



**South Copeland GDF
Community Partnership**

Update Report 2025

The South Copeland GDF Community Partnership was established in December 2021 to continue discussions with local people about the potential siting of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for the UK's most hazardous radioactive waste. Our role is to support the community throughout the GDF process, whatever individual views may be, by acting as a link between the community and the GDF developer, NWS; sharing information, addressing concerns and helping to answer questions. The Partnership delivers engagement activities, awards Community Investment Funding (CIF), and supports the development of a Community Vision. This snapshot highlights our work in 2025.

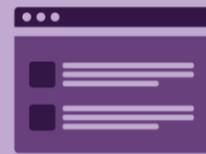
The year in numbers:



82
helpdesk enquiries



£1M
Community Investment
Funding awarded to
local projects
£4M
awarded since 2022



14
news articles added
to the website



3 newsletters
and 1 leaflet
delivered to
5,478
households



7,285
visits to the Community
Partnership website



3
e-bulletins
sent to
581
subscribers



500
comments on social media



557
Community Vision
responses



64
drop-ins, local
events and shows
attended

Highlights

By Andy Pratt, Community Partnership Chair

I would like to thank everyone in the community for their continued involvement over the last year. Hearing a wide range of views, along with the thoughtful questions asked, has been extremely useful in shaping our work, and providing feedback to NWS, the GDF developer.

Engagement & Events

The Partnership has hosted or attended 64 events, having over 1,800 conversations. These sessions focused on explaining a GDF and what it could mean. Events included Community Partnership drop-ins, shows such as Millom & Broughton Show, and attending community groups.

Community Investment Funding

In the last year, £1 million has been awarded to projects across the South Copeland Search Area. This brings the total investment over four years to £4 million. These funds have supported a wide range of initiatives, enhancing facilities and improving services for local people.



Community Vision

Good progress has been made on developing a Community Vision, with strong interest and participation from residents. In our two postal and online surveys, people shared what they value about the area and what they would like to see improved. The Vision will continue to develop as more views are collected.

Communications

We use a range of communications to keep residents informed, including printed newsletters delivered to homes, social media updates and regular website content. This year we also saw the redevelopment of the Community Partnership website – providing more information in a clearer way.



Understanding your views

In 2025, two community surveys gathered views on GDF. In the latest survey, 81% recalled seeing, reading, or hearing something about geological disposal, and we gained insights into what the community would like information on and how they want to receive it, helping to inform our engagement.

Helpdesk

Managed by NWS

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