

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Title	Theddlethorpe GDF Community Partnership Meeting 20		
Date	Thursday 17 th October 2024		
Time	From:	14:00	To: 16:30
Location	Coastal Centre, Victoria Road, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, LN12 2AQ		
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			
	Cllr Travis Hesketh	Local community member	
	Andrea Spink	Local community member	
	Greg Marriott-Dodington	Local community member	
Other Observers			
	Sir Nigel Thrift	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)	Chair

	Dr Derek Lacey	CoRWM	Co-Deputy Chair
	Prof Penny Harvey	CoRWM	Co-Deputy Chair
	Simon Webb	CoRWM	Member
Apologies			
	Cllr Simon Acklam; Cllr Claire Arnold Tammy Smalley; Lydia Rusling; Pranali Parikh Anneline Wilson; Joe Blissett; Simon Hughes		
Notes	*Attended Meeting Online		

Agenda

Item	Description
1	Introductions and apologies
2	Declaration of interests (any new / changes)
3	Minutes of previous meeting, action log and matters arising
4	Presentation on 2024 survey of public opinion Qs &As
5	CP reflections on 2024 survey
6	Presentation on 2022 Theddlethorpe parish council survey of public opinion Qs & As
7	CP reflections on 2022 survey
8	CP doorstep engagement current activity and insights
9	Engagement activities in 2024/25: 9.1 Planned work and ideas for future engagement work 9.2 Cross-over with community vision for the future 9.3 Report back on meeting with Yonder / National Centre for Social Research (NCSR) regarding Citizen's Forum and deliberative research
10	10.1 CP comms & engagement strategy 10.2 GDF Voice refresh & recommendations 10.3 Additional matters for CP consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media review • Response & rebuttals • GDF fundamentals campaign
11	Reflections on the Away Day and next steps
12	AOB

Notes

Item	Notes for the record	Lead
1	<p>Introductions and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies from Cllr Simon Acklam, Cllr Claire Arnold and Tammy Smalley were noted. Representatives from CoRWM were present as observers. 	David Fannin
2	<p>Declaration of interests (any new / changes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates. 	All
3	<p>Minutes of previous meeting, action log and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from previous meeting were approved. Action log reviewed later in the meeting with the new actions from the Away Day under agenda item 9. A matter arising was the topic of quorum, as discussed at the Away Day. Currently set at 2/3rds of appointed members of the partnership. The Chair proposed that this be reset to 50% of appointed membership; Cllr Craig Leyland seconded. 7 votes in favour of this update. Proposal carried. It was noted that those absent from today's meeting who were present at the Away Day held on 14.10.24 supported and agreed with the actions recommended at the Away Day which have been added to the action log for formal approval (please see decision log below). 	David Fannin
4	<p>Presentation on 2022 and 2024 surveys of public opinion Q&A</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Cllr Heskth and Mrs Spink and commented that monitoring of public opinion is one of the core purposes of the CP and the CP is reviewing and learning from all existing sources of public opinion before deciding what to do next.</p> <p>Mrs Spink and Cllr Hesketh presented the method and results of the local survey 2022 and the follow-up survey of public and visitor opinion of 2024.</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>1. A CP Member asked which questions were put to the public in the 2024 survey. <u>Response from Cllr Hesketh</u> – the questions were a) where do you live? and b) how do you feel about a GDF? <u>Response from Andrea Spink</u> – there were multiple questions in the original survey of 2022.</p> <p>2. A CP Member asked if people trust the information which they are receiving from NWS and the CP. <u>Response from Cllr Hesketh</u> – his opinion is that there is no trust in the information provided as it comes from the developer or in the results from the CP engagement activity because of its association with the developer.</p> <p>The CP concurred that people must be able to trust information they are receiving. The Chair explained that, over the next 12 months, the CP will be inviting subject specialists to attend CP meetings to closely examine them on aspects of the project that are of public concern and interest.</p>	Cllr Travis Hesketh & Andrea Spink

