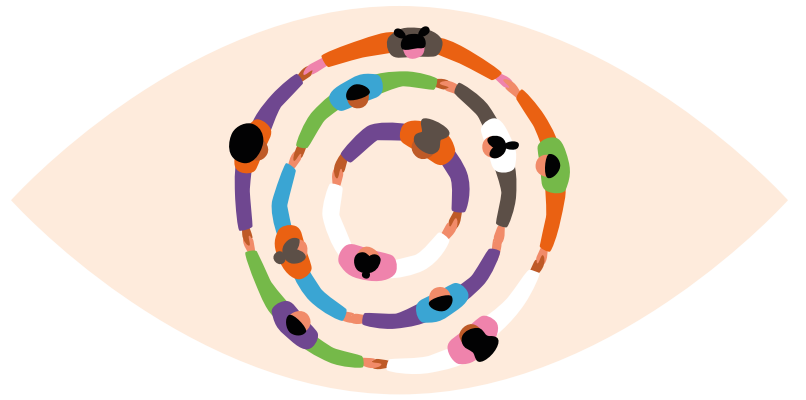
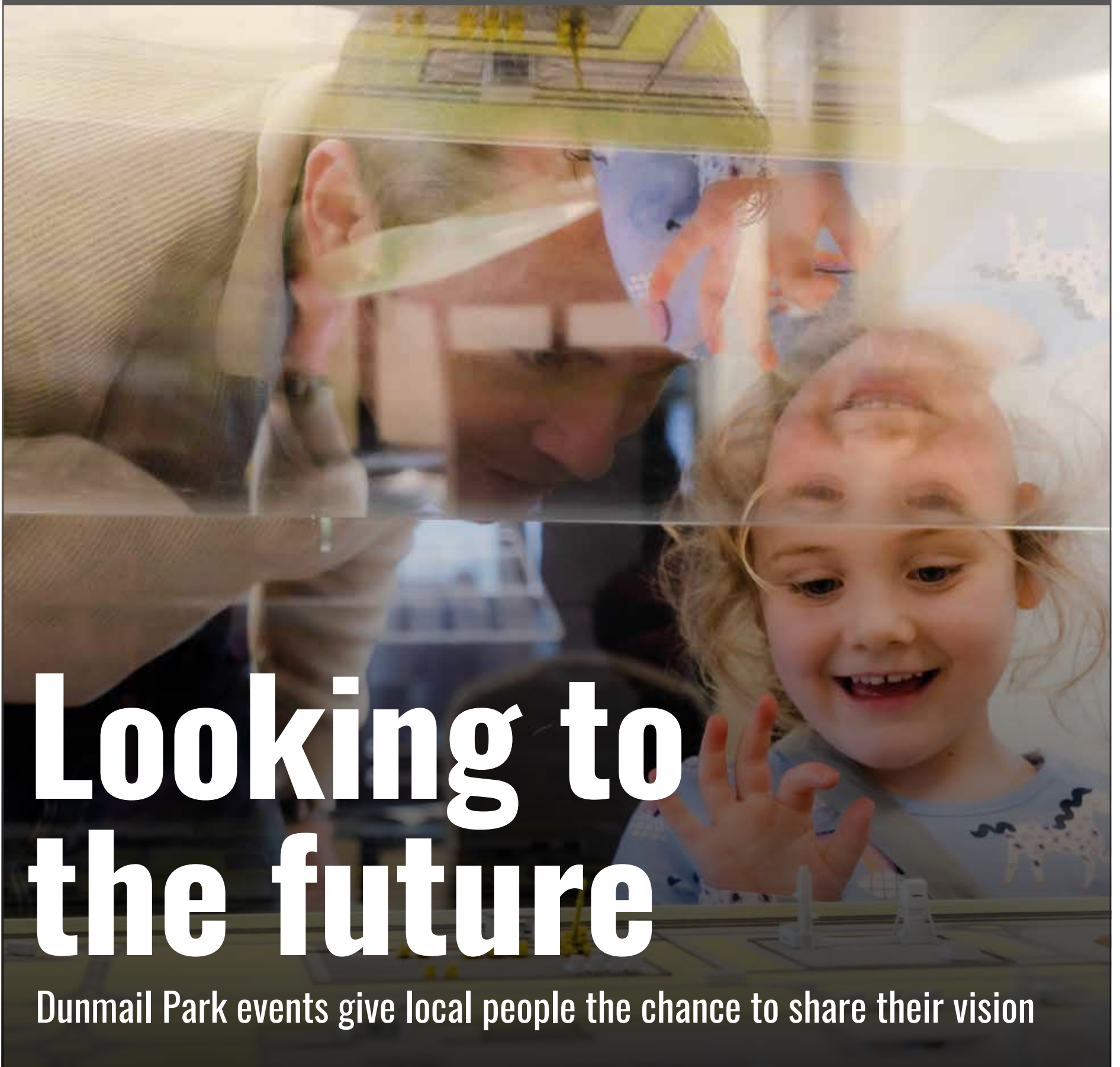


