

Environment

Aerial surveys of birds and marine life aim to ensure their protection
Page 6

Talk to us!

Ask questions and raise concerns with the engagement team
Page 6

Best practice

Canadian expert visits to share his knowledge and answer questions
Page 7



Theddlethorpe
GDF Community Partnership

Issue 5: Autumn 2023

**THEDDLETHORPE
& MABLETHORPE**

GDF Voice

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ABOUT A GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY



Family fun: The new playground will have multiplay towers, a zipline, bubble tunnel, swings and seesaws. Illustrative drawing courtesy of Playdale Playgrounds Ltd.

£1 million awarded to local projects

Includes more than £380k funding for creation of new playground designed with help of community

A NEW playground in Theddlethorpe is one of eight local projects being awarded a share of £1 million Community Investment Funding.

As well as the large playground and community garden, initiatives including a care worker scheme, an employability programme and a befriending service will also benefit from the GDF programme.

The members of the Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership awarded £1 million to local projects as part of the first year of the funding available to the Search Area.

Theddlethorpe Village Hall and Playing Field Association applied

for help to build an adventure playground and create a community garden. Outdoor gym equipment and raised beds will be installed next to Theddlethorpe Village Hall.

The development was designed with the help and input of residents and has received a lot of support from the local school, parents, the Theddlethorpe Residents Association and the village hall trustees.

The project will transform the space and allow children of all ages and abilities, and adults, to enjoy more outdoor activities.

It will also provide a play area within walking distance of the school.

The project will transform the space and allow children of all ages and abilities, and adults, to enjoy outdoor activities.

This GDF Community Investment Funding for the playground – totalling £382,067 – will benefit the physical and emotional wellbeing of children, young people and adults in the village and surrounding area, creating a safe space that can be enjoyed by everyone.

An initial concept for the project has been shared (see picture above) and it shows plans for equipment such as a bubble tunnel, swings, seesaws and slides.

Do you have an idea that would benefit local residents? Find out how to apply for Community Investment Funding on page 3.

READ OUR FULL STORY AND MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE GROUPS RECEIVING FUNDING ON PAGE 3

OPINION: FROM THE GUARDIANS OF THE EAST COAST (GOTEC) CAMPAIGN GROUP

Photo by Biff Vernon

Safeguarding our East Coast



MEMBERS of the Guardians of the East Coast (GOTEC) campaign group have told us they have concerns about a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) being developed in this area. In this article written by GOTEC Chair Ken Smith he shares his perspective on what he describes as the “proposed nuclear waste dump”.

Our community has found itself at a crossroads, faced with a decision of profound significance – the potential establishment of a high-level nuclear waste dump by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) in our beloved region.

As concerned citizens and members of the Guardians of the East Coast (GOTEC), we feel compelled to voice our apprehensions and lay out a perspective that values safety, long-term well-being, and environmental preservation above all else.

SAFETY

While proponents of the proposed nuclear waste dump may emphasise the purported benefits, it is crucial to approach this matter with a discerning eye.

NWS's portrayal of the endeavour may sound promising but it is our responsibility to delve deeper and assess the implications from a comprehensive standpoint.

Foremost among our concerns is the question of safety. While NWS assures us of stringent safety measures, it is essential to recognise the inherent risks associated with nuclear waste storage. History serves as a stark reminder of the catastrophic consequences that can arise

The delicate balance of our local ecosystems must not be compromised for the sake of expediency.”

from even the smallest oversight or unforeseen event.

We believe the potential hazards to our environment, health and future generations far outweigh any short-term gains. The importance of safeguarding our region against the risks cannot be overstated.

Furthermore, the environmental impact of a high-level nuclear waste dump demands thorough consideration. The delicate balance of our local ecosystems must not be compromised for the sake of expediency.

The potential for soil and water contamination, disruption of natural habitats and the release of harmful radiation raises serious doubts about the long-term health of our environment. As stewards of our East Coast, we owe it to ourselves and the generations to come to protect and preserve our natural surroundings.

The promise of job creation and financial incentives should not divert our attention from the broader economic consequences. A region historically reliant

on tourism, agriculture and other industries must weigh the short-term economic benefits against the potential long-term setbacks that could arise from a damaged reputation and compromised resources.

