# Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership

**Millom Baptist Church - 8th March 2023 at 6.30pm**

### Present:

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| Cllr Ged McGrath | Chair |
| Cllr David Moore | Copeland Borough Council |
| Kelly Anderson | Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) |
| Denise Burness | Millom Town Council |
| Maggie Cumming | Whicham Parish Council |
| David Savage | Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) |
| Kate Willshaw | Friends of the Lake District |
| Carl Carrington | Millom Without Parish Council |
| John Sutton | Sustainable Duddon |
| **Supporting Attendees:** |  |
| Lucy Clarke | NWS Communications Lead |
| Anne Broome | NWS Community Engagement Coordinator |
| Dawn Walker | NWS Secretary |
| Jonathan Cook | Copeland Borough Council officer |

Cllr Doug Wilson Copeland Borough Council

Cllr Felicity Wilson Copeland Borough Council

Deborah Naylor Inspira

Chris Keenan NWS Head of Property and Land

### Apologies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cllr Bob Kelly | Cumberland Shadow Councillor |
| David Billing | Millom Town Council |
| Rob Ward | NWS Operations Manager |

### Agenda:

**Meeting Agenda**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Meeting Date:** | | 8th February 2023 | | **Time**: | 18.30 - 20.30 | | |
| **Meeting Type:** | | Phone Call | | Virtual/Conference | | In Person | |
| **Location:** | | Baptist Church Millom, 5 Crown Street, Millom LA18 4AG | | | | | |
| **Additional Material enclosed?**  *If so, list here* | | | | | | | |
| **Agenda** | | | | | | | |
| **Item No.** | **Time** | | **Description** | | | | **Lead** |
| 1 | 18.30 -18.35 | | Welcome & Introductions. Declaration of Interest. | | | | Chair |
| 2 | 18.35 -18.45 | | Approval of minutes/Action Log | | | | Chair |
| 3 | 18.45 -19.00 | | Chairs Update to include:   * NWMO – Canadian Workshop * Workshop Feedback | | | | Chair |
| 4 | 19.00 – 19.15 | | Public Forum:Opportunity for Public attending to ask questions | | | | All |
| 5 | 19.15 -19.45 | | Inspira | | | | DN |
| 6 | 19.45 – 20.15 | | Property and Land | | | | CK |
| 7 | 20.15 -20.30 | | AOB and Close | | | | Chair |

## Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members of the public, Partnership members and supporting attendees to the meeting.

Deborah Naylor from Inspira was introduced to the Community Partnership.

## Approval of Minutes and Review of Action Log

John Sutton noted that a point that he had raised had not been included in the minutes. It is included here for completeness:

Sustainable Duddon had been contacted with regards to a children’s colouring book ‘Colour with GDF’s Heroes’ and asked what the position of the CP was in relation to this book. The meeting attendees confirmed that the publication dated from a time before the creation of the CP and furthermore that the CP does not endorse it and will not use it.

Following this addition, the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

| **It. Action Reference:** | **Description:** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **08022023 1** | DS to email the CEM with details of his property related query for further clarity from NWS Head of Property and Land. | Covered in agenda item six |
| **08022023 1** | Link to policy document to be added to website | Complete |
| **08022023 2** | Communications subgroup to discuss how to deal with references to the host community and related policy wording | Discussed at the 1st Comms subgroup – ongoing |
| **08022023 3** | Member of the public to share information on siting with members of the Partnership. | The member of the public declined to share information and declined a meeting offer with NWS and the Chair of SCCP – however he would be happy to attend a forum with Millom without, Whicham, CALC and the Principal Local Authority. Whicham representative to take this forward |
| **08022023 4** | Communications subgroup to look at how we can publicise the implications of a GDF. | Baseline survey concerns to be addressed by subgroup |
| **08022023 1** | Communications Lead to produce a monthly communication/engagement reach report for social media and website. | Complete |
| **08022023 2** | Share relevant information with Parish Council Clerks for publication on local Parish websites and social media accounts | CALC to share relevant information with the Parishes |
| **0802023 3** | Communications subgroup to consider creating a space within the newsletter for those who have a different point of view to the developer | Ongoing with the Comms subgroup |
| **0802023 4** | Communications subgroup to consider a process for replying to social media comments/questions | Ongoing with Comms subgroup |

