



Allerdale GDF Working Group

Snapshot of Communications & Engagement Activity & Community Feedback

14th January 2021 to 6th September 2021

Purpose of this summary

This document provides a summary of all the communications & engagement activity carried out by the Allerdale Working Group since its launch on 14th January 2021 to the 6th September 2021.

Information in this document is used to update Working Group members on the progress to date, as well as summarising the feedback and comments that have been received since launch.

Information from the report up until July 2021 was used in the Search Area Identification Workshops to provide a snapshot of the comments, issues and concerns being raised by residents and stakeholders.

The document provides an outline all of the proactive communications and engagement activity carried out by the Working Group (e.g. through its communications channels, community engagement activities) and provides a summary of the feedback the Working Group has received through direct engagement (e.g. feedback received by the contact centre, from meetings, face-to-face drop-in sessions and online events including research conducted by RWM on behalf of the Working Group).

During initial engagement some common themes emerged around **geology, safety (environment), history, process and policy**, and these were reflected in media coverage as per the following headlines / media quotes : -

Cumbria is geologically and hydrologically unsuitable	Conflict of interest between CoRWM and West Cumbria Mining
Frustration that the process takes so long - “Get on with it”; “Waste is already here - get it underground	Cumbria was previously ruled out (geology and politics) so why are you looking here again?
With the right incentives we should look again	Expressions of concern over Interested Party – “We were told that landowners could come forward, but they don’t even need to own land or be a local resident
Claims that the new West Cumbria coal mine will be a “Trojan horse for a GDF	If GDF placed in the Irish sea off the coast of Cumbria, then it would / might encroach on Isle of Mann territorial waters
Suggestions that the Working Groups are not representative	Suggestion that any construction / seismic work under the sea off the coast of Cumbria will “disturb the radioactive waste sediment in the Cumbrian Mud Patch

Contents		
1	Methods of Communications & Engagement	
2	Activity to date and outputs	
3	Proactive engagement – Stakeholder & Community engagement	
4	Virtual Exhibition	
5	Emails and letters to stakeholders	
6	Proactive engagement – research on local opinions	
7	Feedback received through direct engagement	
8	Youth Engagement	
9	Direct Mail Drops	
10	Face-to-face community drop-in sessions	
11	Online Discussion Events	
12	Appendices	

1 - Methods of Communications & Engagement

The Working Group uses a range of methods to provide information, receive feedback and engage with the local population. A mix of communications channels and engagement tools are used, as listed below.

During the COVID-19 restrictions period, it was not possible to hold face-to-face exhibitions or meetings during the period. Alternative methods of communications and engagement were developed (e.g. Virtual Exhibition & Online events). The amount of proactive communications and engagement was also restricted for several weeks during the period up to local elections on 6th May.

Proactive engagement – Communications channels

- WG website
- WG social media (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- WG monthly E-newsletters (monthly)
- Media engagement (press releases, briefings/interviews)
- Local advertising (print) to drive people to website / Virtual Exhibition
- Direct Mail Drops
- Posters to promote face-to-face and online events

Proactive engagement – Stakeholder & Community engagement

- One-to-one / group meetings attended by WG Independent Chair / other members/RWM Subject Matters Experts
- Stakeholder Group meetings
- Emails / letters to stakeholders
- Letters to Parish Councils
- Presentations to Stakeholders
- Face-to-face public drop-in sessions
- Online discussion events
- Youth engagement

Proactive engagement – research on local opinions

- Focus Groups Survey (qualitative)
- Telephone Survey (quantitative)

Responsive Engagement

- Responding to comments & questions – Working Group
- Responding to comments & questions – Contact Centre team (phone, email, mail, social media)

2 - Activity to date and outputs

The Working Group has undertaken a wide range of activity to date using a variety of communications channels to engage with members of the public and stakeholders, resulting in a wide range of feedback.

This has included monthly newsletters, press releases and local media engagement, a virtual exhibition, regular social media posts, virtual meetings, stakeholder meetings with the Chair and engagement with local stakeholders.

Activities/Channels used	The Outputs
Website	Allerdale GDF Working Group - website received 1,969 visits
Social Media Regular posts since launch – typically three per week [Ref: social media statistics - Appendix 2]	Followers: Twitter: 84 LinkedIn: 164 Facebook: 91 follows (62 likes)
Stakeholder engagement -via emails	155 emails were sent to key stakeholders, notifying them of the launch, explaining the role of the Working, offering opportunities to engage and Search Area Announcement. 59 emails were sent to Parish Council members
Stakeholder engagement - virtual and face-to-face meetings	The WG held 148 stakeholder meetings with individuals or organisations For e.g. LDNP, Cumbria Trust, West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group, Cumbria LEP etc
E-newsletters	Total subscribers: 262 and 9 issues of newsletters published to date. include update from Chair, latest news, member intros, Q&A updates, plus specific content as below: 17 Feb Intro to Chair, Role of WG/ process 26 Mar Intro to WG Members, Sue Hayman blog, focus on inshore GDF 1 Apr Special issue – virtual exhibition May 1 June A look back over the last 6 months, host a first Stakeholder Group meeting 30 June Events programme, CALC membership, Stakeholder Group report, finding the right rock

