

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Title	Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership Meeting 19		
Date	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2024		
Time	From:	14:00	To: 16:30
Location	The Dunes Complex, Central Promenade, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, LN12 1RG		
Independent Chair	David Fannin		
Note taker	Victoria Mana (Community Partnership Assistant)		
Invitees			
Community Partnership (CP) Members			
Sector	Name	Organisation	Role
Council	Cllr Martin Hill	Lincolnshire County Council	Leader
Council	Cllr Craig Leyland	East Lindsey District Council	Leader
Council	Cllr Simon Acklam	Theddlethorpe & Withern Parish Council	Parish Council Representative
Council	Cllr Claire Arnold	Mablethorpe & Sutton Town Council	Town Council Representative
Voluntary	Tammy Smalley	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Head of Conservation
Voluntary	Rob Druce	Mablethorpe Coastwatch	Station Manager
Voluntary	Ken Smith	Guardians of the East Coast	Chair
Business	Gareth Rowland	British Holiday & Home Parks Association (BHHPA)	Director for Lincolnshire
Business	Carl Richardson	Dunes Family Entertainment Centre Ltd Dunes Food Events Company Ltd	Director Managing Director
Business	Helen Fisher	We Are Carbon	Proprietor
Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)	Sarah Fletcher	Nuclear Waste Services	Regional Manager – GDF Siting
Official Observers			
	Andy Gutherson	Lincolnshire County Council	Executive Director of Place
	Lydia Rusling	East Lindsey District Council	Assistant Director of Economic Growth
	Pranali Parikh	East Lindsey District Council	Director of Economic Development
Nuclear Waste Services			
	Nicky Kirkby	Nuclear Waste Services	Operations Manager
	Nicola Clarke	Nuclear Waste Services	Community Engagement Manager
	Anneline Wilson	Nuclear Waste Services	Regional Communications Manager
	Joe Blissett	Nuclear Waste Services	Grants Manager
	Simon Hughes	Nuclear Waste Services	Siting & Communities Director
	Matt Swift*	Nuclear Waste Services	Senior Project Manager
Guest Presenters			
	Candida Lean	Environment Agency (EA)	Nuclear Waste Assessor
	Themis Kantara	Environment Agency (EA)	Nuclear Regulator
	Peter Howden*	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)	Principal Inspector
	Martin Walkingshaw	Nuclear Waste Services	Chief Operating Officer
	Neil Hyatt	Nuclear Waste Services	Chief Scientific Adviser
	Chris Keenan	Nuclear Waste Services	Head of Community, Operations & Land

Other Observers			
	Mike Bowman*	Nuclear Waste Services	GDF Adviser / Consultant
	Jon Collins		Former CP Interim Chair
	Alice McAlpine*	Nuclear Waste Services	Legal Counsel (Planning)
	Edward Wright*	Lincolnshire County Council	Senior Adviser for Energy Opportunities
Apologies			
	Cllr Martin Hill; Tammy Smalley; Rob Druce Lydia Rusling; Pranali Parikh Simon Hughes		
Notes			
	*Attended Meeting Online		

### **Agenda**

Item	Description
1	Introductions and apologies
2	CP Chair opening remarks
3	Declaration of interests (any new / changes)
4	Minutes of previous meeting, action log and matters arising
5	Regulator presentation: Environment Agency (EA) & Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) offering insight into how they regulate NWS.
6	Developer presentations: 6.1 - Verbal update from NWS Ltd – the developer 6.2 - GDF safety and the multi-barrier approach
7	Introduction to Property Value Protection Scheme (PVP)
8	Community Partnership Programme of Activities – 8.1 - Communications & Community Engagement 8.2 - Community Investment Funding 8.3 - Community Vision for the future
9	Responses to previously submitted questions and AOB

### **Notes**

Item	Notes for the record	Lead
1	Introductions and apologies	David Fannin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introductions made and apologies noted.</li> </ul>	
2	CP Chair opening remarks	David Fannin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair's opening statement can be found on Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership website via the following link - <a href="https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Chairs-opening-statement-CP-19-Sept-2024.pdf">https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Chairs-opening-statement-CP-19-Sept-2024.pdf</a></li> </ul>	
3	Declaration of interests (any new / changes)	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carl Richardson declared an interest as a shareholder in the Dunes Complex, but confirmed that he received no payment for use of the venue.</li> </ul>	