**Action - Whicham representative to arrange a meeting between CALC rep, Whicham rep, Millom without rep, RPLA rep and the member of the public.**

## Chair’s Update

The Chair provided an update on the following items:

* A Workshop report has been sent out to members following the workshop on 22nd February. Comments to be returned by 15th March. A follow up workshop will take place on the 22nd March.
* Community Investment funding is continuing to receive applications – three applications were considered at the first meeting and the CP will be updated on this in due course.
* A letter has been sent to Cumberland Authority to formally invite them to nominate their representatives on the Partnership, post 1st April.
* NWS has published a press release regarding the site evaluation desktop studies that have now started, it is also available to view on the website.

After discussion, the Partnership requested that an update be provided by NWS on the site evaluation programme of works.

**Action: Invite the Siting Manager Barnaby Hudson to the next Partnership meeting.**

* NWS have organised a meeting for CP members with Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO) the Canadian developer on 26th April 2023 at Rosehill Theatre. All Cumberland Community Partnerships members have been invited to attend. Questions were welcomed in advance from the members.
* The CP membership selection panel met on 3rd March and discussed options for membership going forward. Two routes for membership were shared with the CP for discussion:
  + Route 1 – Full application process for those applying on behalf of an organisation *(and will therefore be responsible for representing the view(s) of that organisation)*
  + Route 2 – Co-option where the applicant is an individual

These routes would be subject to certain criteria which were shared with the CP.

* During discussion, a member asked that the selection panel bring recommendations for membership or co-opted membership to full Partnership for agreement rather than making the final decision themselves. The selection panel agreed to do this and therefore the Partnership unanimously agreed to the proposal.
* The Chair raised how the CP should operate during the pre-election period. After discussion, it was decided to continue all meetings as planned.
* The Chair reminded members that there would be a few changes from the 1st April when the new Cumberland Authority was formally in place. He thanked those members of the Partnership who would be leaving for their commitment and input to the Partnership over the last fifteen months.

## 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.

### Responses to questions submitted in advance:

Q. Can the Drigg area receive the recently distributed leaflet in early April to ensure its voice is heard and residents have the same information as the rest of the Search Area? This ensures all the Search Area is treated fairly and access to the same information is ensured in the process.

A. Partnership members agreed that this should happen after the 1st April 2023 once Drigg and Carleton become part of the South Copeland search area.

### Questions from members of the public in attendance:

Q. A member of the public asked for clarification if the Partnership could commission an independent review of all the negative implications of hosting a GDF in the area. The Public want an independent view of the negatives and not the Developers.

A. The concerns raised by the public are being reviewed and incorporated in workshop’s which are currently ongoing, once this work is completed it will be fed back through the Partnership meeting.

Q. Why can’t the generic information be shared.

A. The Partnership were not happy sharing generic information and are waiting for the specific information from the desk top studies.

Q. A survey has been completed by Whicham Parish Council with 77% of residents against the dump. Now that we know that, why can’t we stop this process? How do we as the public stop this? What process do we go through? How do we invoke the Right of Withdrawal? We are asking you as the Community partnership to help us with the process.

A. The Local Authority or the Developer are the only people who can withdraw from the process at this point. If south Copeland continue in the process, the public can have their say in the Test of Public Support.

Q. Why can’t we have a Stakeholder Forum that can address some of the questions we would like answered?

A. The Community Partnership is happy to consider this.

## Inspira

Deb Naylor from Inspira spoke to the Partnership about engaging with young people and developing a Youth Strategy.

Q - What age range do Inspira work with ?

A - The ages range is 8 to 24 years

The Partnership found the presentation helpful and wanted time to reflect on how they could best use the skills of Inspira.

## Land and Property Update

Chris Keenan, Head of Property and Land for Nuclear Waste Services gave the Partnership a verbal update on the work the Land and Property team had been doing.

* Local Estate Agents are starting to be engaged to help us understand the local market.
* Approval has been received from government to launch a property scheme later in the summer. Chris will give an update on this to the Partnership at a future meeting.
* The GDF Search Area is not coming up in house searches in the area, but some solicitors are discussing this information with clients. As we engage with local solicitors, we will ensure that they have the correct information to pass across to prospective buyers.
* Frequently Asked Questions are currently being developed to provide answers to the questions that community and Partnership members have.
* There is no intention for any compulsory purchase of land or property.
* Any questions that people have can be emailed to the Community Engagement Manager who will pass across to Chris for inclusion at a future meeting.