# News & Views

Allerdale GDF Community Partnership



LET'S TALK ABOUT GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL IN OUR COMMUNITY



# Looking to the future

Dunmail Park events give local people the chance to share their vision

**BACK** in March, the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership held a series of community engagement events at Dunmail Park Shopping Centre in Workington.

These events were an opportunity for Community Partnership members to share information about the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme, listen

to the views of local people and hear about their vision for the community.

Over five days, more than 200 local people stopped by the former retail unit to look at our exhibition, which included a large-scale model of a GDF – a facility designed to safely and securely dispose of higher-activity radioactive waste.

Virtual reality headsets allowed visitors to travel deep underground to see how a GDF would work and subject matter experts from GDF developer Nuclear Waste Services were on hand to answer questions.

[Community Partnership – pages 2-3](#)

# Your feedback

Thank you to everyone who came to talk to us at our Dunmail Park event in March. Here's some of your comments:

*"We need to invest in skills (colleges and universities). Children leave to attend these outside of Cumbria and never return."*

*"We have a responsibility to deal with this, as we have benefitted from nuclear."*

*"I want information in layman's terms."*

*"I worry about the breakdown of civilisation in 100,000 years' time."*

*"Will high-level jobs really be for local people?"*





Community Partnership  
Chair Mary Bradley



# Welcome to our newsletter

**WELCOME** to *Allerdale GDF Community Partnership News & Views*, a new publication designed to share updates, answer frequently asked questions and reflect your views about the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme.

The Allerdale GDF Community Partnership launched on 17 January 2022 and exists to provide information, monitor public opinion and facilitate discussion about whether a GDF would be right for this area – and whether this area is right for a GDF, taking into consideration what part a GDF could play in the community's vision for the future.

It is also our responsibility to review and refine the Search Area as investigations progress and identify priorities for Community Investment

Funding. As a Partnership, we have aimed to ensure people understand the project and any potential impact by meeting with local groups, holding exhibitions, attending discussions with Town and Parish Councils and meeting with special interest groups.

You can read about the fantastic progress we made in our first year by taking a look at our Annual Review, which is available to read on our website or by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you for taking the time to browse these pages and please feel free to share any suggestions for future articles.

*Mary Bradley, Chair*



Scan the QR code  
to download our Annual Review

The report is also available on our website:  
[www.allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://www.allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk)



## Other areas considering a GDF

THE Allerdale GDF Community Partnership was formed in January 2022. Our Search Area comprises eight Cumberland Council wards, including Dearham & Broughton, Maryport North, Maryport South, Harrington, Moorclose & Moss Bay, Seaton, St John's & Great Clifton, and St. Michael's.

There are also three other Partnerships engaging with their communities about the possibility of hosting a GDF. They are:

- **Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership** in Cumbria. Formed in November 2021. Covers the electoral ward of Gosforth. The Lake District National Park is excluded from consideration.
- **South Copeland GDF Community Partnership** in Cumbria. Formed in December 2021. Covers the electoral wards of Millom and Millom Without. The Lake District National Park and proposed extension are excluded from consideration.
- **Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership** in Lincolnshire. Formed in June 2022. The Search Area includes the electoral wards of Withern & Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe.

