

MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

HELD ON

15 June 2023, 08.30am –On-line Teams

Attendees:

Partnership members:

Mary Bradley (MB) - Chair  
David Wilson (DW)  
Chris Gibson (CG)  
Gordon Grant (GG)  
Roy Hobson (RH)  
Lucas Wirga (LW)  
Becky Wolstenholme (BW)  
Phil Davies (PD)  
Tony Markley (TM)

NWS

Alison Beard (AB)- Partnership Operations Manager  
Malcolm Orford (MO)- Major Permissions  
David Palmer (DP) - Major Permissions  
Ruth Letourneur (RL) – Major Permissions  
Dan Rigg (DR)- Site Characterisation  
Robert McLaverty (RM)- Site Characterisation

Minutes:

Katy Arnott (KA)

Apologies:

Deborah Naylor (DN)  
Adrian Davis Johnston (ADJ)  
John Coughlan (JC)

| Item | Description   | Action Lead | By when |
|------|---|-------------|---------|
| 1.   | <p><b>WELCOME/APOLOGIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> <li>Apologies received from Deborah Naylor, Adrian Davis-Johnston, John Coughlan.</li> </ul>  | MB          |         |
| 2.   | <p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous Minutes: Community Partnership meeting (11 May 2023) were approved. Actions reviewed and updated.</li> <li>CIF Overview: £706k awarded so far. £31k set aside for 2 deferred applications. Approx £262k budget remaining. A notice to reflect the limited available budget will be placed on the website.</li> <li>Several partnership members attended the public BEC visioning event- 30 May.</li> <li>Several Partnership members attended the NDA Innovation &amp; Technology event- 8 June.</li> </ul> | MB          |         |

|    |  |         |  |
|----|--|---------|--|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</b> Partnership Member Tony Markley declared he is a Cumberland Council Councillor and on the Cumberland Council Planning Committee, Chair of the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA), Trustee of Solway Firth Partnership and Chair of Solway ANOB. He stated that he would listen and not comment throughout Agenda item 3. Chair approved.</li> </ul>  | To note |  |
| 3. | <p><b>INTRODUCTION TO NWS NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL SURVEY WORK AND PLANNING FOR DEEP BOREHOLE DRILLING-</b><br/>Presented by Malcolm Orford. Summary below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A general presentation (non Allerdale specific) on the next technical stages for NWS was given.</li> <li>• There are 3 key areas of activity, from initial conversations to the delivery of boreholes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1. Site Evaluation</li> <li>○ 2. Major Permissions</li> <li>○ 3. Site Characterisation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This will be a nuanced process where one activity doesn't start and then stop, activities may overlap.</li> <li>• <b>Site Evaluation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Studies and assessments are underway in all Partnerships to help understand a search area's potential to host a GDF. The assessments include the area of potential host geology and surface level assessments. These assessments will continue until the identification of the potential host community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Major Permissions.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To enable the subsequent phases, the site characterisation phases require several specific permissions and approvals, these collectively are referred to as 'Major Permissions'.</li> <li>○ These permissions and approvals are to enable intrusive investigation (deep boreholes) only and not permissions for the delivery of the GDF.</li> <li>○ Once all data is collated then the design of the above ground and below ground elements of the GDF can commence.</li> <li>○ Timeline of activities are not fixed, they could span a number of decades.</li> <li>○ Throughout this process NWS recognise the fundamental need to continue to work with the Partnerships to build understanding and willingness to host a GDF.</li> <li>○ NWS can only start applying for the suite of permission and regulatory consents required to construct a GDF after the following steps are completed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The community has consented to a GDF in a test of public support.</li> <li>2. NWS have recommended a preferred site.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> | MO      |  |
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3. NWS have approval for the design from the Secretary of State.

- **SITE CHARACTERISATION-** presented by Daniel Rigg. Summary below:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> phase: Initial Evaluations and Search Area Evaluations based on readily available information confirmed areas may have potential to host a GDF.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Investigations focus on inshore area for underground facilities of a GDF with supporting infrastructure onshore. Investigations to determine the feasibility of the search area and adjacent inshore area to host a GDF, based on relevant information gathered from non-intrusive investigations, could take up to 3 to 5 years.
  - These studies will be used to assess feasibility of progressing to intrusive investigations i.e., “drilling boreholes”.
  - An illustrative drawing of a generic potential GDF was presented, showing the GDF surface element and GDF underground element.
- 6 ‘Siting Factors’ will be considered throughout the siting process
  1. Safety and Security
  2. Community
  3. Environment
  4. Engineering Feasibility
  5. Transport
  6. Value for Money
  - More details of the Siting Factors are published in the Site Evaluation document. Link below:  
[Site Evaluation ENGLAND.pdf \(menlosecurity.com\)](#)
- Feasibility studies:
  - The studies will initially be mainly desktop studies looking at existing data.
  - Feasibility studies will contribute to whether an area is considered for further site characterisation.
- **MAJOR PERMISSIONS-** Presented by Ruth Letourneur. Summary below:
  - To get permission to do intrusive investigations of deep bore holes (this is purely for the consent to drill bore holes not to build the GDF) two key permissions are needed: -
    1. Planning permission- Development Consent Order (DCO)
    2. Environmental permission- Environmental Permits
  - The GDF is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and permission for this is called a Development Consent Order (DCO).
  - A DCO Application is submitted to the Secretary of State- for Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
  - There are 4 key parts of working towards a DCO application: -