The heart of our concern lies not in stifling progress but rather in championing progress that is both sustainable and responsible. Instead of embracing a high-level nuclear waste dump, let us explore alternative avenues for energy production and waste management that prioritise safety, innovation and environmental stewardship.

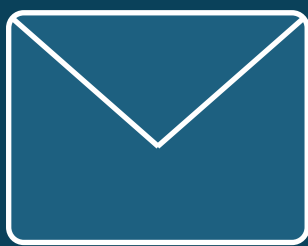
Our East Coast has the potential to serve as a model for sustainable development, setting an example that others may follow.

COMMITMENT

We stand united in our commitment to the wellbeing of our community, environment, and future. Our opposition to the placement of a high-level nuclear waste dump is rooted in a deep-seated concern for safety, environmental preservation and responsible progress.

We implore our fellow citizens to join us in advocating for a future that prioritises the sanctity of our region over short-term gains. We can pave the way for a brighter, safer and more sustainable East Coast.

To learn more about GOTEC, visit gotec.org.uk



Do you have a story for the GDF Voice?

DELIVERED through the letterboxes of thousands of people who live in the Theddlethorpe Search Area, the GDF Voice plays a vital part in providing residents with information about geological disposal and the latest work of the Community Partnership – and we would like to feature you and promote your voice on these pages.

Do you have a story to tell? Are you looking for, or have you received, community funding? Is there an upcoming event you'd like to promote? Are you a young person with a view about geological disposal and your local area?

This is your chance to be part of the conversation about the biggest environmental protection project of our lifetime and for your story to be featured in these pages.

How to send your story:

We'll need your name, contact number and a few lines telling us your story.

You can use our online form to send us your news. Our team will take a look and if we think it is something that our readers would find interesting, we'll be in touch to talk to you. Fill out the form at theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/contact-us

Our website also has lots of information and resources to help you understand more about geological disposal. You can also email our team at GDFinfo-Theddlethorpe@nuclearwasteservices.uk



Projects awarded grants

Eight projects have been awarded a share of £1 million worth of Community Investment Funding. This money is made available every year for the Search Areas taking part in the siting process for a GDF. In the first year of funding, the projects that were successful all demonstrated how their ideas could improve community wellbeing and support economic development. The members of your Theddlethorpe Community Partnership reviewed various applications that outlined how to provide benefit to people living in this area. Here are the awardees.

1

Magna Vitae employability programme

Funding awarded: £230,000

This two-year scheme aims to help people gain jobs in the hospitality and leisure sector and access training opportunities provided. The initiative will help develop the confidence, ability and skills of individuals to support the important cultural, leisure and tourism industries. An Employability Coordinator, based at the Mablethorpe Sports Centre, will be recruited to support participants through a tailored learning programme and connect them to work experience opportunities, potentially leading to long-term employment.

2

National Centre for Rural Health Community: Catalyst Care Worker Pipeline

Funding awarded: £164,975

This Mablethorpe-based programme will run for three years and aims to identify and train local people, enabling them to become self-employed, skilled care workers and provide care assistance for those who need this. The project will strive to recruit and support 40 self-employed carers who are interested in setting up their own businesses.

3

Age UK Lindsey ‘Coastal Chat’ Befriending and social activity project

Funding awarded: £49,981

This befriending project will help reduce levels of loneliness and social isolation in coastal areas. Staff will support older people who live alone to be socially active, connected and improve their health through local friendship groups and coffee clubs.

4

Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Services: Thriving Communities Support

Funding awarded: £132,371

This three-year project will recruit two full time members of staff, with priority given to residents of the Search Area. With the support of LCVS, they will deliver a range of local engagement. They will help residents to participate more effectively in activities that will affect their lives. The project will empower people by sharing knowledge and skills to improve community connectivity, increase confidence and raise aspirations.



The new adventure playground will have fun equipment such as this jungle gym.
Photo courtesy Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

5

Theddlethorpe Village Hall: Adventure playground and community garden

Funding awarded: £382,067

This project will see the creation of an adventure playground with outdoor gym equipment, along with a community garden and raised beds next to Theddlethorpe Village Hall. There will also be CCTV for the hall and new outdoor facilities.

6

The Parrot Zoo Trust – Lincolnshire Wildlife Park: Learning at the Park

Funding awarded: £26,102

Local primary school pupils will be able to visit the wildlife park, which has the largest collection of Bengal tigers in Europe and is one of the world’s largest parrot rescue centres. In doing so, the children will be able to increase their knowledge and understanding of the natural environment and animal welfare. The funding will help provide learning packages tailored to the needs of each school and cover the cost of travel for the pupils to the park, which is about 25 miles away at Friskney, near Boston.

