

# Minutes of The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

The Lighthouse Centre, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 6.30pm

## Present:

Ged McGrath	Chair
David Billing	Millom Town Council
Kelly Anderson	Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)
Maggie Cumming	Whicham Parish Council
Nick Lancaster	Sustainable Duddon
Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Carl Carrington	Millom Without Parish Council
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
CLlr Bob Kelly	Cumberland Council
Bill Amos	Business Sector

## Supporting Attendees:

Jamie Matear	Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO)
Lucy Clarke	NWS Communications Lead
Anne Broome	Operations Manager

## Apologies

John Sutton	Sustainable Duddon
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## Meeting Agenda

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<b>Time:</b>	18.30 - 20.30
<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Phone Call	Virtual/Conference	In Person
<b>Location:</b>	The Lighthouse Centre Haverigg		
<b>Additional Material enclosed?</b>			
<b>Agenda</b>			
<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	18.30 - 18.40	Welcome & Introductions. Declaration of Interest.	Chair
2	18.40 - 18.45	Approval of minutes/Action Log	Chair
3	18.45 - 19.00	Chairs Update to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BGS visit</li> <li>Feedback from Drigg &amp; Carleton Community Forum</li> <li>Chairs event</li> <li>Withdrawal Strategy</li> <li>Subgroup working</li> </ul>	Chair

4	19.00 - 19.30	Presentation from Canadian National Waste Management Organisation (NWMO)	Jamie Matear
5	19.30 -19.45	Comms & Engagement subgroup update including discussion on Community Forum	KW
6	19.45 - 20.00	Operations subgroup update including discussion on Delivery Plan & CPA	GMc
7	20.00 - 20.15	Questions from the public : Opportunity for Public attending to ask questions	
8	20.15	AOB and Close	Chair
	20.15 - 20.30	Membership application	Chair

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Partnership Members and supporting attendees to the meeting, in particular Jamies Matear from NWMO and Nick Lancaster standing in for John Sutton

Apologies were received from John Sutton – Sustainable Duddon

## 2. Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

A query about the minutes had been sent in in advance by John Sutton. This was discussed by Partnership members and the minutes were approved subject to the addition of the text in red.

- **Website update (Kate Willshaw)**

Kate requested that all 4 items that John Sutton had requested in November 2024 be added to the website. This followed a discussion in the C&E Sub Group in which the majority of the members expressed this wish.

- **Website update (Lucy)**

A Task and Finish group had been set up as a subset of the Communications & Engagement Subgroup. Bill Amos, John Sutton and Lucy Clarke are working with an external company, DXW, and NWS, to look at the redevelopment of the Community Partnership website. Up to five Community Partnership volunteers (including John and Bill) can volunteer to participate in the user research stage.

In November-December 2023 a Communications & Engagement Sub-group member, John Sutton, requested that three articles collated and written by him, and a video by Claire Corkhill (CoRWM), were uploaded to the Community Partnership website. This was added to the agenda of the next Sub-group meeting, where it was agreed John’s website proposals would be shared by Lucy with Sub-group members by email for their comments.

There was also an action to develop a procedure for members to request changes/additions to the website, and an action to investigate whether it would be possible to give CP members access to the

website Content Management System (Wordpress) to upload content going forward. In February John had provided a draft providing a process based on majority voting as outlined in the Community Partnership Agreement, but Lucy stated that she felt unanimity was required.

It was explained that at the point of the Community Partnership meeting, these conversations and investigations were ongoing, and opinions on the website proposals were split between Sub-group members. NWS were considering the requests and the views of other members, before making comments as the technical lead on GDF.

John expressed his dissatisfaction and felt he was being censored, and Carl Carrington and Kate Willshaw questioned the time taken. John stated that it was a breach of the Community Partnership Agreement for NWS to veto the request.

NWS explained that procedures must be in place to ensure all Sub-group members can review website proposals, and to ensure suggested uploads are factually accurate to protect the reputation of both the Community Partnership and NWS.

Members were reminded that the Sub-group update provides output from the Sub- group meeting and as this matter is ongoing the Sub-Group will provide an update at the next Community Partnership meeting.

The CEM asked members if they would be happy for future meetings to be recorded to aid with the minute taking. This was agreed subject to the recordings being deleted after the minutes were approved by the Community Partnership.