	<p>29 Jul Online events, report on first three drop-ins – what you told us, what happens now, interview with Community Engagement Manager</p> <p>17 Aug Online events</p>
<p>Media engagement : press releases, briefings & interviews</p> <p>[Ref - Media themes in Appendix 3)</p>	<p>Six press releases issued so far, as below:</p> <p>14 Jan Press release Launch of Allerdale Working Group</p> <p>1 Apr Press Release Allerdale GDF Working Group launches Virtual Exhibition</p> <p>9 Feb [name redacted] interview with FT – part of in-depth article about the emergence of Working Groups</p> <p>12 Jul CALC joins WG</p> <p>13 Jul Drop-in sessions announced</p> <p>17 Aug Online events launch</p> <p>Local media reach: Times & Star (46,128); Cumberland News (16,236); Keswick Reminder (3500 weekly circulation); News & Star (66,236); BBC Radio Cumbria (83,000) Cumbria Crack (online news); 1.34million page views a month, 397,000 average users a month, 100,000 Twitter followers; 150,000 Facebook followers</p>
<p>Local advertising (print) - to drive people to website / virtual Exhibition/Drop-in sessions</p>	<p>A series of adverts were placed in local newspapers to promote the virtual exhibition</p> <p>16 adverts across Keswick Reminder, West Cumberland Times & Star, and Cumberland News to promote the Drop-in sessions</p>
<p>Direct Mail (Allerdale) - Awareness Campaign</p>	<p>Aug/Sept - 42,362 to households</p>
<p>Virtual Exhibition</p>	<p>Launched on 1st April 21, 656 visitors</p>
<p>Stakeholder Group sessions</p>	<p>2 sessions were community focussed</p> <p>3 sessions were Search Area focussed</p>
<p>1 x Focus group, 1 x telephone pulse survey – research on local opinions</p>	<p>Focus Groups - 4 online focus groups with 6/8 residents per session (Mar 21)</p> <p>Telephone surveys – interviewed 401 adults in Allerdale (Mar 21)</p>
<p>Search Area Identification Workshop (6th/7th July)</p>	<p>2-day workshop @ The North Lakes Hotel</p>
<p>Youth Engagement</p>	<p>The Working Group in partnership with Inspira, has met with 55 Lakes College students aged 15-17 to understand their views on</p>

	the future of nuclear waste disposal and what it could mean for them.(July, 21)
Face-to-face Drop-in events	12 locations attended by 215 visitors (July - Aug 21)
Online digital events	26th Aug (16 attendees)

3 - Proactive engagement – Stakeholder & Community engagement

Stakeholder meeting programme

The WG held **148 stakeholder meetings with individuals or organisations** – predominantly with the WG independent Chair, supported by other WG members and Radioactive Waste Management. These meetings were used to introduce the Working Group to key local stakeholders and explain why the process is different this time.

The range of stakeholders included Workington MP, Allerdale Borough Council members, Cumbria Trust, Cumbria Tourism, and Britain’s Energy Coast Business Cluster, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Action with Communities, Inspira, Cumbria Association of Local Councils and more are planned for the coming months.

Key themes of these discussions were):

- What is the purpose of the Working Group and the activities they are engaged with?
- How can key stakeholders become involved in the approach to engagement?
- How does the Working Group intend to keep the local communities up to date with progress?
- What will the area for community investment be?
- How will Community Partnership members be recruited?

Other key themes discussed included Search Area identification, test of public support and the importance of being open and transparent.

Stakeholder Group meetings

The Working Group also established Stakeholder Group meetings. The first meeting was held on 11th May. The aim of the meetings is to inform local people of the Allerdale Working Group intentions and to consider views of the community. Since the first meeting, there were 4 further

meetings held (2 more on Search Area Identification and 2 on Community Engagement). An average of 18 participants took part in the conversations.