DR

RL

To note

|        |   |                                    |
|--------|---|------------------------------------|
|        | 1. Engagement, 2. Consultation, 3. Environmental Assessment 4. DCO application  |                                    |
| ACT143 | <p><i>Following discussion, the Partnership requested further clarity and key messaging on the Partnership's role during DCO application process including DCO engagement &amp; consultation process. To follow-up.</i></p> <p><b>SITE CHARACTERISATION-</b> presented by Rob McLaverty. Summary below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explanation of the multi-barrier approach and how the rock is a key part.</li> <li>○ To build an understanding of the sub-surface the use of existing sources of data are used alongside British Geological Survey data.</li> <li>○ NWS will need to collate new data from non-intrusive methods (e.g., Seismic survey/geophysics) and intrusive methods (e.g., borehole drilling, core rock samples).</li> <li>○ Allerdale Search Area is currently in first phase-interpreting data. A decision to move to potential seismic survey would be made after the analysis of data.</li> </ul> | <p>GG</p> <p>RM</p> <p>To note</p> |
| ACT144 | <p><i>Following discussion, Partnership requested clear messaging for use in public engagements, around Site Characterisation stages of other Partnerships. To follow-up.</i></p>   | GG                                 |
| 4.     | <p><b>UPDATE ON VISIONING</b></p> <p>A Visioning Pack has been developed- titled 'Building the Future for Future Generations'.</p>  | <p>PD</p> <p>To note</p>           |
| ACT145 | <p><i>Once the statement has been received from NWS the pack will be circulated. NWS Vision Statement requested.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Purpose: Developing Community Vision for our Search Area. Each workstream asked to support and record engagements/ conversations. This data would act as a launch pad for future visioning work (2024).</li> <li>● All Partnership Workstreams will receive a briefing/guidance on how to use the pack in due course.</li> <li>● Workstreams can request a scribe – (optional).</li> <li>● An e-form is available to record engagement feedback.</li> <li>● A database to capture feedback is in progress.</li> <li>● Briefing meetings held during July with all partnership members, hopefully F2F will include the monitoring work completed earlier in the month</li> </ul>   | GG/MB                              |
| 5.     | <p><b>DISCUSSION ON JULY MEETING IN PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVENT</b></p> <p>Upcoming Community Engagement events:</p> <p><b>Meeting in Public: Thurs 13 July- evening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Venue: Parkway Cinema, Dunmail Park, Workington.</li> <li>● Meeting followed by screening of Film: The Atom a Love Affair. 150 seat cinema. Public to reserve tickets via QR code.</li> </ul>  | <p>MB</p> <p>To note</p>           |

|        |  |           |  |
|--------|--|-----------|--|
| ACT146 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Window graphics featuring the March exhibition feedback and 13 July Cinema event, plus QR code will be in place on 16 June (Dunmail Park – shop next to Costa).</li> <li>Postcards are being produced to capture visioning data with the idea that Partnership members open-up conversations.</li> <li>Partnership members requested to personally invite guests to 13 July event.</li> </ul> <p><i>To Share 13 July event invitation flyer and registration link to all partnership members.</i></p>   | MB/LK     |  |
|        | <p><b>Engagement Event: 15 September - day</b></p> <p>Partnership is sponsoring an event at Energus (15 Sept) titled ‘Green 2 Grow’. This event is organised by Cumberland Council Public Health and CALC. Theme: People, Food, Nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership will have use of a breakout room for visioning and engagement work with event audience.</li> <li>This event will provide opportunity to engage with people from the environment sector and potential challengers.</li> <li>Postcards are being produced to capture visioning data providing an additional media to the F2F comments.</li> </ul> | All<br>AB |  |
| 6.     | <p><b>UPDATE ON NEXT PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY</b></p> <p>The previous survey was carried out Nov 2022.<br/>Changes to the Search Area were introduced in April 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new baseline survey is required with residents in the amended Search Area.</li> <li>Upcoming survey is planned for 17 July and will run for 2/3 weeks.</li> <li>Survey results expected end of Aug/early Sept.</li> </ul>  | To note   |  |
| ACT147 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Supplementary questions for survey to be approved with visioning workstream.</i></li> </ul>  | GG        |  |
| 7.     | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allerdale GDF Community Partnership newspaper will be distributed during first week of July to households in the current Search Area.</li> <li>Newspaper content will provide Partnership updates and invitation to the 13 July meeting in public /cinema event.</li> <li>Partnership members will be sent a copy of the newspaper.</li> <li>New CIF videos with grant recipients are on the website. Members encouraged to watch.</li> </ul>   | To note   |  |
| 8.     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></li> </ul> <p>Thursday 13 July- Meeting in public, Dunmail Park, Workington.</p>  | MB        |  |

