



Working in Partnership Copeland

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Copeland GDF Working Group

Held at MS Teams
On 11th March 2021
Commencing at 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Mark Cullinan	Independent Chair
Nick Gardham	Independent Facilitator
Andy Ross	Genr8 North Ltd
Gary Bullivant	Irtton Hall Ltd
David Faulkner	Private Resident
Cllr David Moore	Copeland Borough Council, Councillor & Nuclear Portfolio Holder
Steve Smith	Copeland Borough Council, Nuclear Projects Manager
Chris Shaw	Copeland District Association of Local Councils, Liaison Officer
Gillian Johnston	RWM Community Engagement Manager
Claire Dobson	RWM Copeland Community Coordinator
Barnaby Hudson	RWM Siting Manager
Gillian Thorne	RWM Working Group Communication Lead
Karen Agnew	RWM Secretariat Copeland Working Group
Pat Graham	Chief Executive, Copeland Borough Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Wilkinson	RWM Project Manager
Bruce Cairns	RWM Chief Policy Advisor
Jane Ivey	RWM Freedom of Information Manager
Serfie Gunal	Traverse, Independent evaluator for RWM
Steve Reece	RWM Head of Site Evaluation
Kathryn Jones	Arvato, Contact Centre (meeting minutes taker)
Rhian Bellamy	Arvato, Contact Centre (meeting minutes taker)

APOLOGIES

- Apologies were received from Mark Walker, Genr8 North and Rob Ward, Copeland Borough Council.

AGENDA ITEM 2: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA 1: IDENTIFY VOTING MEMBER OF THE Working Group. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- The Chair requested that it be recorded in the minutes that the voting members of the working group have been identified and asked that for future meeting, if there is any change to voting members, he should be notified at the beginning of each meeting.
- The Chair asked the members attending if they have a conflict of interests relating to today's meeting.
- A member of the Working Group raised a potential conflict of interest involving a land site purchase in Copeland.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as being a correct record.

AGENDA 2: OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- Actions from the previous meeting were discussed and the following updates were given.
- Action 1&2 - Involvement of visual impact communities to any proposed electoral ward within the search area to be discussed within Workstream 2 and consideration for CALC's request to represent communities in Workstream 2 – these two actions are ongoing and will be reviewed in next Workstream meeting.
- Action 3 - All Working Group members to undertake the GDPR training – ongoing as there are still some members who have not completed the training.
- Action 4 - Terms of Reference to be uploaded to our website – (ongoing) these are with the digital content team at RWM and are awaiting them to be uploaded to the website.
- Action 5 - Members would like more information on the future plan to combine RWM and LLWR into one waste division at the end of 2021 – (ongoing) members will be updated as more information is brought to us.
- Action 6 - Millom Town Council meeting went ahead, and representatives from the Working Group attended. (Closed)
- Action 7 - RWM have been given clear guidance for public engagement during the pre-election period and we have been told this will begin on the 24th of March (Closed). One of the members requested RWM share the guidance document for the pre-election period.

AGENDA 3: OPPORTUNITY FOR UPDATES FROM WG MEMBERS

- Since the last meeting, the Chair has met with several stakeholders including the Chief Executive for Copeland Borough Council and the CEO for LLWR, Mr Martin Walkingshaw, Trudy Harrison, MP for Copeland and Mr Colin Wales, Cumbria Trust.
- RWM representative and the Working Group Chair attended the BEC Business Cluster members event and gave a joint presentation with Allerdale Working Group to over 100 delegates.
- Millom Town Council meeting was held on 24th of February and was attended by members of the Working Group. It was felt that the meeting was positive with just a few questions including how a Community Partnership would be identified if the search area was situated within the in shore area.
- Following Millom Town Council meeting, an email was received from them requesting guidance on how they would formally register an interest in engaging with the GDF process as a candidate area. A response email was sent to the Chair of Millom Town Council thanking them for their interest and welcomed their involvement should a Community Partnership be formed in the area.
- Millom Without Parish have now launched their own Parish Council GDF Working Group website and have a public meeting planned for the 22nd of March. The Copeland Working Group have not been invited to attend. The Independent Facilitator as agreed to approach them to see if they require any assistance or information from the Working Group.
- One of the members reported that a question was raised at the CALC Executive meeting as to why the Working Group meetings were not held in public. RWM noted that the NDA computer systems does not support the option to stream meetings in public. However, they will look into future options to support this request. Currently the minutes of each meeting are uploaded onto website for transparency and for the public to access.
- A meeting was held with members of the Working Group and the Lake District National Park (LDNP). It was noted that there is no interest at this time to join the Working Group but would welcome regular communications between the two. It was agreed to keep LDNP updated with the option for them to consider joining a Community Partnership once one is formed.
- A member of the Working Group attended the NuLeaf meeting to update them on the work currently being undertaken by the Working Group.

AGENDA 4: RWM PRESENTATION: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A presentation was given by a member of RWM on the procedures for responding to Freedom of Information requests. It was noted that Copeland Borough Council respond to requests in the same way and that both RWM and CBC should liaise with each other to ensure consistency in disclosing the right information.