Key issues raised were (20 matters discussed):

- How a search area is defined, and how this requires the consent of the community. How once a search area is scoped then the WG will engage with people in the search area, and work to set up a Community Partnership, but this can only be formed with their co-operation.
- Clarification of the extent of the inshore area, and that it reduces towards the Solway to exclude Scottish territory.
- The possibility of a GDF built under the sea, and how the geology of this area will be examined.
- The progress of the Copeland WG in identifying a search area.
- Whether a community could 'opt out' of the search area, and what sort of evidence that they do not support a GDF might be taken into account by the WG.
- Ways in which the WG could support and collaborate with the community in expressing their views.
- The involvement and engagement of sectors affected by a GDF i.e supply chain businesses, and how Stakeholder Groups will be used to help with this.
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- Whether Copeland and Allerdale could be perceived as being in competition for a GDF.
- The current storage and types of waste that are present in the area, and the need for communities to be informed and consulted about that.
- Proposals for face to face events, and potential locations.
- That the geology must be suitable and safety is paramount in identifying a search area.
- Whether a geologist could join the meeting and discuss process with the group
- Clarification on whether the geology process comes before the community discussion.
- That the community may possibly be more accepting of an inshore GDF
- The arrangements for engagement with the Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway.
- That the community needs to be given time to consider its options.

- Clarification of the rights to withdraw from Community Partnership for both the Borough Council and community.
- Discussion of the word 'Community' and how to reach all diverse groups that reflect a community.
- Whether AONBs should be excluded from the search area

4 - Virtual Exhibition

Launched on 1st April, the Virtual Exhibition was produced in response to the limitations on face-to-face engagement, due to COVID-19.

Since launch, total number of visitors: **656 (23% are returning visitors)**

Visitors stayed on average 5 minutes and viewed an average of 4.3 pages.

5 - Emails and letters to stakeholders

At launch (14th January) 155 emails were sent to key stakeholders, notifying them of the launch, explaining the role of the Working Group and offering opportunities to engage. The majority were sent from WG independent Chair, with some being sent by RWM (e.g. existing nuclear industry and business contacts)

On 14 May, the Working Group wrote to all 59 parish councils in Allerdale and invited them to cascade an article introducing the Working Group and inviting them to publish the article on their channels. There was limited success with this as almost all parish councils were closed due to COVID-19. Two of the parishes agreed to distribute this information locally.

6 - Proactive engagement – research on local opinions

Part 1 – Focus Groups

In March, research company Yonder conducted four online focus groups on behalf of RWM and the Working Group. Each session included between 6 – 8 Residents.

The free-flowing discussions included:

- Sense of place (e.g. what is important to the local area's identity, best/worst things about the area, hopes/fears for the future)
- Knowledge of current approaches to radioactive waste management
- Knowledge of, and attitudes towards, geological disposal
- Awareness of the establishment of the Working Group in Allerdale
- Issues that should be considered when identifying a search area

From this initial research, albeit with a small sample, the follow key themes were established:

- Low awareness of the Allerdale GDF Working Group
- Many would need to know more about GDF before re supporting it.
- A lack of investment in infrastructure (transport, connectivity) and services (healthcare)
- A familiarity with the nuclear industry and radioactive waste (particularly in southern Allerdale), but little consensus on how best to manage radioactive waste
- Whilst understanding the rationale behind the policy, many had concerns, primarily regarding geological suitability.
- Residents were concerned about the potential location of a GDF and the effect it may have on accessibility of the waste, safety and visual impact. They also had concerns around transportation of the waste.

Comments relevant to identifying Search Area(s)

- Ensuring the suitability of the geology, whilst also ensuring that the GDF is not situated near urban areas are front of mind priorities for many residents.
- Transportation and infrastructure must also be in place to support large scale construction. Several mention advantages to coastal sites due to transport links.
- Considering the disruption of construction, as well as the role the construction will play in local employment is also important.

Part 2 Telephone interview surveys

Between 13th and 25th March 2021, research company Yonder interviewed 401 adults in Allerdale. The research had several objectives:

- To provide insight into knowledge, understanding and perceptions of radioactive waste and geological disposal
- To understand the different audiences present among the adult population in population in Allerdale
- To measure respondents' awareness of the launch of the Allerdale Working Group
- To collect insight into what respondents in Allerdale believe should be important considerations when the Working Group begins the process of identifying a search area
- To investigate respondents' recall of media reporting of radioactive waste and geological disposal in Allerdale, and to investigate the relationship between media recall and perceptions of geological disposal.

Summary of findings

Respondents are most likely to hope that **human health, safety, and environmental considerations** are taken into account when the Allerdale Working Group begins the process of identifying a Search Area for a potential GDF.