Q How would ownership of Parish Council property be dealt with?

## Action – Chris Keenan to confirm how ownership of Parish Council property would be dealt with.

## Subgroups update

**Communications Subgroup – 2nd March**

The Communications Subgroup had its first meeting on 2nd March and discussed election of a Chair and working arrangements.

Election of subgroup Chair:

* Selection of a Chair was postponed until we have clarity on membership following Local Government Reorganisation.

Subgroup working arrangements:

* Meetings will be via teams as and when needed, but usually monthly ahead of the CP meeting with a regular day and time slot.
* Agenda will be driven by actions and discussions arising from the CP meetings.
* Subgroup will function as an advisory group/sounding board for the Communications Lead.

There was a discussion about the work of the Communications Subgroup and Partnership members were keen that the subgroup look again at how to address opposing views and that any decisions they make should be brought back to the full CP for ratification.

**Action - Communications group to re-evaluate how they present the opposing opinions.**

**Action - CP to ratify any decisions made by the comms subgroup**

**Operations and Engagement subgroups**

These subgroups were yet to meet but would both be looking at appointing a Chair and agreeing the scope of work and working arrangements.

The CEM asked if members of the Engagement Subgroup would like a draft Engagement Plan circulated for discussion prior to the subgroup meeting. All members thought this would be a good idea.

**Action - Draft engagement plan to be circulated prior to Engagement Subgroup**

## Any Other Business

The Community Engagement Manager updated the Partnership on a recently launched Government consultation:  
The UK Government and the devolved administrations are proposing a UK-wide policy framework that draws together, in a single point of reference, policies on the management of radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning. This is set out in Part II of the consultation. They are also proposing to amend, update and clarify some of these policies with the aim

of driving improvements in nuclear decommissioning and clean-up programmes and the management of radioactive materials, and the waste they generate. These are set out here in Part I of the consultation

## [Part I: UK policy proposals for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1139242/part_I_policy_proposals_managing_radioactive_substances_and_nuclear_decommissioning.pdf)

A Member of the public had also sent a question in relating to the policy consultation as follows:

Q. On 1st March the Government issued a consultation paper called Managing  
Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning. The consultation closes on 24 May ‘twenty-three. There is specific reference to site characterisation of NDA property in Drigg in relation to the disposal of ILW and from 1 April 2023 Drigg and Carleton parish will be in the south Copeland GDF partnership area. I would appreciate it, as a Drigg resident if the partnership would consider forming a view on the proposals, placing the consultation on the agenda for a meeting in April and subsequently responding to the consultation.”

“Personally, I’m disappointed that this paper is proposing that, while a GDF for HAW is a nationally significant project, an NSF should not be.”

A – The Partnership agreed to request a presentation on the policy consultation and following that they will decide if a response is required.

**Action – Share the link to the Government policy consultation with members (see above link)**

## New Actions

| **Action Reference:** | **Description:** | **Assigned to:** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 080323 1 | Whicham representative to arrange a meeting between CALC rep, Whicham rep, Millom without rep, RPLA rep and the member of the public. | MC |
| 080323 2 | Invite the Siting Manager Barnaby Hudson to the next Partnership meeting | Agenda item 16.05.23 |
| 080323 3 | Communications group to re-evaluate how they present the opposing opinions. | CL |
| 080323 4 | CP to ratify any decisions made by the Comms Subgroup | CL |
| 080323 5 | Draft Engagement Plan to be circulated prior to Engagement Subgroup | AB |
| 080323 6 | Chris Keenan to confirm how ownership of Parish Council property would be dealt with. | CK |
| 080323 7 1 | Share the link to the government policy consultation document | Secretariat to include in minutes |
| 080323 7 2 | DESNZ policy consultation | Agenda 5  19.04.23 |

## Next Meeting

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | 19TH April 2023 |
| **Time** | 18.30 - 20.30 |
| **Venue** | Lighthouse Centre, Haverigg |