7

Linkage Community Trust: Sensory pilot study

Funding awarded: £13,854

Linkage will offer activities for young people between the ages of 13 and 16 who have learning difficulties or autism, to help improve their wellbeing and social skills. Sessions will take place at the Linkage site in Mablethorpe but by using the Trust’s Sensory Bus, the team can also reach out to surrounding villages and deliver activities to young people in their homes during the school holidays and in the evenings.

8

Mablethorpe OAP Club. New cookers for the Meeting Centre

Funding awarded: £650

Funding was awarded to buy two new cookers to be installed in the kitchen from which the OAP Association operates. The OAP Association, which has 50 members, had broken cookers that needed to be repaired.

“We’re pleased to have been able to award the £1 million available in our first year as a Community Partnership. There’s more opportunities in the year ahead.”

– Partnership Chair
Jon Collins

Why not apply for funding for your project or idea?

THE second year of Community Investment Funding is now available – and the panel is keen to hear from people who need some help and support to bring to life an idea that will benefit those living in the Search Area.

The grants team will be happy to talk to you and offer help and advice on your application.

The Community Investment Panel will meet regularly to review the applications and make decisions on the allocation of up to £1 million,

which is available until June 2024. Applications are welcomed from community groups, businesses and public sector organisations who would like to do something to benefit this area, especially if individuals or families can be supported.

The projects must benefit the residents of the wards of Mablethorpe and Withern & Theddlethorpe, and support one or more of the three priorities of economic development, community wellbeing and the natural or built environment. You can speak

to the NWS grants team about your ideas by calling 0300 369 0000 or you can email them at communityinvestment-theddlethorpe@nuclearwasteservices.uk

For more information about funding and support with your application, please visit the Community Partnership’s website at theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/community-investment-funding

YOU'RE IN THE PICTURE

WE WANT to hear from you and answer your questions. We've held a series of engagement events to give you the chance to find out more about a GDF and speak to experts. We've hosted 54 events over the past

year, with lots of lively and fascinating debate. There are many more engagement sessions to come, so please come along and join in the conversation. Here's some of the pictures from our sessions so far...



For details on events and future opportunities
visit the *Get Involved* website page





**Thank you for joining the conversation so far...
we look forward to meeting more of you**

Taking an aerial view



Surveys of the coasts of Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe (pictured) are being carried out now. Photo courtesy NWS

The surveys will gather data on local birds and marine life such as the avocet and grey seal (below). Photos courtesy of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust



Aerial surveys

AERIAL surveys are being conducted off the coast of East Lindsey from October until March of next year.

These will provide Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) with information about the presence and numbers of birds and marine wildlife in the area.

This work, together with other environmental surveys, will provide baseline data as part of the efforts to understand if an area is suitable to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Two planes will be flying each month, on the same day during daylight hours, and each is equipped with high resolution video cameras.

Flight dates may change due to the weather, in terms of visibility, cloud

height and sea state. Please check the Partnership's website for up-to-date information about survey flight dates.

Aerial surveys will also be carried out in Mid and South Copeland, off the west coast of Cumberland.

A second phase of environmental baseline surveys is likely to commence in April 2024 and run until October next year, to capture data during the spring and summer season.

Simon Hughes, Director of Siting and Communities at Nuclear Waste Services, said: "These aerial surveys are an important part of gathering the data

we need to understand the environment of an area. The planes will fly at a low altitude, at least 1,600ft (500 metres), in accordance with recognised best practice, yet be high enough not to disturb the wildlife being observed.

"At this stage we are not looking for any specific species, although the data will be used to get a better understanding of protected species using the area."

NWS is committed to environmental protection during the GDF programme, which is one of the largest infrastructure projects in the country. It will dispose of higher activity waste deep

underground, safely and securely containing and isolating the waste, making it safe for future generations.

The GDF programme requires both a suitable site and a willing community and is still in the early stages.

Construction will only start on a GDF when a suitable site is identified, a potential host community has confirmed its willingness to host the facility through a Test of Public Support, and all the necessary consents and permits have been obtained. These steps could take around 15 years.