4	Minutes of previous meeting, action log and matters arising	David Fannin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes approved, action log update provided and no matters arising.</li> </ul>	
5	Environment Agency (EA) and Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) offering an insight into how they regulate NWS	Candida Lean Themis Kantara Peter Howden
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation can be found on Theddlethorpe GDF Community website via the following link - <a href="https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf">https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf</a></li> </ul>	
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following questions were asked/comments made in the meeting - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A CP Member commented - ‘the public has no reason to trust the regulators when they act in the interest of the companies. For example, Sellafield has been told that it needs shutting down’. <u>EA response</u> – the EA always gives independent advice, and it won’t issue permits if the stringent requirements are not met by NWS at all stages. All applications for permits are put out in the public domain and the results are published. <u>ONR response</u> – no acknowledgement can be made re the accusations about Sellafield as they are not specific. ONR’s guiding principles are always in the interest of safety and security.</li> <li>A member of the public said they thought that the meeting was poorly advertised, and that the technical information provided in the meeting unclear. They also asked when a referendum would take place. <u>Chair response</u> – respectful reminder given that this time is for questions to be asked of the regulator.</li> <li>A CP Member asked, in the event of a breach in the process, what happens next? <u>EA response</u> – it depends on the severity of the breach. Safety and security are monitored throughout the process and the EA would expect a final safety case to ensure that the site is securely closed. The engineered barrier systems will also be monitored.  The Member asked what would happen if there were an issue after the site is closed. <u>Chair response</u> – the CP will be prioritising its time at future CP meetings and inviting key third parties to share greater level of detail on GDF risks and specialist topics. The CP forward meeting plan will be determined very shortly. This could be a future item for the CP and the regulators to discuss.</li> <li>A member of the public expressed concern about the amount of taxpayers’ money being spent on permits, the process to get the test of public support (ToPS) in place, etc. Would these funds not be better spent on the NHS and other areas to help people in the local area? <u>EA response</u> – the sentiment is appreciated. The EA can support and advise, but they don’t have any control over which communities are involved in this process. <u>ONR response</u> – the process for CPs and ToPS is set out in government policy. The ONR has no role in this and no decisions about which communities are involved.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	

	<p>5. A CP Member asked how long the permit application processes take.  <u>EA response</u> – borehole licence application will be the next stage, and it is expected to be submitted within the next few years. It will take about two years for the EA to decide the application.</p> <p>Second part of this question – is there ongoing regulatory inspection through the time cycle?  <u>EA response</u> – the EA expects ongoing periodic safety cases, e.g. every 10 years. Any issues would involve a formal review. Safety cases also required if substantial changes are made to the plans.  <u>ONR response</u> – all nuclear installations have a designated ONR inspector who carry out regular assessments. This will be put in place for the GDF.</p> <p>Third part of this question – does the safety case need renewing?  <u>ONR response</u> – once the licence is given, periodic safety reviews take place every 10 years at a minimum to ensure safe operations.</p> <p>6. A CP Member asked if the EA work internationally.  <u>EA response</u> – yes, the EA liaise with counterparts working on GDFs in other countries, e.g. Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and also collaborate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This enables learning and following good practice of others.  <u>ONR response</u> – important to note that the surface site facility will be similar to other existing nuclear installations. Yes, the ONR collaborates internationally. For the underground facility, the ONR will look to gain learning from international organisations on matters such as the mining and construction elements.</p> <p>7. A member of the public asked how it is possible to regulate for 100,000 years into the future.  <u>EA response</u> – the developer’s safety case needs to demonstrate that the waste will be passively safe for the environment and human health at all times during the process, during construction, operation and after closure.</p> <p>8. The Chair asked if there is a planned consultation for this CP.  <u>EA response</u> – to be kept up to date with any consultations, the meeting attendees and audience were invited to join the EA mailing list.</p>	
6	<p>6.1 - Verbal update from NWS Ltd – the developer</p> <p>6.2 - GDF safety and the multi-barrier approach</p>	<p>Martin Walkingshaw Neil Hyatt</p>
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement made by MW that there have been many challenges for Theddlethorpe CP and for the community. Apology was given recognising that NWS hasn’t served this area as much as they could have done in the past and that there will now be a reset and greater focus on community concerns and information requirements in the future.</li> <li>• Geology has been much talked of, but there hasn’t been much focus on what it is like to live near a nuclear facility, and this recognised as important.</li> <li>• It is to be recognised that the surface facility will not be a processing plant, as at Sellafield, but the waste will arrive already packaged and ready to be placed in the GDF.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a long timeline before this stage is reached. In the meantime, NWS is committed to listening to the CP and local community and sharing a lot more information quicker and being open to discussion. NWS can also arrange visits to places for the purpose of learning and understanding the bigger picture and local implications.</li> <li>• It was emphasised that there will be many jobs for this community for future generations which will bring great benefit. The timeline allows for local people to develop the skills to do these jobs through training and apprenticeships, working with local colleges and the university. Skills and development are already in place in Cumbria and this would be replicated in Lincolnshire.</li> </ul>	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NH demonstrated the multi-barrier approach and expanded on safety considerations and learning from other countries. The presentation can be found on Theddlethorpe GDF Community website via the following link - <a href="https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf">https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf</a></li> </ul>	
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions/comments from CP members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do the capsules containing the nuclear waste deteriorate and merge into the rock over time? <u>NH response</u> – yes, the containers are designed to last for 10,000 years and they will degrade slowly. However, the multi-barrier system of the rocks ensures that the waste is kept contained (some waste remains radioactive for 100,000 years). Currently, different types of waste are stored above ground in different types of containers at sites such as the LLWR and Sellafield.</li> <li>2. This is a non-nuclear community and currently there is nothing in the area to encourage young people to stay here. It is important to address this as many people enjoy living here and want to stay and work here.</li> <li>3. How can the community be convinced of the safety aspect when there are examples of past issues, e.g. at Fukushima, Japan? <u>NH response</u> – the science has to be trusted and used in the right way to allow people to form their own judgments. NH welcomed invitation to attend upcoming CP meetings to provide further information and to discuss the science involved in safety and waste management in more detail.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
7	Introduction to Property Value Protection Scheme (PVP)	Chris Keenan
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVP scheme was launched in all CP areas on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.</li> <li>• It addresses concerns that people may have around their property value.</li> <li>• Local concerns are already being addressed with individual property owners.</li> <li>• CK welcomed invitation to attend upcoming CP meetings for more detailed discussion of this and other GDF impacts as part of future CP workplan.</li> <li>• Further detail on the PVP can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/property-value-protection-scheme">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/property-value-protection-scheme</a></li> </ul>	

