

Minutes of The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership
Microsoft Teams
Thursday 9 October 2025 at 6pm
Present:

Amy Shelton	NWS, Principal Community Engagement Manager
Andy Pratt	CALC
David Savage	Millom Without Parish Council
Chris Gigg	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council
Ben Daniels	Individual

Supporting Attendees:

Kelly Anderson	NWS, Community Engagement Manager
Anne Broome	NWS, Community Operations Manager
Lynne Purbrick	NWS, Community Engagement Coordinator
Lucy Clarke	NWS, Regional Communications Manager
Jason Flynn	NWS, Grants Manager
Mike Brophy	NWS, Head of Social Impact
Owen Thomas	Yonder
Flora French	Yonder

Meeting Date:		09/10/2025	Time:	18:00 – 19:30
Meeting Type:		On-line, MS Teams		
Location:		N/A		
Additional Material enclosed: Yes				
Agenda				
Item	Time	Papers	Description	Lead
1	18:00		Welcome, Introductions & Declarations of Interest	Chair
2			NWS Update	Amy Shelton
3			Chairs Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Membership updateApproval of Delivery PlanPublic participation	Andy Pratt
4			Yonder survey results	Yonder
5			Community Investment Funding	Jason Flynn
6			AOB/Date of next meeting	Chair
7	19:30		Close	Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Partnership Members and supporting attendees to the meeting.
There were apologies from Bob Kelly and Jonathan Cook.
No Declarations of Interest were recorded.
Previous minutes from the meetings held on 02/09/2025 were approved.

Previous Actions: Meeting (02092025)

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
04092026	Community Partnership Assistant to forward website link to Jonathan Cook Complete	Community Partnership Assistant

2. NWS Update – from Amy Shelton, Principal Engagement Manager at NWS

Community Visioning

At the Nuclear Issues Board in September, Simon Hughes and Amy Shelton presented an update on both South and Mid Copeland's Community Visions. Cumberland Council noted the Community Visions developed by the South and Mid Copeland Community Partnerships; acknowledged their alignment with Cumberland Council's strategic priorities; and recognised these visions as the foundation for future development of a potential Significant Additional Investment package.

Aerial Surveys / Wintering Bird Surveys

The final Copeland Aerial survey took place on 22 September. The first Wintering Bird Survey took place 9-11 September covering the northern vantage points of the survey area, and the southern vantage points were completed 23-25 September following an adjustment due to the weather. October's Wintering Bird Surveys are scheduled to take place 7-9 October for the southern vantage points, and 21-23 October for the northern vantage points.

Community Impacts Case Studies Report

The tender for the Community Impacts Case Studies Report was sent out on behalf of the Community Partnership at the end of September. Responses are expected by the end of October, with the tendering process expected to conclude by the end of 2025. Work can then hopefully commence in early 2026, and subject to confirmation of timescales, the study is anticipated to take approximately six months to complete. We'll keep you updated, and it would be good if the Community Partnership could look at communications and engagement on this soon.

Regulators' GDF Report

The Environment Agency (EA) and Office for Nuclear Regulations (ONR) annual regulators' GDF scrutiny report is due to be published imminently. Their next 'Meet the regulators' online meeting takes place in November where they will be discussing the report – if you would like to attend, the details of how to register are in the latest communications update sent by email last Friday. The regulators' continue to be a resource the Community Partnership can call on if they would like to hear more about their work or involve them in community engagement.

Site Evaluation

As mentioned at our last meeting, over the next few months, NWS will be focusing on the six Siting Factors in our social media posts. As a reminder. The six Siting Factors are safety and security, community, environment, engineering feasibility, transport and value for money and it is against these factors that we will assess site suitability. We started with a focus on environment in September, and transport will be the next focus in October. We're taking a closer look at one siting factor a time to help understanding of the crucial role Site Evaluation plays in the siting process.

Helpdesk/Social Media

Helpdesk enquiries this month included a questions and comments about public participation at the Community Partnership meetings, NWS' Wintering Bird Surveys and questions about the safety blog. Social media themes included community benefits and impacts, public participation in Community Partnership meetings, the property market and Property Value Protection scheme and the Community Impacts Case Study Report. Please follow the Community Partnership's social media channels to keep up-to-date.

Haverigg Prison engagement

We have attended two events at Haverigg Prison in September. The first one was a drop-in event for staff which attracted 25 people. There were some really good conversations with the main topics being CIF, GDF timeline and myth busting. The second event was Green Futures Day which was a chance to engage with prisoners about future employment opportunities. We used it as an opportunity to raise awareness of GDF, Areas of Focus, as well as the benefits the project could bring. While at the prison we had a positive conversation with the Governor about several things including the Community Partnership. The Governor was very interested in the Community Partnership and whether there was an opportunity for a member of his staff to join. Obviously, this would be a decision for members, but we have asked them to send through a prospective candidate with a description of what they could bring to the Partnership for your consideration.

Community Engagement

The first attendance at Eskdale Show on the 27 September went very well. We spoke to 201 people which was an excellent outcome and the sentiment was very positive.

We have hosted 3 of the 5 planned drop ins so far. Attendance has been low but it's good to show that the Community Partnership are out there. The listings are on the website; social ads are running; and posters are up in several locations. The next one is at the Tin Chapel in Millom on Wednesday 14 October 1-3pm followed by Drigg Village Hall 22 Oct 4-6pm and Millom Baptist Church 5 November ahead of the Community Partnership meeting in public.

Thanks to Andy Pratt, Bob Kelly and Chris Gigg who have attended the drop ins so far.

