

Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

Kirksanton Village Hall 8th Nov 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
Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council via Teams
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
Bill Amos	Business Sector

Supporting Attendees:

Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead via Teams
Chris Keenan	Interim Siting & Engagement Manager via Teams
Fiona McEvoy	Head of Geosphere Characterisation NWS
Jason Canning	Principal Geosphere Characterisation Geoscientist NWS
Anne Broome	Community Partnership Operations Manager NWS

Apologies

David Billing	Millom Town Council
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Agenda

Meeting Date:	8th November 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:	Kirksanton Village Hall, Kirksanton		
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:	Chair

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIF Priorities • Radio Cumbria • Aerial Surveys • Film Events • Dec Workshop • Resources Update • Feedback from Finland visit 	AP
4	19.00 - 19.20	Allerdale Exit	CK
5	19.20 - 20.00	Seismic Update	FMc
6	20.00 - 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 Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Bill Amos as a new Community Partnership member representing the business sector.

Apologies were received from David Billing of Millom Town Council.

2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

A query about the minutes had been sent in in advance by David Billing. This was discussed by Partnership members and the minutes were subsequently approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
11.10.23 1	Community Engagement Manager to recirculate September minutes to all CP members.	Complete
11.10.23 2	John Sutton to share proposed wording for the website with Lucy re: community withdrawal.	Complete
11.10.23 3	John Sutton to circulate information regarding the Intergenerational Fairness Policy Assessment Tool to all Community Partnership members.	Complete
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.	Complete
11.10.23 5	CP to write to other CP Chairs expressing concerns about the visit to Finland.	Complete

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
11.10.23 6	Statement to be drafted and added to the website about the visit to Finland.	Complete
11.10.23 7	CEM to advise the applicant of the successful outcome of his application and arrange onboarding.	Complete
11.10.23 8	Include a membership discussion on the December workshop agenda.	Ongoing
11.10.23 9	Piece for the newsletter in the New Year about the Development Officer.	Ongoing
11.10.23 10	Mike Brophy to look into simplifying the application process for small grants.	Ongoing
11.10.23 11	Comms & Engagement Subgroup to look at how we reach the 18-30 demographic.	Ongoing
11.10.23 12	John Sutton to draft an updated letter to NFLA on community withdrawal.	Complete
11.10.23.13	Involve CP members in planning the Film Talk events.	Ongoing

3. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

Community Investment Funding priorities:

At the Community Investment Funding panel held on 11th October, there was a discussion about the CIF priorities for 2024/5. The CIF panel proposed to keep the priorities the same but this needs to be ratified by the full Community Partnership membership. This will be done at a future meeting.

A question was asked about the timescales for Action 11.10.23 10 (look into simplifying the application process for small grants). The CEM confirmed there were no timescales but it was agreed the process needed to be simplified to make it more accessible for very small projects.

Radio Cumbria:

The Chair mentioned he had been approached by Radio Cumbria for an interview on Community Investment Funding on the back of a press release. He felt at this particular time it was more appropriate for someone from NWS to carry this out as there were a number of recent NWS communications that the Chair could be asked about that he couldn't answer. Martin Walkingshaw (Chief Operating Officer at NWS) did a pre-recorded piece talking about GDF and CIF funding which was aired. The link to the recording had been circulated to CP members in the weekly communications update.

Aerial Surveys:

Following a number of delays due to adverse weather conditions, equipment technicalities and firing at Eskmeals firing range, the first aerial survey was carried out on 3rd Nov.

Film Events:

The Chair updated everyone on the progress of the Film events reminding them of the times and venues.

The Beggars Theatre 24th Nov Films, Speakers & Questions 6pm – 8pm arrival from 5pm for refreshments & chat to experts & opinion leaders.

Drigg & Carleton Village Hall 25th Nov Films, Speakers & Questions 3pm – 5pm arrival from 2pm for refreshments & chat to experts & opinion leaders.

He mentioned that the speakers and films were being finalised and that flyers would be going through everyone's doors in the Search Area over the next few days.

There was a discussion around the content of the films, the Chair stated that all comments had been fed back to the events team but that members should be mindful that this event is a joint venture and therefore the Community Partnership do not have control over the content of the films. It was decided that this would be made clear during the introduction of both film events.

December Meeting:

The Chair asked if timings could be changed for the 13th Dec workshop. It was agreed that the meeting should start at 5pm.

Action: Send out updated calendar invite for December CP workshop - 5pm – 8pm**Resources:**

Recruitment for a new Secretariat for the Community Partnership was underway. This was to be a shared post with the mid Copeland Community Partnership.

Anne Broome has successfully acquired a 6-month secondment to be Community Partnership Operations Manager for both Mid and South Copeland Community Partnerships.

Finland Visit:

Three representatives from the mid Copeland Community Partnership had recently visited the Onkalo facility in Finland. Councillor Andy Pratt, Chair of the mid Copeland Partnership and one of the attendees delivered a verbal report on the visit.

The attendees had found it to be a very worthwhile visit where they were able to view the Finnish facility and speak with the developer, the workforce and members of the community. Cllr Pratt confirmed that there would be a written report following the visit which would be published on Mid Copeland's website, but he would ensure South Copeland Community Partnership also got sight of the document.

4. Allerdale Exit

The Chair introduced Chris Keenan NWS Interim Head of Siting & Engagement and stated that South Copeland Community Partnership were interested in the Allerdale exit because this would set a precedent for other Community Partnerships that exit in the future.

Chris explained that 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 had therefore taken the decision not to take Allerdale further in the search for a suitable site to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The Community Partnership will continue to exist until March 2024. They held a meeting at the end of October to agree a Programme of Works to wind down their activities and commitments, draft a legacy agreement and share their learning. They will also communicate the exit to the public through events in Maryport & Workington.