**Action: Future meetings to be recorded to aid with minute taking.**

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
22.02.24. 1	CEM to confirm when the geology video will be ready for publication and ensure it contains a transcript and subtitles.	CEM Ongoing expected June 24
22.02.24. 2	Members to feedback to the Chair anything they would like him to raise at the joint Chairs meeting.	All Complete
22.02.24. 3	CIF updates to continue on a quarterly basis.	Grants Manager Agreed
22.02.24. 4	Comms Lead to give quarterly Comms update at C&E meeting	Comms Lead Agreed
22.02.24. 5	Comms Lead to continue to send via email weekly comms update	Comms Lead Agreed
22.02.24. 6	Comms Lead to present in person end of year report in December	Comms Lead Agreed
22.02.24 7	Action: Comms Lead to provide a response on repeat visitors to the website query	Comms Lead Ongoing
22.02.24. 8	Circulate the draft Annual Report	Comms Lead Complete

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
22.02.24. 9	Action update and circulate ToR	CET Complete
22.02.24.10	Add paragraph to the CIP members role document re full CP membership approval of CIP panel members.	CET Complete
22.02.24. 11	CEM to get responses to the technical questions submitted to the public forum.	CEM Complete

### 3. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

- **British Geological Survey Visit**

In March, a number of members of the South Copeland Community Partnership had visited the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Nottingham. The Chair said it had been an enlightening and informative visit which had helped members to understand the work carried out by BGS which is independent of the work being carried out by NWS. The members agreed that this trip had been very worthwhile to clarify the amount of work required, contextualise the long timescales and give a clearer view of the process.

Members who hadn't been able to attend asked if there was any information available from the visit that would help to aid their understanding. NWS agreed to contact BGS.

**Action: Contact BGS to ask for some briefing materials on the work they are carrying out for South Copeland.**

- **Drigg & Carleton Community Forum**

A Community Forum had taken place at Drigg & Carleton Village Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The Chair explained this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum that had taken place and that it replicated the Community Forum that was held in Millom in 2023. Although the number of participants was low, there were still some very interesting discussions, many of which were very similar to the ones that had been had at the Millom Community Forum.

The report from the Forum had been circulated to the Community Partnership members and was now on the website.

- **Chairs Meeting**

The Chair mentioned that he had attended a workshop with the other Community Partnership Chairs and some of the senior team from NWS. He had found the day very beneficial and covered off some of the key discussions such as:

- Associated Development and the involvement of neighbouring communities in a ToPs was discussed. He mentioned NWS are continuing to develop ToPs guidance to

assist CPs understanding of the requirements and to support discussions with communities.

- The recently announced National Youth Forum was discussed and the Chair had asked that NWS provide a summary of the intention and scope of the National Youth Forum to aid CPs understanding.

It was suggested that Alison Beard be invited to speak at the next Community Partnership meeting to update on the Youth Forum and to discuss the Framework and methodology used so this could be looked at and replicated specifically for South Copeland.

**Action: Invite Alison Beard to next CP meeting to discuss the National Youth Forum.**

- NWS are going to provide greater clarity on the Development Consent Order (DCO) process to help CPs and communities understand the DCO preparatory work and to clarify that all 3 CPs will be going through the DCO process despite not all going forward to the boreholes stage. The Chair confirmed that the DCO engagement will be different from the engagement currently carried out in the community by the CE Team.
- Visioning was also discussed. NWS are going to provide clarity on the “Ask” for visioning and provide an update on the support available from both NWS and the supply chain to support, develop and facilitate visioning. It was confirmed that visioning at this stage only needs to be high level and it is important that it is right for each community. The Chair gave examples of Sustainable Community, Protecting rural aspects and respecting the areas cultural heritage.  
It was agreed that the Vision needed to take account of Parish Plans however some Parish Plans were dated and help may be needed to help Parishes review their Plans. It was also felt that a Visioning Jury could be considered however the Community Partnership would need support to help with the process of Visioning.

The Chair mentioned that he felt it would be beneficial for members to have a similar event with the Senior Team to share their experiences and learning of being part of a Community Partnership and to raise any concerns. Members agreed with this proposal

**Action: Set up a workshop/meeting between CP members and relevant members of the NWS senior team**

- The Chair mentioned that as a Community Partnership we should consider having a Strategy for Withdrawal from the siting process. It was agreed that as Mid Copeland are in the process of developing their withdrawal strategy, we could use their findings as the basis for developing a South Copeland withdrawal strategy.

**Action: Speak to the Mid Copeland Chair to see if they will share their Withdrawal Strategy once complete.**

## 4. Presentation from Jamie Matear, NWMO

The Chair introduced Jamie Matear from the Canadian National Waste Management Organisation (NWMO).

Jamie gave an update on the DGR (GDF) process in Canada covering:

- Where they are in the process - 14 years into the site selection process with 22 communities entering and 2 municipalities remaining.
- The methods being consulted on for the Test of Public support in both Ignace (Deliberative Democracy) & South Bruce (Referendum)
- The benefits for the unsuccessful communities and the reasons for them being screened out. (mainly due to geological uncertainties).
- The inventory for the DGR

There were a number of questions of clarification including a desire to understand more about the processes in European countries.