At this stage, no decisions have been made about where a GDF could be sited. Geological investigations by the developer and discussions with communities around whether a GDF is right for their area – and whether their area is right for a GDF – are ongoing and a GDF will only be built in a community which is willing to host it, following a Test of Public Support.

# Student Lucas joins Community Partnership

Lucas Wirga



**STUDENT** Lucas Wirga is the latest member to join the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership.

The 20-year-old, who is local to the Workington area, is studying Natural Sciences at Durham University and will support the Partnership as it broadens discussions with local people about the possibility of hosting a GDF in the area.

Lucas said: "I recognised the importance of the issue of a GDF when I received a leaflet in the post about the GDF programme earlier this year.

"I wanted to join the Partnership to bring together experts and the community to ensure the correct knowledge is being communicated and to create a level of transparency in the Allerdale community.

"I am proud of the area and would love Allerdale to become an area of economic

potential, an area which people aspire to move to for work; a community which embraces innovation and sustainable practices, ensuring a bright and prosperous future. A GDF has the potential to play an important role in that."

Partnership Chair Mary Bradley said: "As a group we are passionate about the local area and are determined to continue building a strong Partnership that is reflective of our community.

"In our last recruitment drive we were particularly interested to hear from people aged 18 to 30 and were thrilled to receive Lucas's application. He brings a fresh outlook and great energy to the Partnership and we look forward to his contributions in the coming months."

Roy Hobson has also recently joined the Partnership, taking the total membership to 11.

More information about our members can be found by visiting our website or by scanning the QR code:







**Safety and the multi-barrier approach**

A GDF is made of a surface facility, about 1km<sup>2</sup> – the size of a small business park – plus a series of specially designed and engineered vaults and tunnels, which would be constructed deep underground. Illustrative designs of underground facilities show a footprint of around 10-20 square kilometres but this could be smaller if waste was placed at several different depths.

A GDF could potentially be three times deeper than the height of the Shard in London, which is Britain's tallest building.

Solid radioactive waste is packaged in secure engineered containers, typically made of metal or concrete, and then placed in a stable rock formation hundreds of metres below the surface, with the containers surrounded by clay or cement. This is the multi-barrier approach.

Together, these barriers are designed to help to safely and securely work together to provide multiple levels of protection from the waste for many thousands of years, deep underground, far away from people and the environment.

Filling a GDF with waste and then closing it, once full, will run into the next century.

**Safety and the Allerdale geology**

A National Geological Screening exercise has been carried out by the GDF developer, based on British Geological Survey data.

Initial work by the developer shows that there may be a suitable geological setting for a GDF in most of this sub-region.

More detailed investigations would be carried out over time by scientists to ensure a site would be suitable, keeping the local community involved every step of the way right up to a Test of Public Support.

The Search Area is shown on the map (left). No areas which fall within the Lake District National Park or Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be considered for a GDF.

Find out more at [allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk)

# What makes a GDF safe?

IS geological disposal safe? The Allerdale Community Partnership hears this question frequently. We put it to the developer, Nuclear Waste Services...

## Allerdale search area



Illustrative map of the search area being considered to host a GDF

- Search area
- Inshore area
- Inshore area boundary

\*All around the country, the Inshore Area extends to a maximum of 22.2km off the coast. In the case of Allerdale it may be less than 10km in places, due to the limit of English waters narrowing between England and Scotland to the north.

**Safety through stringent regulations**

There is international consensus that geological disposal is the safest permanent solution to dealing with radioactive waste.

The UK has stringent, independent and effective regulation for all aspects of radioactive waste management.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency, the UK's independent nuclear regulators, will review the designs for a GDF, the proposed site and the science informing the project, to make sure it protects people and the environment.

A GDF will be built only if it can meet these criteria and if a community consents.



An artist's impression of a GDF surface facility



## Who regulates geological disposal?

**REGULATORS** in England will play an important role in ensuring that a GDF is safe for people, animals and the environment.