	<p>The CP would welcome alternative information from independent sources other than the developer.</p> <p>The Chair invited GOTEK and anyone who can suggest alternative experts who can offer additional evidence to contact him.</p> <p>The role of the CP is to listen, learn and ensure people have the information they need to make an informed decision when the time comes. The CP noted that whilst the 2022 and 2024 surveys were not conducted as per Market Research Society standards and are not definitive nor compliant with a TOPS, the results are nonetheless helpful in this respect.</p> <p>The Chair noted the genuine concern expressed, that the CP would continue to listen to local people and thanked the presenters who left the room.</p>	
5	CP reflections on the presentation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CP member expressed the opinion that there seems to have been little progress in public understanding since the 2022 survey and that there is still a need for much more information to be shared. • The Chair noted that the need for more information had been mentioned at the recent Cllr and Parish Clerks briefing. • A CP Member said that use of language is key as there are very different ways of asking the same question, e.g. ‘do you want a nuclear dump?’ differs greatly from ‘would you consider a highly engineered underground nuclear waste facility?’ 	
6	Presentation on 2022 Theddlethorpe parish council survey of public opinion	Greg Marriott-Dodington
6.1	<p>The Chair welcomed Mr Marriott-Dodington who presented the method and results of the parish survey 2022. The CP noted the discrepancies in the analysis that this highlighted.</p> <p>Qs & As -</p> <p>1. A CP Member asked if it is the case that local people don’t want to see big changes in the local area.</p> <p><u>Response from Greg M-D</u> – many people have expressed concern about what will happen to the former gas terminal site in Theddlethorpe as several different schemes are being proposed. There are many large infrastructure projects being discussed for the wider local area and residents are fearful for the future of this rural environment.</p> <p>2. A CP Member asked if it is the nuclear element which people are against or if it is the scale of the project.</p> <p><u>Response from Greg M-D</u> – there are certainly some anti-nuclear people whereas others fear the thought of industrialisation in general. He perceives a 50/50 split.</p> <p>A CP Member observed that multi-generational families lived within close proximity of Theddlethorpe gas terminal when it was in operation, there was an acceptance that it was being operated safely and people adapted to living alongside it.</p>	
7	CP reflections on the presentation	
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further discussion was held about the use of language. For example, some people still think that nuclear waste will be dumped on the land or into the sea and that it will leak. • Conversation about awareness of the immersive event currently being held at the Dunes and if local people know that it is taking place. The perception is that many people don’t 	

	<p>know of events which have been arranged. Some who do know about the events don't engage as they are not bothered or they lack trust in NWS and the information being provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, there remains mistrust and misunderstanding of the role of the CP as distinct from the developer and on GDF issues, which the CP needs to continue to address. 	
8	<p>CP doorstep engagement current activity and insights (Verbal update)</p> <p>The following feedback was given based on recent activity -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents struggle to appreciate the timeline of the project and the technical information involved. • People don't always understand that it is legacy waste which needs dealing with. • The role of the CP is not fully understood and many don't see any difference between NWS and the CP. • 'Scoring' of doorstep engagements has been misleading and misinterpreted – it was intended only to measure changes in the level of understanding, not likely voting position. • There is little understanding of the potential benefits which the project could bring to the community. • At the request of community leaders, the focus for doorstep engagement is moving to Theddlethorpe in November. <p>Overall reflections on all the presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall sense is that some people react negatively without fully understanding what the GDF actually is and the long timescales involved. • On balance, this review of all current surveys and engagement feedback shows that there are genuinely concerned people, but some of the community will remain silent who want the benefits of hosting the GDF but are reluctant to speak out for fear of social media repercussions. Others accept the GDF as long as it is safe and they feel no need to discuss or vote at this stage. • It was recognised that community engagement needs to ensure that people feel able to seek further information and to ask questions. • The CP needs to agree a programme for hearing from and questioning subject matter experts and enabling people who are interested to find out more in a way that is easy to understand. • The CP needs to develop community engagement and opinion monitoring to ensure that such activity is conducted in accordance with recognised professional standards. • The CP agreed that, having listened to the public feedback, 'scoring' of doorstep engagement should stop from now on. 	Nicola Clarke
9	<p>This item changed from Engagement Activities in 2024 / 2025 to Away Day Update</p> <p>The Chair reminded the CP that the purpose of the recent Away Day (14.10.24) was to close items which had been ongoing for some time so that it can focus its energies on planning ahead. These included governance review and next steps, agreeing CP priorities for deeper examination with subject matter experts, monitoring public opinion, community engagement and communications activities. Notes and recommended actions had been collated, shared with the CP members and added to the action log (see below) for discussion and formal agreement at this meeting.</p>	David Fannin

10	CP Comms and Engagement	Helen Fisher
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen presented the draft CP communications & engagement strategy for approval. Helen expanded on GDF Voice refresh and recommendations, including renaming as Community Bridge, to reflect the role of the CP as a bridge between developer and community. Social media review will be addressed and refined at a future point. GDF fundamentals campaign is still a work in progress. 	Approved
11	Reflections on the Away Day and next steps	All
	This was covered in item 9.	
12	AOB	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A CP Member referenced that the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal site would be cut in half by the Viking CCS pipeline project and then questioned if this would result in NWS withdrawing from this area or if they would be looking for a different site. Response provided was that further enquiries will need to be made (please see action log below) The Chair encouraged CP Members to attend the trip to the LLWR site in Cumbria which is scheduled for 13th – 15th November. The visit to the LLWR and the Sellafield overview will be part of a broader itinerary that will include time to network with the Copeland CPs and community organisations. There will be the chance to discuss young person engagement and local apprenticeships which will play a part in long-term workforce planning. The Chair is attending an IAEA Technical Meeting in Vienna, 21st – 25th October along with a delegation from Copeland to learn more about international good practice and IAEA policy, and to learn from international colleagues. The representatives from CoRWM introduced themselves, thanked the CP for enabling them to observe the CP proceedings and offered their expertise in community engagement work, which is part of their mandate. 	