**Action: Find out how the siting process for England and Wales compares to the process in other European countries.**

The Chair then allowed an additional short session for the public to ask Questions on the presentation.

Q. Are any of the sites protected?

A. No, conservation areas are not an option and was one of the original criteria.

Q. How were areas nominated in Canada?

A. We sought expressions of interest from Accountable Authorities who then passed a Council resolution to explore the possibility further.

Q. We have carried out our own survey in Whicham and over 70% of residents have agreed they do not want a GDF, would you as the Canadian Developer have withdrawn at this point?

A. No. We have never carried out surveys asking about support, as opinions change over time. As long as the Accountable Authority agrees to be in the process then the communities remain in the process.

Q. We are much more densely populated than Canada.

A. Yes you have 2 challenges - to find an area for the headworks and for the GDF.

Q. In Canada, why would a GDF not be considered underwater and not near a town?

A. Residents had concerns about having a repository below water and so we decided that we would listen to those concerns and not propose any repositories below water.

What we hear from the community members is stigma and property value protection issues are very big issues, so if something was sited nearby then they are worried about the value of cash crops or properties. We do have a Property Value Protection Scheme.

Q. Should it be mentioned in Searches when selling properties that there is a potential site?

A. I don't know what the situation is in the UK so I can't comment but what I will say is that awareness levels in Canada are very high in the communities so everyone knows about the potential repository. What is interesting however is that Property prices have gone up not gone down.

The Chair thanked Jamie and mentioned that if the CP members had any additional questions then they could be fed back to Jamie through Kelly or Anne.

## 5. Feedback from Comms & Engagement subgroup (10<sup>th</sup> April)

### Community Impact Report scope

The scope for the community impact report has been completed and is now in the next stage of readying the document to go out for tender.

Once this goes out to tender then we would expect expressions of interest to be received within 6- 8 weeks.

A member asked if they could see the final scope before publication and it was agreed to circulate the document to members before next CP meeting.

**Action: Circulate Community Impact Report final scope to all CP members.**

### Community Forum going forward

It was agreed at the Comms & Engagement subgroup meeting, that the key issues and concerns raised by the community through events, the contact centre and the resident surveys are pulled together and that these should form the basis of the CPs Comms plan for the year ahead.

It was proposed that this information be interrogated and a list of priority topics pulled together for Community Forum themes. It was agreed that these topics would be shared with the wider Community Partnership members via email for agreement as themes.

It was also agreed that one Community Forum be used as a tool for the Visioning work.

**Action: Share priority topics with CP members after the comms and engagement subgroup**

**Action: Use priority topics to inform the topics of future Community Fora**

**Action: Initially schedule one Community Forum for Visioning**

### Website development Task / Finish group

The website has been updated with two of the documents requested by members plus the Claire Corkhill video. Other documents are still going through the process. It was agreed at the subgroup that the Operations subgroup should work with the CE Team to ensure there is a documented, robust and timely process going forward for getting information on the website.

**As the meeting was over running the Chair brought the public forum forward.**

## 6. Questions from the public

Q. In the Chairs update you had a visit to BGS can any information be shared with the public

A. NWS Geologists are in the process of pulling together a video so we can ask the BGS team to see if they can add to the video. The video from the Geologists will be for the general public and will be on our website and hopefully we should have something to share by June.

Q. Did the Geologists carry out the same tests that made them pull Allerdale out of the process off the coastline from Silecroft to Millom?

A. They didn't do any testing off the coast of Allerdale. They were able to determine that there wasn't a sufficient volume of rock in Allerdale from existing data that they were able to collect and interpret.

Q So is there enough rock volume for the headworks to be at Millom Mains

A. We haven't been looking at the geology on land, we were only looking at the geology off the coast (the inshore geology).

Q. The website and questions to the call centre points people to a lot of the illustrative generic design data on government websites. This is often contradicted by NWS engineers at in person events. Will the new design of the website give us a truer assessment of what the impacts are?

I would like you to be truthful on the website regarding the impacts and look at the local specific area.

A. The Impacts report we are commissioning will help to do that but there will still be some degree of generic information as that is all that currently exists. Localised information is not available yet and you have to remember we are very early in the process so there are voids, the information is often generic. The new website will add value though.

The fact of the matter is that the information is always changing as we find out more so there will always be things that are out of date but we will do our best to keep it up to date.

## 7. Feedback from Operation Subgroups (11<sup>th</sup> April)

**Chair of the subgroup was Kelly Anderson in the absence of John Sutton and Ged McGrath**

The operations subgroup met on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and discussed the following agenda items:

### **Subgroup ToR**

These were agreed by the subgroup and will be published on the website

### **CIP person spec**

- Paper circulated to the CP setting out person spec and application process
- Agreed in principle by the subgroup, this would allow for 2 more members of the CP to apply to become members of the CIP



- Proposal that current members of the CIP consider the applications

The document was accepted by the CP and there was agreement we could move forward with CIP recruitment.