For more information about the surveys and GDF, visit theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk

Hearing your views on a GDF

IN our role as your Community Partnership, we are here to provide people with the information they need and opportunities for you to get involved in the conversation about whether this area could be the right place to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The NWS team on behalf of the CP has been calling at homes in the Search Area since the end of August. They have been introducing themselves and asking for your thoughts and advice on how you want to be involved in the conversation.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

A GDF can only be built if the community shows it is willing to host one and it is important you have your say. The team will explain where to find answers to your questions and further information.

We have had positive experiences with the people we have spoken to so far on the doorstep. Residents have shared a range of views, from support for the project to those firmly against, with many saying they are neutral and want to know more before forming an opinion.

Your voice matters.
A GDF can only be built if the community shows it is willing to host one."

The average time spent chatting to people has been 20 minutes. This has allowed for detailed and good quality conversations to take place.

Sharon Darley, Community Engagement Co-ordinator, said: "We have held events in the past and appreciate not everyone is either willing or able to come to these for whatever reason. There are, however, many ways to engage people and with this work we are bringing the information and the chance to have a conversation directly to them.

"We understand that we won't capture everyone and not every household will answer. Whether they are out at that time, at work, busy or do not wish to engage with the team. This is still an opportunity to reach those we can and there will be other engagement activities in future."



Ask questions: You can come and chat to us at the Coastal Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

WINTER ENGAGEMENT

When it is potentially cold and wet outside during the winter months, we will not be knocking on doors to have a conversation.

From November to February, we are offering you other ways in which to chat and ask you a few questions. Please call us on 0300 369 0000 (9am to 5pm) or email GDFinfo-Theddlethorpe@nuclearwasteservices.uk and we can arrange the following:

- A telephone call – time slot booked Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10am – 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am – 4pm

- A virtual call over Microsoft Teams
- A booked appointment at the Coastal Centre in Mablethorpe on Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

You can still drop in to the Coastal Centre if you wish to and ask to speak to a member of the engagement team. We are there on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm.

We plan to have more options available in future. This information will be added to our website, theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/get-involved



Sharing knowledge and experience with international experts



The landscape is very similar to one of our regions being near the sea. It's agricultural land and there are homes and farms nearby, and there's a town a couple of kilometres away.”
– Jamie Matear



Canadian expert Jamie Matear, above, discusses Canada's plans for waste, top, and tours our Search Area with members of the Community Engagement Team, bottom

JAMIE MATEAR, Director of Siting Coordination at Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), visited Lincolnshire earlier this year. He was keen to share his experiences and find out more about the GDF programme in the UK.

He spent the day with the Community Engagement Team and members of the Community Partnership, touring the Search Area in this area and taking time to understand the work so far and what is planned.

Jamie also discussed the journey taken in Canada to find a suitable site for a GDF, answered questions, explained the progress being made by the NWMO and highlighted what we can learn from each other. Here, he tells us more.

AT WHAT STAGE IS THE NWMO WITH ITS PLANS TO DEVELOP A REPOSITORY?

“We are getting towards the end of our site selection process. We had 22 communities express an interest [in hosting a deep geological repository] and we've narrowed down, through technical and social research, to the final two. We expect to decide on which of the sites will continue by the end of 2024.”

WHAT WORK HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

“We started in 2002 and are 21 years into our 175-year process. We formed out of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act, federal legislation that said the nuclear industry had to establish an organisation to create a plan to manage Canada's used nuclear fuel.

“We asked Canadians what they thought was important and created a plan, recommending a deep geological repository, and took that to the federal government.

“In 2007, we developed the 'site selection process', when Canadian municipalities and indigenous communities could express an interest in learning about the process to potentially be a repository host. This process started in 2010. Over the next decade we carried out technical and social activities, looking at the potential willingness of communities and how neighbouring communities took part.

“All the technical information, geological certainties, the safety case and the ability to build a facility on-site were looked at and we narrowed down to the two sites.”

WHAT SITE EVALUATIONS AND BOREHOLE DRILLING HAS TAKEN PLACE?

“Our confidence and safety reports were published last year. They were developed by our subject matter experts and describe the confidence the model has in the potential for building a repository at either site.

“These reports will change over time as we get more information from the results of borehole drilling.

“Our initial borehole drilling programmes have been completed at both sites. We drilled six boreholes in our northern Ontario site and two boreholes in the south. We only did two in the south to validate the results from other boreholes already drilled in the area.”

WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SITE SELECTION?

“Once we've chosen a site, we are going to move to the regulatory decision-making phase. Studies will continue for site characterisation and more boreholes drilled. We are currently doing environmental baseline studies to share with the regulator.

“We conducted a full-scale demonstration of our engineered barrier system at our Oakville facility. Our multi-barrier system includes a steel and copper container that the used fuel will be stored in with the bentonite clay box.

“We talked about confidence and safety and our geoscience team found that both locations could safely contain used nuclear fuel for the time frames.”

WHAT IS THE FUTURE PLAN?

“We will take our project to the impact assessment Agency of Canada, which will do an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will look at the project and provide us with the approval for our licences to prepare and construct a site.

“Construction could start in the early 2030s. It will take about 10 years to construct the facility and then we will start to bring in the used fuel from its current locations. It takes about 40 years to fill the repository and after that there would be long-term monitoring, up until the 175-year point.”

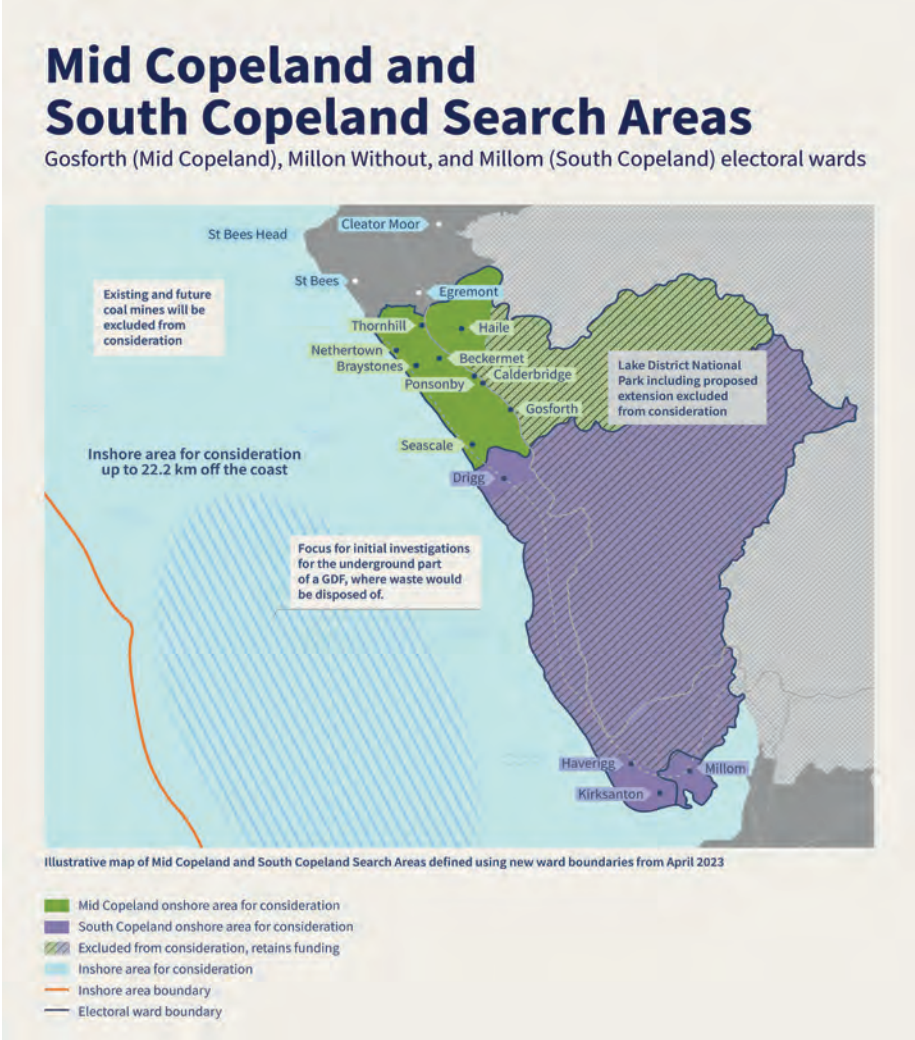
Learn more about Canada's plan to contain and isolate nuclear fuel in a deep geological disposal facility at nwmo.ca

Learn more about what Jamie thought of our work in Lincolnshire by watching a clip of his visit – search ‘Canadian visit to East Lindsey’ on YouTube.