A GDF will not be constructed or operated without explicit prior permission from the regulators. They are:

- The **Environment Agency (EA)**. The EA regulates disposals of radioactive waste from nuclear licensed sites and other premises that use radioactive substances.
- **Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)**. The ONR licences nuclear sites and is responsible for regulating safety and security on licensed nuclear sites in Great Britain. It also regulates the safety of transporting radioactive materials and ensures that the UK's safeguarding

obligations are met. The intention is that a GDF will be licensed by the ONR prior to any underground excavation commencing.

- **Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**. HSE will be ensuring the health and safety of work relating to surface-based investigations but will cease once the ONR has granted a nuclear site licence for a GDF.
- **Natural England (NE)** and the **Marine Management Organisation (MMO)**. Developing a GDF in England will also involve NE and, if a coastal site is selected, the MMO. Natural England has specific responsibilities for making sure that the natural environment is protected and improved. The MMO's role is to licence, regulate and plan marine activities in the seas around England.



# GDF project timeline



# Geological disposal around the world

## What are other countries doing about their legacy waste?



The map shows the many countries developing geological disposal plans

AS THE Allerdale GDF Community Partnership continues the conversation about a potential GDF and whether this is right for the area, a number of countries – including Sweden, Finland, France, Canada and Switzerland – have already implemented or are developing plans for their own geological disposal facilities.

In Canada, developers Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) began the process of selecting a site for their project back in 2010.

A total of 22 communities initially expressed interest. Today, NWMO is engaging with two potential siting areas.

Technical teams from NWMO have successfully completed a full-scale demonstration of the engineered barriers that will safely contain and isolate Canada's used nuclear fuel.

The map (above right) shows the countries that are implementing or developing GDFs.

### A historic decision

Meanwhile, the Swedish Government has approved the building of a GDF in Forsmark, Östhammar Municipality.

This historic decision means that Sweden is proceeding with plans for a GDF being developed by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB).

In Switzerland, Nagra (the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste) will be ready to announce its siting proposal by the autumn.

In Finland, Posiva Oy is the first nuclear waste management organisation in the world to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel by 2025, using the Onkalo® facility.

### The developer's view: why we need to think long-term

Neil Hyatt, the Chief Scientific Advisor to Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), said: "Technically, it is feasible to repackage the waste every few decades and build new stores.

"However, this is effectively kicking the can down a never-ending road.

"It would be leaving the cost, risk and responsibility of managing and safely disposing of waste to future generations who did not benefit from the energy generation."

A GDF will be nearly 1,000 metres below the ground – more than half a mile. Expert engineering and many barriers of stable rock will safely contain the waste for many thousands of years.

What do you think? Please share your feedback and opinions, and ask us any questions, by calling us on 0300 369 0000

“Finland will start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel by 2025.”



Choosing a site for a Geological Disposal Facility requires the consent of the community



**UNLIKE** other big infrastructure projects, the process of choosing a site for a GDF requires the explicit consent of a willing community.

Forming the GDF Community Partnership is not a commitment to agree to a GDF in this area. Neither is surveying potential sites or planning how the community could potentially benefit from the project. We can withdraw from the process at any time, for any reason.

Before a decision is made to seek development consent from the Secretary of State, or regulatory approvals for a GDF from the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation, there must be a Test of Public Support by the potential host community to demonstrate it is willing to host a GDF.

A community can withdraw from the siting process at any time up until it has taken a Test of Public Support.

Any decision on whether to withdraw the community would be taken by the Local Authority on the Partnership.

The developer (Nuclear Waste Services) can also withdraw at any time, for example, if they determine that the siting process is unlikely to be successful.

# How will a decision be made about a GDF?



Victoria Infant School pupils designing bug hotels

## Help for young 'Habitat Heroes'

**THE** Allerdale GDF Community Partnership has been working with budding entrepreneurs at Victoria Infant School to design, create and sell 'bug hotels'.

Year 2 'Habitat Heroes' have been learning about what makes a business successful with support from Adrian Davis-Johnston, a member of the Community Partnership and Head of Research, Development and Innovation at NUVIA, and Katy Arnott, a Community Coordinator with GDF developer Nuclear

Waste Services (NWS). Bright Stars is a collaboration between the Centre for Leadership Performance (CfLP), primary schools and local organisations that encourages leadership and responsible entrepreneurship from a young age.

