annual Report** delivered to households.
 - Content: Chair’s update & the journey so far – Why GDF, the CP, timeline, new/leaving members; Members’ Approach; Headline Numbers – figures & stats; £2 million CIF (image led); Delivery Plan; Cumberland – reflecting on progress, change in Search Area etc.
- Potential Marine Geophysical Survey update
- Work ongoing re: Digital Safe Spaces following community survey results – sub-group found it valuable – December CP meeting.

Q. Can we get a breakdown of the analytics by age/gender?

A. Yes

There was also discussion around Social Media Channels employed, and how the 18-30 demographic is reached. There was recognition from Parish/Local Authority leads that reaching this demographic can be difficult. It was suggested that this be looked at by the Comms & Engagement Subgroup.

Action: Comms & Engagement Subgroup to look at how we reach the 18-30 demographic.

6. Subgroups

Operations Subgroup

The Operations subgroup had not met.

Communications and Engagement Subgroup

The Communications and Engagement subgroup met on the 5th October and discussed the following:

Reflections on Community Forum:

- Good range of people in the room.
- Response was positive.
- Friendly atmosphere.
- It wasn't what people expected.
- Piece in the newsletter about different peoples' experience.

The Chair of the subgroup also updated on the Community Impacts Report. She was waiting for the outputs from the Community Forum before finalising the scope for the report. Now she has that she is hoping to get it finalised as soon as possible. Due to the importance of incorporating the Community Forum information, it does mean that the final report is likely to be delivered a bit later than specified in the Delivery Plan.

Newsletter:

- Useful discussion about the newsletter.
- Format will remain the same.
- Lucy covered the rest of the discussion in her update.

Annual Report:

- Useful discussion about the CP Annual Report.
- Had a look at the Allerdale 2022 report.
- Lucy covered the rest of the discussion in her update.

Community Engagement – Look Forward

The following engagement is planned:

- 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

7. 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. NWS has confirmed that Allerdale has been withdrawn as a potential host for a GDF due to unsuitable geology. Surely we must be at a point now where NWS can confirm which remaining sites will go through to the borehole stage. We are all a little weary of the delays in making a decision when I am sure you already know whether the geology here is correct. It is so unfair prolonging the uncertainty.
- A. The CEM explained that it wasn't the case that Allerdale leaving meant that 2 of the other 3 sites currently in the process would go through to boreholes. It may be that none of them progress. We are hoping for new communities to be coming online and then it will depend on multiple factors, which sites go through to boreholes. She also explained that a speaker would be coming to the next CP meeting to explain the latest findings from the seismic surveys. The member of the public stressed that surely we must know if the geology is suitable at this stage. The CEM reiterated her point and explained that the seismic surveys aren't the deciding factor, it also needs to take into account whether a GDF can be built in that geology (engineering) and whether a safety case can be made. Disapproval was shared at being told previously that geology underpins everything.
- Q. Are you telling us that we won't know about boreholes until 2026? The questioner then criticised the lack of clarity on timescales and the process – one of the key things that came out of the Community Forum was that the public don't have enough information. We want to know what NWS' plan is.

- A. The CEM clarified that the date for a decision on moving forward to boreholes had always been 2026 and the Comms Lead reported that NWS are working on ways of explaining this and making it much clearer.
- Q. I thought the Delivery Plan was the NWS Delivery Plan?
- A. No it is the Community Partnerships Delivery Plan.
- R. Until everyone has all of the information, community surveys are irrelevant – no one knows how this is really going to impact on them yet.
- Q. The CP doesn't need to answer now but the Theddlethorpe CP has a section in its newsletter for an opposition group to have a say – can we have the same?
- Q. Posters around the community would be good for advertising events.
- Q. Is it true that NWS are saying the GDF could be a visitor centre?
- A. Kelly explained that this had actually been raised by a member of the public at the Community Forum not by NWS. A member of the public suggested it as a way of it potentially benefitting not impacting tourism. It is however true that some GDFs internationally do have visitor centres.

8. AOB

There was a discussion about the Community Partnership response to a Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) letter on the website. It was decided that an updated letter should be sent clarifying the position on community withdrawal. John Sutton took an action to draft the letter.

Action: John to Sutton to draft an updated letter to NFLA on community withdrawal.

A member had heard Professor Claire Corkhill of CoRWM speaking at an event and wondered if she would be willing to come and talk to the CP. The CEM confirmed that CoRWM had been approached to take part in the film talks but that NWS would be happy to contact her on behalf of the CP.

Members then asked if they could be part of the planning for the Film Talks. This was confirmed and the Comms Lead also advised that the events would be Community Partnership branded.

Action: Involve CP members in planning the Film Talk events.

A member informed the CP they were creating a bibliography of alternative links to include on the website.

Finally, there was a discussion about the site evaluation studies. Members were expecting that a couple of the study topics would be ready to present to the CP and asked for an update on those studies e.g. transport, heritage. They are expecting meaningful information at the end of this year/beginning of next but it seems we may have been misinformed. We got set up a year before we needed to be – waiting for NWS to catch up and do the work.

The CEM explained that part of the December workshop would look at what information the CP could expect in 2024 and what frequency of meetings and engagement opportunities they should plan to support that.

No further business was discussed.

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
11.10.23 1	CEM to recirculate September minutes to all CP members.	CEM
11.10.23 2	John Sutton to share proposed wording for the website with Lucy re: community withdrawal.	John Sutton
11.10.23 3	John Sutton to circulate information regarding the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool to all Community Partnership members.	John Sutton
11.10.23 4	Comms Lead to update the meetings section of the website to reflect that the December meeting is now not a meeting in public.	Comms Lead
11.10.23 5	CP to write to other CP Chairs expressing concerns about the visit to Finland.	John Sutton
11.10.23 6	Statement to be drafted and added to the website about the visit to Finland.	John Sutton
11.10.23 7	CEM to advise the applicant of the successful outcome of his application and arrange onboarding.	CEM
11.10.23 8	Include a membership discussion on the December workshop agenda.	CEM
11.10.23 9	Piece for the newsletter in the New Year about the Development Officer.	Comms Lead
11.10.23 10	Mike Brophy to look into simplifying the application process for small grants.	Mike Brophy
11.10.23 11	Comms & Engagement Subgroup to look at how we reach the 18-30 demographic.	Comms & Engagement Subgroup
11.10.23 12	John Sutton to draft an updated letter to NFLA on community withdrawal.	John Sutton
11.10.23.13	Involve CP members in planning the Film Talk events.	CEM

Next Meeting

Date 8th November 2023
Time 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Venue Kirksanton Village Hall