Top 5 considerations amongst those supportive of a local GDF:

Rank	Consideration	Proportion mentioning the consideration
1	Safety of approach considerations	30%
2	Human health / distance from human population considerations	20%
3	Local environmental / environmental protection considerations	17%
4	Geological considerations	16%
5	Economic / employment / jobs considerations	16%

Top 5 considerations amongst those with a neutral view of a local GDF:

Rank	Consideration	Proportion mentioning the consideration
1	Local environmental / environmental protection considerations	28%
2	Human health / distance from human population considerations	27%
3	Safety of approach considerations	22%
4	Impact on landscape / visual / discreet considerations	18%
5	Geological considerations	17%

Top 5 considerations of those opposed to a local GDF:

Rank	Consideration	Proportion mentioning the consideration
1	Human health / distance from human population considerations	33%

2	Local environmental / environmental protection considerations	30%
3	Safety of approach considerations	28%
4	Geological considerations	18%
5	Impact on landscape / visual / discreet considerations	16%

Youth Engagement

When students were asked what investment they would like to see in their area, feedback was:

- Focus on Mental Health problems, with dedicated centre that offers more than “tea & chat”
- Maintenance of sports facilities and fields
- Cleaning up streets
- Transport links -currently poor bus services
- More activities for young adults – lots of parks etc for younger children, but nothing focused on the older age group
- Re-tarmac all roads in Cumbria
- Promote tourism to the area
- Help for start-up businesses
- Better promotion for the opportunities for young adults – maybe an App that all activities and opportunities can be shared in one place

When asked how should RWM engage young adults in GDF, they responded:

- Educate through schools
- Show videos and more interactive stuff, ask us questions, ensure that the topic is presented in a form that “we” (the students) can understand
- A dummy’s guide to GDF
- Educate teachers so that they are well informed and can pass on information
- Apprenticeships for local people from level 3 to degree level
- How would you ensure the project benefits our local people?

7 - Feedback received through direct engagement

Volume of questions/enquiries (Total 41)

Stakeholder Group meetings - **20**
Contact Centre total – **21**

Key themes – questions raised (Contact Centre)

Key themes – by category

The RWM contact centre has handled 21 enquiries or ‘cases’ since 14th January 2021 to date. These are tracked and managed by categories that align to the Siting Factors and requests for general information.

A full list of questions is available in Appendix. 1

Category	Volume
Request for Information	15
Community	12
Engineering Feasibility	4
Environment	1
Political	0
Safety	1
Cost	1
Transport	0

The most common theme of the questions/enquires to the Contact Centre was, about the involvement of (Working Group member) GenR8 North (raised three times).

8 - Youth Engagement

In July, the Working Group in partnership with Inspira, has met with 55 Lakes College students aged 15-17 to understand their views on the future of nuclear waste disposal and what it could mean for them.

The event, which was part of the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme.

The feedback were:

What Investment students would like to see in the area.

- Focus on Mental Health problems, with dedicated centre that offers more than “tea & chat”
- Maintenance of sports facilities and fields
- Cleaning up streets

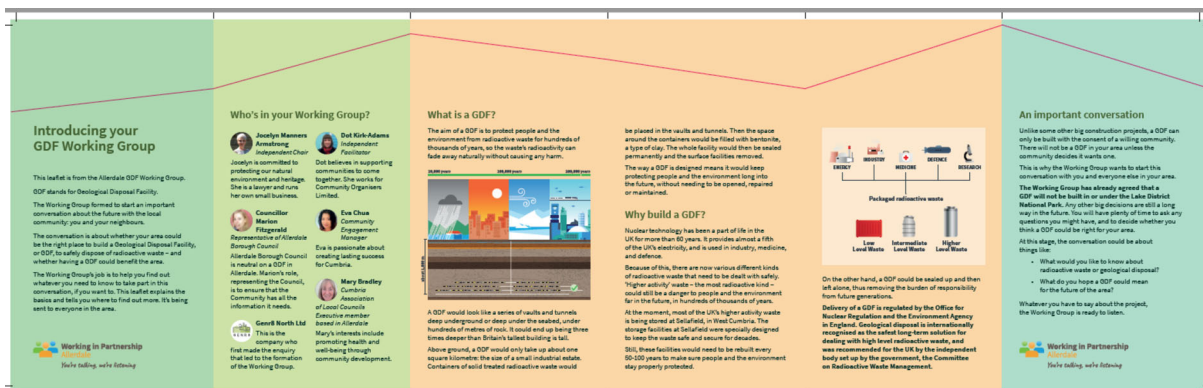
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- Educate teachers so that they are well informed and can pass on information
- Apprenticeships for local people from level 3 to degree level
- How would you ensure the project benefits our local people

9 - Direct Mail Drop

The Working Group commissioned a direct mail drop to 42,362 households in Allerdale in late Aug/early Sept to provide information about the role of the Working Group and why we are engaging with the community.



Introducing your GDF Working Group

This leaflet is from the Allerdale GDF Working Group. GDF stands for Geological Disposal Facility. The Working Group formed to start an important conversation about the future with the local community you and your neighbours.