The initiative builds relationships between local organisations and primary schools that benefit communities and the CfLP was awarded £30,000 in Community Investment Funding for the continuation of the programme in 2023.

Adrian said: "Working with the wonderful children and staff at

Victoria Infant School has been a remarkable experience.

"The Habitat Heroes have made a successful business without using any of their upfront funding, gathering materials from the natural environment to make amazing habitats for insects and pollinators which has been a key focus in their regular lessons."

The bug hotels went on sale outside the school and cost from £2 to £10.

Early years teacher Christine Humble said: "The school is really grateful to the Community Partnership for taking part

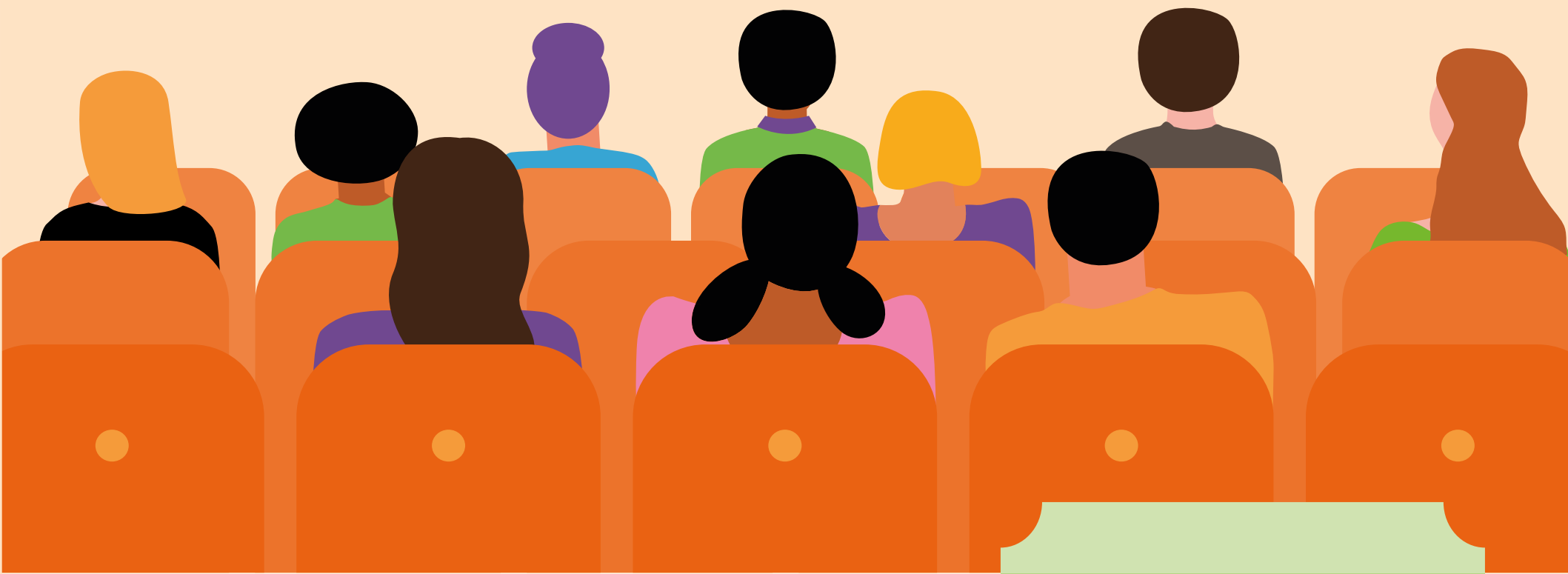
in the Bright Stars programme at Victoria Infant School.

"The work the children have been doing under Adrian and Katy's guidance has given them a real sense of pride and ownership and an early understanding of the importance of teamwork and managing money and finances.

"They have also learnt about growing their own food and have a new awareness of where their food comes from.

"The bug hotels sold out quickly and I expect our Habitat Heroes will be looking to produce more in the future."