There are still issues which need to be bottomed out and so Chris agreed to come to a future Community Partnership meeting to update on progress. He was also asked by members for sight of any report that has been produced on the Allerdale exit. Chris confirmed that we would share that as soon as it was available.

Action: Invite Chris to a future Community Partnership meeting to further discuss the Allerdale exit.

Action: Report on the Allerdale exit to be shared with members once it is available.

Chris was asked about the possibility of new communities coming onboard. He explained that Nuclear Waste Services are continuing to talk to communities and discussions are advancing but open to change, so at the moment there is no update. CP Chairs will be updated if there is any news.

5. Seismic Update

The Chair introduced Fiona McEvoy, Head of Geosphere Characterisation and Jason Canning, Principal Geosphere Characterisation Geoscientist

Fiona & Jason delivered a presentation to the Partnership, providing an update on the inshore Copeland 2D and 3D seismic interpretation project and their work programme. They explained there was a large amount of data available in the wider East Irish Sea basin, that had to be interpreted in stages. They talked about the interpretation schedule and explained that the seismic data is only one part of Site Characterisation evaluation.

Cross sections, derived from the initial seismic interpretation, were presented showing the structure and depths of different rock types in the 3D area. This data has indicated that there is potentially suitable geology within the Copeland inshore area. The NWS Engineering and Safety case teams will now undertake feasibility studies based on this seismic interpretation and other data. These evaluations will include an investigation of the potential volume of host rock. The Engineering and Safety Case teams may well require further site characterisation work to support their feasibility studies.

Sub surface work will continue in parallel with the feasibility studies and will involve a more detailed interpretation of the seismic data and an investigation of the properties of the rocks in the inshore area. These works will continue into Summer 2024. They will update the Partnership after each phase of works.

Other questions included:

Q. Where in the timeline did you get to with Allerdale?

A. With Allerdale NWS undertook an evaluation of the available subsurface data, which included a seismic interpretation study. This work enabled an initial feasibility study of the suitability of the area. Although we had access to a less rich dataset, compared to Copeland, there was sufficient data to assess if the geology was suitable.

Q. How thin does the Mercia Mudstone need to be before it is too thin?

A. The required thickness is difficult to define at this stage. The thickness of potential host rock required is dependent on the specific properties of the rock. Work over the next year is focused on estimating rock properties for the rocks in the Copeland inshore area.

Q. Did you find anything surprising in the results?

A. There were no huge surprises as we did have some legacy data, which was evaluated by NWS prior to acquiring the new 3D data. The biggest surprise was actually the high quality of the new 3D data.

The Community Partnership members were grateful for the presentation and discussed ideas for sharing the information with the wider community. Ideas suggested included recording a video of the presentation and/or having a Community Forum dedicated to presenting the seismic information.

Q. The diagrams confirm that there are faults off the South Copeland coast. What is the potential impact of these on the likelihood of finding geology suitable for hosting a GDF.

A. Faults have been interpreted in the inshore areas. It is possible that any accessways, required to connect a potential surface site to the GDF, may need to cross faulted areas. NWS geologists are describing these faulted areas as part of the ongoing geological evaluation. These fault descriptions will be used in further feasibility studies, to understand the impact on any potential footprint and accessway.

Action: CEM, Fiona & Jason to discuss recording a video of the seismic presentation.

Fiona asked if members would be interested in attending a trip to the British Geological Survey (BGS) if she could arrange it.

The CP members felt this may be a good opportunity to increase their understanding.

Action: Anne Broome to liaise with Fiona to arrange a trip to the British Geological Survey offices near Nottingham.

6. Subgroups

Operations Subgroup

The Operations subgroup had not met.

Communications and Engagement Subgroup

The Communications and Engagement subgroup met on 2nd Nov and the meeting was opened up to all CP members to enable them to discuss the Film Events. The following was discussed:

The Film events:

The events team updated the members on the format of the events, speakers and shared the proposed films for the events.

Community Impacts Report:

The Chair of the subgroup updated on the Community Impacts Report scope and stated it was now in the final stage.

The next thing that needs to happen is a meeting between CP members and members of NWS to finalise the scope.

Action: Kelly Anderson to arrange a meeting for Carl Carrington and Kate Willshaw with NWS colleagues.

Community Engagement – Forward Look

The following engagement is planned:

- 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 and there were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

8. AOB

John Sutton raised that in section 4 of the CoRWM Progress Report dated August 2023 it is stated that "The option of an inshore GDF has recently gained prominence, and each of the Community Partnerships currently favour this option."

There was discussion around the statement, and it was agreed that John Sutton would draft a letter to CoRWM to indicate that this was not the case for South Copeland GDF Community Partnership.

Action: John Sutton to draft a letter to CoRWM

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
08.11.23 1	Send out updated calendar invite for December CP workshop - 5pm – 8pm	Operations Manager
08.11.23 2	Invite Chris to a future Community Partnership meeting to further discuss the Allerdale exit.	Community Engagement Manager
08.11.23 3	Report on the Allerdale exit to be shared with members once it is available.	Community Engagement Manager
08.11.23 4	Kelly Anderson, Fiona & Jason to discuss recording a video of the seismic presentation.	Community Engagement Manager + Geo team
08.11.23 5	Anne Broome to liaise with Fiona to arrange a trip to the British Geological Society.	Operations Manager
08.11.23 6	Kelly Anderson to arrange a meeting for Carl Carrington and Kate Willshaw with NWS colleagues.	Community Engagement Manager
11.10.23 7	John Sutton to draft a letter to CoRWM	John Sutton

Next Meeting

TBC following December meeting.