Conversations progressing with other communities

AS the Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership continues to engage with local people, conversations are also progressing with other communities. Two communities in Cumbria – in Mid Copeland and South Copeland – are in discussions about what hosting a GDF could mean for them. Community Partnerships are now well established in these areas and provide a platform for sharing information and engaging with communities. Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) had been engaging with people in the Allerdale community. Assessments were carried out but, following a comprehensive evaluation of the data, it was concluded that only a limited volume of suitable rock was identifiable. NWS therefore made the decision not to take Allerdale further in the GDF siting process due to limited suitable geology.

FUNDING The formation of Community Partnerships has unlocked more than £3 million of Community Investment Funding (CIF) so far, supporting around 80 projects. In Mid Copeland, more than £650,000 has been awarded this year so far, including a new youth centre, two play parks and a transformed community hall. There are weekly drop-ins for anyone with questions or concerns and more than 100 people attended recent GDF safety and technical events. In South Copeland, eight local initiatives successfully applied for CIF this year, adding to the 27 awarded funding in 2022, with many of the ideas now coming to fruition. Ged McGrath, South Copeland GDF Community



Partnership Chair, said: “Being able to see some of the projects being completed from the Community Investment Funding is particularly rewarding.” Site evaluation work in the Cumbrian Search Areas is moving forward, with studies to assess potential site suitability for hosting a GDF under way. The first

marine geophysical survey off the coast of Copeland, Cumbria, was successfully carried out in August 2022. NWS has also purchased existing geophysical data for other Search Areas on both East and West Coast locations as an efficient and cost-effective way to get initial information on local geology.



Deadline requested for public decision

By Jon Collins, Interim Chair of the CP

OUR Partnership members Martin Hill and Craig Leyland, the Leaders of the County and District Councils, have asked that a four-year deadline be set for the Test of Public Support that will allow people to decide if they think that a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is right for this area.

DEADLINE Having a clear deadline for when local people get to say whether they support the proposal is supported by the Partnership and respected by the developer Nuclear Waste Services (NWS). However, it does mean that there is a lot of work to do before then if the Test of Public Support is to be informed, evidence-based and in line with the Government’s Working with Communities Policy. Please continue to ask questions and express your views because, at the end of this process, it’s you who will decide whether this area is willing to host a GDF. The Partnership has been made aware of letters sent to residents by a company called UK Property and Land Holdings, about buying property in the area. We want to assure you that this is nothing to do with the Community Partnership or the GDF programme.

WHO WE ARE... Meet the members of your Community Partnership



IN this issue, we continue our series in which we talk to members of the Community Partnership. Here, we meet local businessman Carl Richardson. **What made you apply to be a member of the Community Partnership?** “This is probably one the most important

issues to face our community. As a local resident it was important to be involved at an early stage, ensuring that local businesses are represented and become actively involved in developing a vision for the future and future generations.” **Have you observed interest from the business community?** “At this early stage, businesses have not really had the opportunity to get together, but some have engaged personally and attended events. It is my hope that the business community can come together to think about the wider implications and any opportunities that a proposal of national significance can bring.” **What do you bring to the Partnership?** “I am hard working, have an honest and questioning attitude, along with experience in working with critical national infrastructures, in operational, occupational and process safety areas.”

What are you looking forward to doing as a member? “To actively work with all tourism and hospitality businesses in the Search Area. We all need to participate and have a say in the business vision for the future.” **What would you say to anyone wanting to know more about geological disposal and wanting to get involved?** “Please make full use of the material provided on Partnership website at theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk or pop into the Mablethorpe Coastal Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to meet the NWS consultation team. “For business owners to get involved in working together to develop a plan for Mablethorpe, or to be kept informed, please register your interest on Facebook at Mablethorpe Business Owners Syndicate (MBOS) or get in touch with me so that we can form a business stakeholder group together.”

Would you like to join our Partnership?

WE are looking to co-opt members for an initial period of two years.

For more information please click the ‘Join Us’ button on our website homepage (address below).

The closing date for applications is 13 December and interviews will be held in due course.

Join the GDF conversation

Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership

@TheddlethorpeCP

Theddlethorpe GDFCommunity Partnership

www.theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk

GDFinfo-Theddlethorpe@nuclearwasteservices.uk

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