The Chair thanked Chris Gigg for attending the CIP meeting as an observer.

**Action: Send CIP recruitment email to all CP members**

### **Membership person spec**

- Papers have been previously circulated to the CP setting out person spec and application process.
- Agreed in principle by the subgroup
- Proposal that the Operations subgroup is the membership selection panel (Membership panel can only make a recommendation, final decision lies with the full Partnership)

The members agreed but felt the wording on the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet of the final section could be read differently from what is actually intended.

**Action: Add the text 'The Ops subgroup will meet to examine applications and make recommendations to the CP they will also select the interview panel and circulate via email for agreement' to the membership person spec**

### **Membership application**

An application for membership had been received. It was agreed that this should be considered by the Ops subgroup and agreed by email. Next step in the process is to invite the candidate for interview.

### **Delivery plan 2024/5**

This document had previously been circulated and everyone agreed it should be a working document as things would need to be added or amended throughout the year.

It was noted that the Impacts Report has not been carried over from the previous year and needs to be added. The Delivery Plan was approved subject to the Community Impacts Report being added.

**Action: Add Community Impacts report to Delivery Plan and add to the website.**

### **Annual review of Community Partnership Agreement & Declarations of Interest**

- Amended CPA circulated to members

- Minor amendments to change RWM to NWS and Copeland to Cumberland also to replace individuals names with their organisations
- POA ( Delivery Plan would not be attached)
- One paragraph with NWS to update:

11.4 Any relevant Principal Local Authority member will receive financial support from NWS to participate throughout the siting process including as a member of the Community Partnership. The mechanism for the recovery of costs will be subject to an agreement between NWS and the Relevant Principal Local Authority member (the “*Reimbursement Agreement*”).

The amendments were agreed with the proviso of the amended 11.4 paragraph being circulated to the CP members and the terms of office being removed and discussed separately.

**Action: Circulate revised CPA paragraph 11.4 for approval**

**Action: Remove Terms of Office from the CPA and recirculate**

**Action: Terms of Office to be added to a future meeting for discussion**

Finally, the frequency of CP meetings was discussed. It was agreed that the Ops subgroup come up with a proposal regarding the future meeting schedule.

**Action: Ops subgroup to make a recommendation to the Community Partnership regarding future CP meeting schedule.**

## 8. AOB

**Action: Send out Declarations of Interest by email**

Can the date of the next meeting be changed from 12<sup>th</sup> June to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – all agreed.

## New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
17.04.24 1	Future meetings to be recorded to aid with minute taking	CEC
17.04.24 2	Contact BGS to ask for some briefing materials on the work they are carrying out for South Copeland.	CEM
17.04.24 3	Invite Alison Beard to next CP meeting to discuss the National Youth Forum	CEM
17.04.24 4	Set up a workshop/meeting between CP members and relevant members of the NWS senior team	CEM
17.04.24 5	Speak to the Mid Copeland Chair to see if they will share their Withdrawal Strategy once complete.	Chair

<b>Action Reference:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>
17.04.24 6	Find out how the siting process for England and Wales compares to the process in other European countries.	CEM
17.04.24 7	Circulate Community Impact Report final scope to all CP members.	CEM
17.04.24 8	Share priority topics with CP members after the comms and engagement subgroup	CEC
17.04.24 9	Use priority topics to inform the topics of future Community Fora	All
17.04.24 10	Initially schedule one Community Forum for Visioning	CEM
17.04.24 11	Send CIP recruitment email to all CP members	CEC
17.04.24 12	Add the text 'The Ops subgroup will meet to examine applications and make recommendations to the CP they will also select the interview panel and circulate via email for agreement' to the membership person spec	CEC
17.04.24 13	Add Community Impacts report to Delivery Plan and add to the website.	CEC
17.04.24 14	Circulate revised CPA paragraph 11.4 for approval	CEM
17.04.24 15	Remove Terms of Office from the CPA and recirculate	CEC
17.04.24 16	Terms of Office to be added to a future meeting for discussion	CEM
17.04.24 17	Ops subgroup to make a recommendation to the Community Partnership regarding future CP meeting schedule.	Ops subgroup
17.04.24 18	Send out Declarations of Interest by email	CEC
17.04.24 19	Change date of next CP meeting from 12 <sup>th</sup> June to 19 <sup>th</sup> June on website.	CEM

## Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th June 2024

The Baptist Church Hall, Millom 18.30 – 20.20