The conversation is about whether your area could be the right place to build a Geological Disposal Facility, or GDF, to safely dispose of radioactive waste – and whether having a GDF would benefit the area.

The Working Group's job is to help you find out whatever you need to know to take part in this conversation, if you want to. This leaflet explains the basics and tells you where to find out more. It's being sent to everyone in the area.

Who's in your Working Group?

- Joseph Manners** - **Chair**
Independent Chair
Joseph is committed to protecting our natural environment and heritage. She is a lawyer and sure her own small business.
- Dot Kirk-Adams** - **Facilitator**
Independent Facilitator
Dot believes in supporting communities to come together. She works for Community Organisers Limited.
- Pauline Riddell** - **Member**
Allerdale Borough Council
Pauline is passionate about creating better services for Cumbria.
- Eve Chalk** - **Community Engagement Manager**
Eve is passionate about creating better services for Cumbria.
- Mary Bradley** - **Association of Local Councils**
Mary's interests include promoting health and well-being through community development.
- Geord North Ltd**
This is the first made the enquiry that led to the formation of the Working Group.

What is a GDF?

The aim of a GDF is to protect people and the environment from radioactive waste for hundreds of thousands of years, so the waste's radioactivity can fade away naturally without causing any harm.

It is placed in the vaults and tunnels. Then the space around the containers could be filled with bentonite, a type of clay. The whole facility would then be sealed permanently and the surface facilities removed.

The way a GDF is designed means it would keep protecting people and the environment long into the future, without needing to be opened, repaired or maintained.

Why build a GDF?

Nuclear technology has been a part of life in the UK for more than 60 years. It provides almost a fifth of the UK's electricity, and is used in industry, medicine, and defence.

Because of this, there are now various different kinds of radioactive waste that need to be dealt with safely. 'Higher activity' waste - the most radioactive kind - could still be a danger to people and the environment far in the future, in hundreds of thousands of years.

At the moment, most of the UK's higher activity waste is being stored at Sellafield, in West Cumbria. The storage facilities at Sellafield were specially designed to keep the waste safe and secure for decades.

Still, these facilities would need to be rebuilt every 10-20 years to make sure people and the environment stay properly protected.

An important conversation

Unlike some other big construction projects, a GDF can only be built with the consent of a willing community. There will not be a GDF in your area unless the community decides it wants one.

This is why the Working Group wants to start this conversation with you and everyone else in your area.

The Working Group has already agreed that a GDF will not be built in or under the Lake District National Park. Any other options are still a long way in the future. You will have plenty of time to ask any questions you might have, and to decide whether you think a GDF would be right for your area.

At this stage, the conversation could be about things like:

- What would you like to know about radioactive waste or geological disposal?
- What do you hope a GDF could mean for the future of the area?

Whatever you have to say about the project, the Working Group is ready to listen.

10 - Face-to-face community drop-in sessions

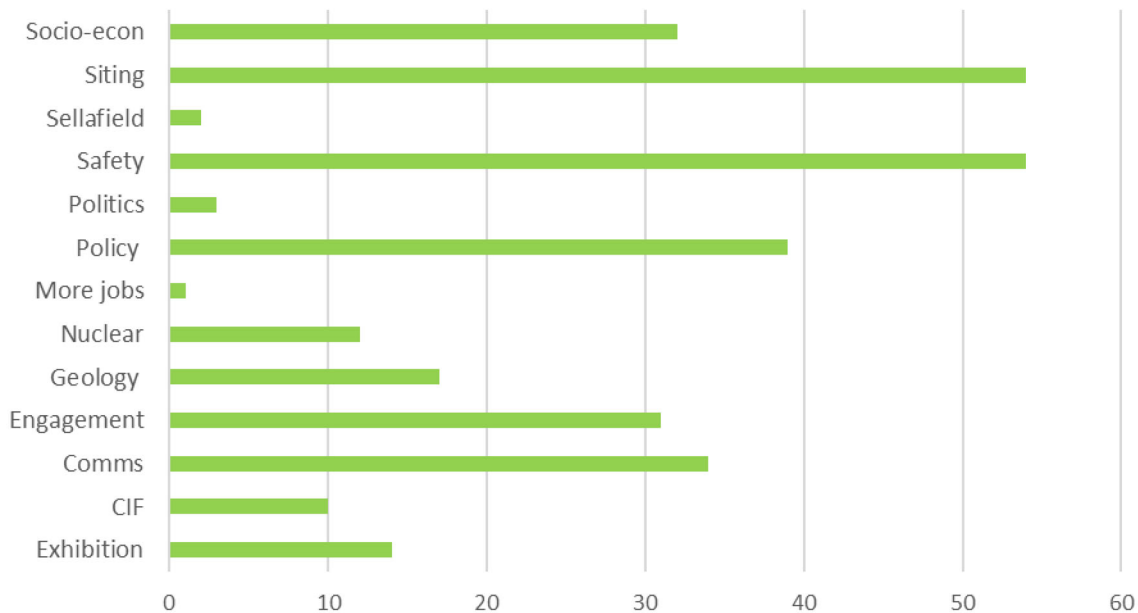
The Working Group has been welcoming people to the community drop-ins throughout July and August to start a conversation about whether Allerdale is the right place to build a GDF.