Decision Log

Meeting Date	Minutes Reference	Item	Date Due	Date Actioned	Status	Comments
17.10.24	3	Quorum to be reset at 50% of eligible membership (previously set at 2/3rds).	17.10.24	17.10.24	Closed	Approved.
17.10.24	10	CP communications & engagement strategy – approved as a working draft.	17.10.24	17.10.24	Closed	Approved. The CP agreed to revisit this as it evolves over the next phase of CP work programming.

Action Log

Meeting Date	Minutes Ref	Item	Date Due	Date Actioned	Status	Comments
17.10.24	9.1	Review and refine the role description for the vacant voluntary and business roles on the CP as per discussion at the Away Day.	21.11.24		Open	Craig to oversee.
17.10.24	9.2	Update the CP agreement with inclusion of code of conduct and media policy	19.12.24		Open	Craig with support from Mary Bradley, David and Sarah.
17.10.24	9.3	List of young people and people who bring a variety of community opinions to be collated - this to be the starter for establishing a reference group of 'willing and interested' people rather than CP co-opted individuals.	21.11.24		Open	Sarah/Nicky to action in liaison with David. Efforts to be made to include people who have virtually no voice or presence in public life. Reference groups to nominated advocates and rapporteurs to feed into the CP POA.
		People on the list to be contacted.	19.12.24		Open	Sarah/Nicky to action in liaison with David.
17.10.24	9.4	Hold informal meetings with young people who have already expressed an interest in the CP.	30.11.24		Open	Sarah to provide names and contacts. David to action. Victoria to facilitate.
17.10.24	9.5	Liaise with local primary schools to engage with additional potential co-opted voices, e.g. families	19.12.24		Open	Claire to action
17.10.24	9.6	Draft a schedule of key topics to be prioritised for deeper examination with subject matter experts in CP meeting agendas up to July 2025.	21.11.24		Open	David, Nicky and Victoria <u>Update</u> – meeting scheduled for 05.11.24
17.10.24	9.7	Arrange for non-technical summaries to be provided to CP members ahead of each CP meeting.	Immediate		Open	Victoria to action and refine after Nov CP.

17.10.24	9.8	Yonder to step down from CP involvement in Spring campaign.	Immediate subject to exit planning.		Open	Sarah
17.10.24	9.9	Establish a task and finish group to plan next steps for monitoring public opinion.	21.11.24		Open	Helen to action with support from David, Simon, Carl and Sarah. <u>Update</u> – meeting scheduled for 12.11.24.
17.10.24	9.10	Arrange a postal survey to be sent out by end of 2024.	21.11.24 subject to discussion in the task and finish group		Open	Helen to action with support from Sarah.
17.10.24	9.11	Prepare a letter for sending out to local community groups and organisations.	21.11.24		Open	Claire to action – share with David, Craig and Helen for approval.
17.10.24	9.12	Source freelance journalist(s) including young person. Onboarding and induction	Immediate ASAP		Open Open	Helen to action including agreeing job description. Nicky to fast-track contract sign-off and payment mechanism.
17.10.24	10.1	Rebrand and refresh 'The Voice' publication including a name change.	21.11.24		Open	Helen to action.
17.10.24	10.2	Finalise and document the revised process for answering questions submitted to the CP.	21.11.24		Open	Craig and Helen to action.
17.10.24	12	Enquire further about what impact the Viking CCS pipeline project will have on the investigative work of NWS at the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal site	19.12.24		Open	David to action
19.09.24	9	Commission independent GDF impact assessment report(s)	21.11.24		Open	David to work with Chris Keenan to understand the scope of this activity in Copeland and draft a

						Theddlethorpe version for commissioning.
18.04.24	5	Produce a slide pack outlining the work and purpose of the CP including a profile of the CP members.	19.09.24		Open	Anneline Wilson to action.
17.10.24	9	Identify a schools' co-ordinator at Lincolnshire County Council to assist the CP.	21.11.24	16.10.24	Closed Open	Justin Brown to action <u>Follow-up</u> : needs to be introduced to and briefed by David, Helen and Claire.
17.10.24	9	Raise issues and frustrations around comms activities with Simon Hughes.	21.11.24	16.10.24	Closed	Sarah to action
19.09.24	9.2	Refine the Qs & As process.	21.11.24	17.10.24	Closed	Anneline to work with Helen. <u>Update</u> –superseded by the action agreed 17.10.24
18.07.24	4.4	Co-opt recruitment to be considered and recommendation brought forward.	17.10.24	17.10.24	Closed	Craig <u>Update</u> – superseded by the action agreed 17.10.24 to establish reference groups.
21.03.24	3	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	17.10.24	Closed	Superseded by decisions following the Oct 2024 CP Away Day.