3. Chairs Update

The Chair mentioned HMP Haveriggs interest in joining the Partnership and will follow up to see who they might want to put forward. He has also been contacted by an individual from Millom who has expressed an interest in joining. Partnership members agreed that the Chair could explore this opportunity further, and the Chair will set up a meeting with himself, Amy and the prospective candidate to discuss things in more detail.

ACTION: Chair to set up a meeting for him, Amy Shelton and prospective CP candidate.

The Chair had also received an email from Millom Town Council (MTC) with a formal request to rejoin the Partnership following a vote at the council meeting on the 24/09/25. MTC Chair Ray Williamson would be the candidate put forward if successful. Dave Savage prompted a discussion about the principle of members coming in and out of the partnership. Kelly Anderson explained that in the past, if a Parish needed to leave the Partnership for whatever reason, the seat would be held open for them. If we are consistent with that approach, it should be fair for all. All agreed that we will write to MTC and supply a briefing to get Ray up to speed. Dave Savage requested that if a brief is being sent to MTC, it should be shared around all the Parishes.

The Chair then brought up the Community Partnership Delivery Plan which had been shared at the September meeting. There had been an action for members to send any comments or amendments to the Community Engagement Team. Nothing had been received so the Chair asked the members to approve the document. All members agreed.

ACTION: Final version of Delivery Plan to be circulated to all members.

The next item discussed was public participation at in person Community Partnership meetings. Some objections had been raised locally around the lack of opportunity to speak. The Chair proposed putting the public forum back on the agenda and this was agreed. After discussion, the Partnership agreed to put the public participation item near the beginning of the agenda rather than having to wait until the end of the meeting.

The conversation moved on to a discussion about the frequency of Community Partnership meetings. We currently alternate between monthly face-to-face meetings and online workshops but it was agreed to change to bi-monthly face-to-face public meetings starting in February 2026. If online workshops are required, they can be put in on an ad-hoc basis.

ACTION: Provisional 2026 CP dates to be circulated to members.

Finally, the Chair asked if members would welcome a discussion about the Community Partnership Agreement (CPA). There have been several versions during the GDF lifespan and the various Community Partnerships past and present all had slightly different versions. Members supported the ask to revisit the CPA, but felt that there shouldn't necessarily be a one size fits all approach as each area has its differences.

ACTION: Amy Shelton to provide an updated CPA document for discussion at the next meeting

4. Yonder Survey Results

The Chair welcomed Owen and Flora from Yonder to the meeting to provide feedback on the latest batch of Yonder survey results for South Copeland. They reported back on the two surveys that had taken place in 2025 (March 2025 and July 2025), focusing mainly on the latest round.

201 interviews had been conducted in Millom and Millom Without during the July 2025 survey which was consistent with 2024. They explained that individual data points do have a +/-7 margin for error and that all samples are representative in terms of gender, age groups etc.

A summary of the findings will be published immediately after the meeting.

Questions to Yonder:

Q. You said that a lot of people don't want any information about GDF, how does this compare to other industries/organisations you deal with?

A. It is absolutely not unusual for people to not want to engage.

Q. When is the next scheduled survey?

A. Timing and frequency of 2026 surveys are to be confirmed.

Amy Shelton talked about the importance of turning data into action. Understanding the demographics and driving the engagement forward appropriately. The CP is vital in this role, helping to facilitate potential engagements going forward.

Lucy Clarke talked about how the survey will be publicised. This will follow the usual approach of a piece on the website including a quote from the Chair. Lucy will send out the information for review after the meeting.

ACTION: Lucy to circulate proposed survey publicity to members and publish on the website.

5. Community Investment Funding

The Chair introduced Jason Flynn, Grants Manager at NWS to talk about CIF progress so far.

The purpose of the discussion was for the Partnership to think about a future strategy for Community Investment Funding in the South Copeland Search Area. Jason reminded the members about the overarching criteria for Community Investment Funding:

- Improvement to community wellbeing
- Enhancing the natural and/or built environment and
- Developing the economy

The CP been able to allocate the £1m funding available per year every year since launch and for 2025 (year 4) we are almost there, with applications remaining strong.

Jason talked about the demographics of the search area and how this could potentially affect the CIF requirements. By agreeing a strategy, this would allow us to work with local stakeholders to benefit the local community. The CP have an opportunity to decide how they want to frame the funding going forward.

There was a detailed discussion about how easy/difficult it would be to implement a strategy because we can only really fund what comes forward to the panel. Having an approach that is too structured could limit us and stop people applying.

Some felt there was a need to look at local economy needs. What are the needs? Needs to be assessed against demand and linked with other funders in the area.

There was also a suggestion to look seriously at commissioning work and being more proactive.

It was decided that it was clearly too big a problem to solve in one meeting and given that we would shortly be moving into funding year 5, we needed to take the time to get it right.

It was agreed that in the first instance the CIF panel would discuss the emerging strategy after its next panel meeting. Jason would also look to have 1 to 1 discussions with CP members to discuss their views individually.

6. AOB/Date of next meeting

Wednesday 5 November 2025 – Millom Baptist Church – 18:00 – 19:30
Public Drop-in precedes the above meeting. Same venue, 16:00 – 18:00

New Actions

Action Reference:	Description:	Assigned to:
09102025.01	Chair to set up a meeting for him, Amy Shelton and prospective CP candidate	Andy Pratt
09102025.02	Final version of Delivery Plan to be circulated to all members	Jodie Dougherty
09102025.03	2026 SCCP dates to be circulated to members	Jodie Dougherty
09102025.04	PCEM to review the CPA and provide any proposed updates for discussion at the next meeting	Amy Shelton
09102025.05	Lucy to circulate proposed survey publicity to members and publish on the website.	Lucy Clarke
09102025.06	CIF strategy to be discussed at CIF panel and take back to SCCP to discuss.	Andy Pratt