12 full day sessions were held and attended by 215 visitors

- Thursby
- Wigton
- Bothel
- Crosscanonby
- Gilcruix
- Maryport
- Blindcrake
- Little Broughton
- Cockermouth
- Seaton
- Northside (Workington)
- Workington (Town Centre)

Below is a summary of the themes that were raised

Number of comments per theme



11 - Online Discussion Events

Two online events were planned to complement the face-to-face drop-in sessions because we know not everyone was able to make it to the drop-in sessions in person and to open the discussion to others who may wish to connect digitally.

The event was held on Zoom and hosted by Community Organisers, a national charity, and the membership body and training organisation for community organising in England.

1st event took place on the 26th Aug and was attended by 22 people

2nd event is planned for the 9th Sept (not taken place at the time the report was prepared)

12 - Appendices

Appendix. 1 Questions received by Contact Centre

Category	Questions and comments
Community	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a site is chosen will it affect house prices close by? • Could I ask was the individual a resident or GenR8 North that requested Allerdale be considered as a suitable location for a GDF? • What puzzled and led to my inquiry is that according to companies house the individual has resigned from being a director of GenR8 North?? So, would this invalidate any "volunteering " suggestion? • Was an individual and Genr8 North Ltd the only "interested parties" to initially suggest Allerdale for a possible site for a GDF? • Would the Allerdale GDF working group have been started/set up if Allerdale had not been offered as a candidate area by an individual and Genr8 North Ltd? I was not asking whether there had been any subsequent interested parties. • It seems wasteful to have a Copeland and an Allerdale Working Group. A West Cumbria Group would be more efficient (and local government reorganisation will almost certainly do away with the two authorities) • The West Cumbria community cannot helpfully respond until a site investigation programme looks at appropriate geological locations. This is the next step. The number and location of these is something that RWM need to take a lead on. It needs to be a West Cumbria wide programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens if a local community within Allerdale doesn't wish to participate in the process before the working group targets that community for investigation? • What happens if a local community (say a town or village) within the Allerdale area wishes to express its voice now by declaring it does not wish to be a part of the process and won't be volunteering "before" the Working Group has identified that community as an area it feels should be geologically investigated? <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Message: In 2013 it was voted 7 to 3 to stop the process of looking in allerdale to host the GDF facility, now back again dressed up slightly different why are we looking in to suitable areas within allerdale, you need to respect the vote. When you do find an area within that is suitable(because you will, that is why we are here again probably with pressure from higher up), will it be the local area that gets the final vote or allerdale as a whole, where you can force it through on a town/ village. If like you mention our neighbour, Copeland being the site of one of the largest nuclear facilities in the world, why do we need more in this region. Please don't mention jobs, look at Whitehaven, probably one of the most run down town centres in the U.K. and look at how close to Sellafield it is, where's that money flowing down. Areas along the coast are flooded with tourists, it what makes people want to travel here, not if there was aGDF. • Good morning would you please add me to your support group - My name is xxxx <p>Not sure if I have chosen the correct site but I would like to register my support for Alledales quest for a G.D. Site .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is unable to attend the local meetings to discuss a GDF and would like to know how they get their views/opinions across. so how is their opinion noted? I said there maybe a leaflet drop in their area which would have more information on, took some details and said I would phone them back.
<p>Engineering Feasibility</p>	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does that mean that unless you receive positive comments from the majority of the community that it won't go ahead? • If you are going to go hundreds of meters down, where are you going to put the excavated material?