# An invitation



Join us this July for a public meeting of the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership and a private screening of Vicki Lesley's *The Atom: A Love Affair*

## THE MEETING

Continuing the community's conversation about what a possible Geological Disposal Facility for radioactive waste could mean for visions of Allerdale's future

## THE MOVIE

### The Atom: A Love Affair (2019)

Vicki Lesley's documentary chronicling the West's relationship with nuclear power over the past 70 years, by those who experienced it first hand  
*"watchable and enlightening"* – Daily Mail



Let us know if you're coming  
Register online using the QR code  
or give us a call

☎ 0300 369 0000

— 6:00PM —  
THURSDAY

13

— JULY —

## PARKWAY CINEMA

Dunmail Park,  
Workington,  
CA14 1NQ

Buffet and refreshments  
provided



**Allerdale**  
**GDF Community Partnership**

Let's talk about geological disposal





Broughton Primary School received £68,000

# More than £1.6m for local projects

FOR participating in the GDF conversation, the Government has made up to £1 million per year in Community Investment Funding available to each Community Partnership at its launch.

Allerdale's Community Investment Funding can be used to support projects or schemes that provide economic opportunities, enhance the natural or built environment or improve community wellbeing.

In 2023 we've already helped to create a new footpath, a sensory garden, install

accessible playground equipment, deliver mental health and wellbeing projects and support domestic violence and bereavement services.

One local project to have benefitted is Broughton Primary School, which received £68,000 to install a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) in the school yard.

Headteacher Anna Bewsher said: "The playground has been absolutely transformed and we're delighted that the MUGA will make many outdoor activities so much more accessible,

not only for our pupils, but also the wider community, who will have access outside school hours for whatever sport or activity they wish to pursue.

"Broughton has a proud sporting heritage stretching back to the 19th century, which includes county champions at rugby, football, netball and crown green bowling.

"Local individuals and former school pupils have earned representation at district, county, England and GB level and as a school we are proud of the solid

foundations we set for our young people.

"The MUGA, however, is not just about helping sporting endeavour. It's about promoting a positive and healthy wellbeing for everyone, and we are incredibly grateful to the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership for helping us to provide more people with the opportunity to exercise in whichever way they wish."

Learn more at [allerdale.workinginpartnership.co.uk](http://allerdale.workinginpartnership.co.uk)



## We've supported more than 39 local projects with Community Investment Funding since our launch in January 2022, including:

- £2,000 Carnegie Singers
- £17,250 Broughton Parish Council
- £59,861 Inspira
- £40,103 Always Another Way
- £6,100 West Cumbria Care & Support
- £10,000 Friends of Bridekirk Dovenby School
- £68,000 Broughton Academy
- £43,747.20 Healthy Hopes Cumbria
- £48,951 Cumbria Community Foundation Winter Warmth Appeal
- £3,300 Salterbeck Tenants and Residents Association
- £5,000 Workington Music Festival
- £88,337.62 Maryport & Solway Sea Cadets
- £2,086 Information Advice & Fitness CIC
- £8,400 Cockermouth Rotary Club Charitable Trust
- £20,000 Workington Emergency Response Group
- £3,000 Workington Amateur Operatics Society
- £94,000 Citizens Advice Allerdale

- £48,636 Cumbria Family Support
- £21,454 Maryport Group Practice
- £42,210 Age UK West Cumbria
- £72,326 Aspatria Dreamscheme
- £18,747 Kirkgate Arts
- £126,288 Workington Town Council
- £59,983.48 Carnegie Theatre Trust
- £3,837 Netherhall School
- £176,533 Cumbria Drug & Alcohol Service
- £156,284 Cumbria Youth Alliance
- £30,000 Centre for Leadership Performance
- £9,946 Dean Parish Council
- £68,109.82 Great Clifton Parish Council
- £18,352 Brigham War Memorial Hall
- £45,268.24 Together WE CIC
- £10,000 Changing Lives Together Trust
- £63,564.70 Hospice at Home West Cumbria
- £30,000 Northside Community Centre
- £116,749 Freedom Project

Full details of the people, projects and places that have benefitted from Community Investment Funding so far can be found on our website at [allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk/community-investment-funding](http://allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk/community-investment-funding)



Join the GDF conversation



@Allerdale\_CP

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[www.allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://www.allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk)

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