AGENDA 5: WORKPLAN SCHEDULE

- A review of the workplan schedule showed there is good progress with both workstream 1 & 2. Work is now being carried out to understand how each workstream will link together.
- Workstream 3 has held 2 meetings so far. The key element of workstream 3 is to decide when to form a Community Partnership.
- It is understood that Copeland Borough Council may require 6 weeks lead time to report to the Strategic Nuclear and Energy Board (SNEB) and Executive meetings in order to agree to form a Community Partnership.
- Communication and Engagement Plan has been agreed by the members of workstream 1. The first of the Copeland webinars are scheduled to take place on the 23rd of March.
- Workstream 2 to include community responses to search area discussions (estimated 2nd week of April)
- Face-to-face engagements are likely to be from mid-June after the pre-election period has finished. This is also dependent on the Government's easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.
- It was reported that approximately 100 emails have been sent to stakeholder groups introducing them to the Working Group, providing detailed information on how they can engage and to invite them to join the webinar sessions. Approximately another 100 printed letters and brochures are due to go out by the end of next week.
- Workstream 1 having been discussing the practicalities of face to face exhibitions provided the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. This will potentially include subject matter expert support to talk to members of the public.
- RWM will look to provide the Working Group a milestone 'Snapshot' of the progress of the engagement to date, this will be available mid of April.
- It was suggested that Workstream 2 will have 5 weeks of preparation to produce 4 reports to take into one of two planned Search Area workshops. There is to be a 2 week reflection period between 1st and 2nd workshop, before initiating a Search Area(s) evaluation report in 2nd workshop. It is suggested that by mid-June, the Working Group could have agreed the potential Search Area(s)

AGENDA 6: WORKSTREAM 1 UPDATE

- It was noted that the webinars have been publicised well. Currently 40 people signed up to either the afternoon or evening webinars so far, of that approximately half of those people have agreed to be contacted in advance of the webinar and are scheduled to have a conversation with the Independent Facilitator

AGENDA 7: WORKSTREAM 2 UPDATE - SEARCH AREA IDENTIFICATION.

- Workstream 2 have had some really useful discussions and are making satisfactory progress towards Search Area(s) identification. The workstream plan to have 3 context reports produced shortly and will be shared these with the wider group once are available.
- The context reports will go on the website with the final search area evaluation report being produced around mid-July.

Discussion points for future meeting:

- Do we have an internal approval process between the subgroup and the working group as to how we announce a proposed search area?

AGENDA 8: WORKSTREAM 3 UPDATE

- First workshop was held on the 4th March. The main discussion of the workshop was to fully understand the policy requirements for a Community Partnership, which is covered by section 6.30 of the policy.

Discussions generated from the workshop included:

- Understanding the lifespan of a Community Partnership and to make sure members joining understand their commitment.
- Potential of borehole drilling during the life of the community partnership and the significant role this will have Community Partnerships after the test of public support.
- Community visions – how do we scope this vision? Who would be part of the development of that scope? Is it wider than the Search Area(s)?
- What principles and values do we want to see in Community Partnership members? - Trustworthy, reflected not representative. Could they be key people involved in their communities? Ideally members should have some experience in running a grants panel.
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the members? What would we need to have in place to be able to transition from working group to Community Partnership (secretariat, Facilitator, etc.)?

AGENDA 9: DEMONSTRATION OF THE COLLABORATION PORTAL (THE HUB)

- A demonstration of the collaboration portal was given which has been designed to be a dedicated space where Working Group members can access documents, reports, agendas, minutes, as well as a space to share meeting invites and information with the wider members of the Working Group.
- The next step will be to grant all Working Group members access to the collaboration portal and to provide training sessions on how to use the facility.

AGENDA 10: COMMS & ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Media update

- A Q&A on geology has been produced and the journalist from Newsquest has been briefed. The Q&A piece has been picked up by a number of other media outlets including Cumbria Crack which have already had over 100 comments on its social media page.
- A press release is due to go out next week inviting the members of the public to share their views on potential Search Area(s). This will coincide with the March newsletter.
- There are currently 238 subscribers to the Copeland Newsletter. March articles includes chairs update, webinars, welcoming your views on search area, role of regulators, Ivan Baldwin blog– BEC, virtual exhibition reminder and a few Q&A's.
- The Communication and Engagement Dashboard was shown to the Working Group members giving them a breakdown of the media communications and community engagement to date. (a copy of this is included in these minutes)
- A member made a suggestion for using the social media platform Tik Tok to attract members of the public under the age of 35. RWM will look into the potential of using this platform as part of their social media plan.
- A member noted the need to be mindful that a potential announcement of a Search Area(s) could coincide with the Local Government Reorganisation announcement.

AGENDA 11: AOB

- The question was raised again as to whether the Working Group meeting should be held in public to support its aim for transparency. The initial consensus was positive but would need further investigation into the mechanics of hosting the meetings in public. RWM to investigate this and report the findings at the next meeting.
- One of the members noted that inventory and retrievability are often reoccurring topics and should the Working Group consider whether sharing information around these issues.
- RWM have a stock of brochures on Site Evaluation, Community Guidance and Introduction to Geological Disposal available if anyone would like some copies sent to them.

AGENDA 12: Meeting Reflection & Date for the Next Meeting

- Next meeting 15th April, 9am-12pm

Ref	Action	Status
CWG001	Guidance on public engagement during the election period to be shared with the Working Group	
CWG002	RWM to look into future options to support public streaming of Working Group meetings.	
CWG003	RWM and CBC freedom of Information officers to liaise with each other.	
CWG004	RWM will look into the potential of using Tik Tok as a potential social media platform	