	<p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i object to the GDF being sited in Allerdale. this is a decision with extremely long term impacts. Stable geology and low groundwater movement should be the main deciding factors. Employment and popular support are short term and should not influence it much. Most of Allerdale's geology is complex and fractured, and there is high rainfall and a VERY high water table close to all of Allerdale. • I understand that the burying of nuclear waste in north west Cumbria is being considered again. I fail to understand how, after studying a geology map of the area; noting the myriad fault lines and taking into account the number of seismic tremors which occur, anyone can seriously consider such a plan. Going ahead with such a plan is courting disaster. Coupled with the knowledge that new technologies can make use of spent fuel it seems even more of a very bad idea. • My concerns are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The suitability of Cumbria for a GDF if fracking is allowed to continue nearby in the Morecombe Bay area or the Irish Sea. 2. Any risk to ground drinking water sources that are increasingly used to conserve water in Ennerdale Lake. 3. Any risk of further nuclear leakage into the Irish Sea. <p>As a benefit to the community, I would like to see:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A bridge and link roads across the Duddon Estuary to improve access to West Cumbria from South Cumbria and an integrated tidal electricity generation facility in the bridge structure. 2. Maximal use of solar and wind power generation on and around the GDF facility to make the facility Carbon Neutral within 20 years. 3. Improved access to the north via the A595 road to Carlisle which has no realistic passing places except for the Distington bypass. We were promised improved roads north from Whitehaven to Carlisle if we accepted Carlisle as the hub hospital for North Cumbria but Cumbria County Council has still not done anything to improve the road for normal and emergency vehicles, disadvantaging the population of West Cumbria in the provision of health services. 4. A station placed at the new GDF facility (and Sellafield) to reduce staff car usage from centres of population. <p>Thank you for your attention to these matters.</p> • Thank you for "listening " to our comments. We are so pleased to hear that "there will not be a GDF in our area unless the community decides it wants one"
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	<p>Over the 40 years we have lived here there have been similar "consultations" for a Process industry park, the use of the armaments depot and recently housing development in Seaton.</p> <p>All claiming to have "listened" to the community but we haven't seen evidence of that. In many cases the "silent majority " are quoted.</p> <p>Your flier was very careful not to say it was basically about a NUCLEAR DUMP until well into the text.</p> <p>An extensive survey some years ago showed that geologically this area was not suitable.</p> <p>We feel very concerned for the future.</p>
Environment	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a decision been decided on site for the GDF? • Are you able yet to provide more detail of high probability areas of interest for GDF. Talk of strong/weak/evaporites etc is fine but what I really want to know is what's the likely outcome. And of course, will where I live be affected? <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nirex programme for the Rock Laboratory looked at one specific location. An independent planning inquiry concluded that it was not a suitable location. One problem with this investigation was that Nirex stuck to it even when the results they were getting were unfavourable. • The location of the GDF surface complex (once the Lake District and perhaps the Solway AONB is excluded from the area of search) is not something to consider until it is agreed that a particular geology is starting to look promising.
Political	<p>Questions</p> <p>none</p>
Request for Information	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it possible for me to access a copy of this presentation for viewing please? • It would appear none of your drop ins are scheduled for Silloth, which has a much larger population than some of the villages your exhibitions are planned for. Is there is reason for this? • If these criteria cannot be met then GDF by its own yardstick is not safe. Are you able to give me a guarantee that this information would be in the public domain well in advance of any decision to go ahead on GDF?

Comments

- The following statement appears in the latest newsletter:
"The presentation gave attendees an overview of the area being considered and which types of rock would be suitable for constructing a GDF, using maps and information from British Geological Survey. The group also discussed the process for identifying a search area and how RWM would ensure that the site was both suitable and safe."

- Please be aware that the Cockermouth Drop-in advertised below included a map that had nothing to do with the location of the United Reform Church on Main Street, Cockermouth.

This may also be true for the maps showing Community Drop-ins planned in other locations.

I strongly suggest that you need to check all the maps attached to the latest WG Newsletter.

- Hello there, I've just finished reading your leaflet and can't believe you're trying this rubbish again in our area!

I'm sure there was a geological study done recently and it was decided that the area wasn't suitable.

So here we go again dressing it up as something else and calling it 'safe'

We're Cumbrians and we know it isn't 'safe' It will not "fade away naturally without causing any harm" a quote from your leaflet. It will last forever.

If disposal is so vitally important use this design in Sellafield. Update the plant and area it covers already. Or is the ground too toxic?

If the future is in my hands as your leaflet suggests, I don't want this on my doorstep thank you.

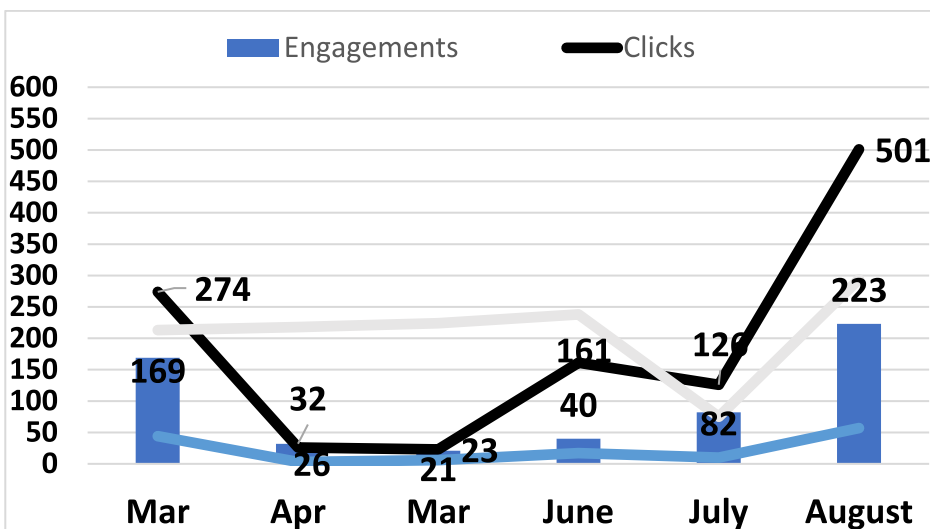
I don't want Cumbria to be the government's dumping ground.