8	CP Programme of Activities	
	<p>8.1 - Communications 8.2 - Community Engagement 8.3 - Community Investment Funding 8.4 - Community vision for the future</p> <p>Verbal updates provided by the work programme leads; DF invited JB to present highlights from the CIF annual report. A slide deck on the above workstream updates is available on the following link - <a href="https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf">https://theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TT-CP-Meeting-19-19.09.24-Meeting-Presentation-1.pdf</a></p>	<p>Helen Fisher Cllr Claire Arnold Joe Blissett Carl Richardson</p>
9	Responses to previously submitted questions and AOB	David Fannin
	<p>DF stated that all questions submitted to the CP will be answered either by the CP, the developer or other parties as appropriate. All questions and answers will be published on the CP website. DF invited SF to share some of the questions that have been submitted to date.</p> <p>Q&amp;As read out - The CP noted that the language used was too corporate and complex and a request was made for the use of simple and plain English. DF stated that the process for responding to questions should be being reviewed to ensure answers are provided quicker and are to the point.</p> <p>The Chair asked how soon it would be possible to have information of other impact assessments (other than PVP). CK said that similar work is being commissioned to inform the CPs in Cumbria. DF proposed that CP should seek to commission impact assessments. The CP agreed and approved DF and CK to follow this up outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Sarah Fletcher invited everyone to the NWS event of 19th – 23rd October, ‘Discover the World of a Geological Disposal Facility: Explore, Discover and Connect’ which will be held at the Dunes Complex, Mablethorpe. DF noted that this is a developer event, and that the CP would be present to monitor public reaction.</p> <p>A CP Member referenced that it is the role of the CP to gauge public opinion and requested that this is addressed as soon as possible. The Chair responded that this will be addressed at the CP Away Day.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Action</p>

**Action Log**

Meeting Date	Minutes Reference	Item	Date Due	Date Actioned	Status	Comments
19.09.24	9.2	AOB – refine the Qs & As process	21.11.24		Open	Anneline Wilson to work with Helen Fisher
19.09.24	9.2	AOB – impact assessment studies	21.11.24		Open	The Chair to work with Chris Keenan to consider the scope of work for commissioning impact assessment studies based on other projects
18.07.24	4.4	Co-opt recruitment to be considered and recommendation brought forward	17.10.24		Open	Cllr Craig Leyland  <u>Update</u> – to be resolved at CP Away Day, October 2024
18.04.24	5.2	Produce a slide pack outlining the work and purpose of the CP. Include a profile of the CP members to use the pack to help promote awareness of their role within the local community	19.09.24		Open	Anneline Wilson to action  <u>Update</u> – in progress and will involve the Communications workstream with the Operations & Governance workstream
21.03.24	3.3	Once CP member profiling and skills audit complete, including circulating to CP Members for approval, a paper to be written setting out any demographic, skills and experience gaps which a co-opted individual might bring to the Partnership	19.09.24		Open	Nicky Kirkby to action