- The customer was upset about the plans for Workington harbour and has requested information regarding this via email as well as the government proposal for a GDF and an explanation of what the test of public support is
- I visited your GDF display in August 2021, having already viewed some of your online information, British Geological Survey data and information

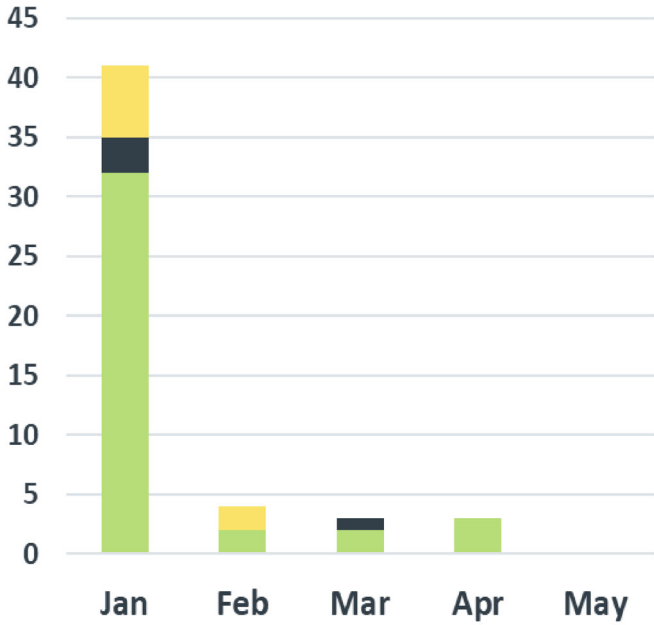
	<p>on the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority website. The geological 3D mapping and expertise of a geologist to explain the information was particularly useful. However what I found lacking was detail on exactly what, and in what quantities is expected to put into a GDF, with associated half life and toxicological information. If government categorisation of what is waste and what is an asset changes, this may of course need to be updated. I was also unable to find this information on the NDA website, only the quantities in m3 of each waste category as at 2020 inventory. While I am not in favour of having large quantities of highly toxic and radioactive materials stored anywhere, history and previous political decisions have saddled us with this stuff like it or not. Clearly something has to be done with it for the long term. I doubt if there is any good solution to deal with it, so perhaps it has to be the least worst option. If GDF is the least worst option, or if you like least risky then those agencies tasked with the job need to be up front with the public. I believe the public need to know;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exactly what will go into the repository. • How long it will take to decay to a level equivalent to natural background radiation. • A published and peer reviewed geological survey which can guarantee beyond all reasonable doubt that the rock strata selected for any repository will be stable for a period no less than the time taken for the material to reach background radiation levels.
Cost	<p>Questions none Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme would need to be agreed. It would be expensive, and it would have to be undertaken on the understanding that a suitable geology may not be found.
Safety	<p>Questions Comments</p>

	<p>I have already written a similar letter to this when I saw that Copeland was reviewing the issue of nuclear waste again and now I am dismayed to read and hear that Allerdale is also allowing a review.</p> <p>Ten years ago Cumbria County Council looked at applications for a nuclear waste repository in West Cumbria and decided against going further. The geological reports then showed that in Allerdale and most of Copeland the geology is not suitable, and you cannot tell me that the geology changes! In fact, having re-read one of the reports I am even more worried about the mention of the water table as Cumbria becomes ever more prone to flooding.</p> <p>Your article in the 'Times and Star' of 28th January 2021, says ' we owe it to our future generations to deliver a long-term sustainable solution for this waste' but please, please, for the sake of future generations of West Cumbrians (and the young people of Ireland, Isle of Man and Southern Scotland) do not go for short-term jobs and build more nuclear storage in our area.</p> <p>Surely it would be better to employ local people and use their nuclear expertise to try and develop ways to recycle nuclear waste so that no area of the UK has to live with the legacy of the nuclear industry.</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Questions none</p> <p>Comments none</p>

Appendix 2 Social media statistics



Appendix 3 Media statistics



Sentiment

