

## **Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 24 April 2023**

**Attendance:** Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council (Chair)  
Louise Biggs, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Councillor Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Councillor Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary  
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service  
Steve Wilde, Westmorland & Furness Council  
John Banks, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways  
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council  
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Richard Batham, Highways England  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Dan McAulay, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Sue Warner, Westmorland & Furness Council  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary

### **1. Apologies**

Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

### **2. Minutes of MASC G held on 27 March 2023**

These were agreed as a true record.

The item on the interactive parking map would be picked up under the Ops Group update.

### **3. Public Health Issue**

EB had received an email from Nicola Holland, Public Health Protection Manager, previous County Council now part of Westmorland and Furness. There have been a few cases of Measles in the North West and UKHSA (previously Public Health England) are asking for assurance re MMR offer/vaccination promotion pre Appleby horse fair and availability of prophylaxis/emergency plans in case of an outbreak during the fair.

The relevant Public Health staff are aware of the situation and the email has been circulated to NWS (Nick Griggs) who provide the onsite medical responses during the fair. It is suggested that relevant comms information is considered, if Appleby fair.org or pre fair comms needs to include messages this can be done, but in consultation with public health. Messages can be shared with the Gypsy and Liaison officers in nearby Local Authorities to increase awareness as the majority of people travelling to the fair are from outside of the area.

At this stage, no action is needed by MASCG but it is being raised and minuted. Further updates will be given at next MASCG to ensure that the relevant emergency plan that UKHSA require is in place and all relevant parties are aware. If required an invite to MASCG for the relevant public health lead can be made.

#### **4. Communications and Engagement Update**

Work was ongoing to update the stopping places page for 2023. From this, the don't arrive too soon/road safety comms would start.

PD asked whether the encampment protocol could go on the website - it was noted that it already was on there. He also said that an article in the Herald on the Evaluation Report had been fair and reasonable.

An update would be sought on progress in relation to the new website.

#### **5. Operational Working Group Update**

KBS gave an update on dates for the pre and post Fair meetings. The pre-fair meeting would be held on 24 May in Appleby Public Hall with the post-fair date suggested for 5 July. A meeting would be taking place later in the week with regard to the format of the meetings. PD asked that there was a PA system available for the meetings along with a table at the front for the officers in attendance.

##### **a) Highways**

Work to install posts on the A685 would begin on 2 May – this would be done in-house. There would be a temporary speed limit of 40mph. The branding on the Traffic Management Plan was currently being updated ready for publishing on the website. The traffic management budget is likely to be agreed at the June meeting of Eden Locality Board.

After discussions, it had been realised that there would not be time to have the interactive parking map for this year's Fair. The Police would co-ordinate parking availability updates during the Fair along with comms.

##### **b) Parish Engagement**

This was well underway with the majority of the feedback being the same arrangements as usual. Great Asby Parish Council had decided that the green could not be used as a designated stopping place which caused a big issue. BL asked whether the Parish Council were planning to fence off the area to stop people entering. EB was waiting for further information as how this would work in practice and would report back on the outcome. PD expressed his disappointment with the decision that the Parish Council had taken.

It was also noted that the water tap at Tyne Willows was no longer in operation and meant there would be no water supply. There was no quick fix for this issue and needed to make sure the information got out to the Gypsy and Travellers via the Liaison Officer.

### **c) Licensing**

SW said that the complete licensed premises list for Phases 1 & 2 was more or less complete and will send to comms to update the website when done. Agreement with Appleby/Kirkby Stephen Pub Watch had been made on what was expected of the licensed premises during the Fair. The only concern was in relation to the Kings Head Hotel, it was hoped they could be encouraged to open.

### **d) South Lakeland**

No further update on preparations – everything was in place. Leaflets to businesses were currently being worked on.

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **a) Police Crime Recording Standards**

MK said that the Police had strict criteria to follow as to what was recorded as a crime. Members of the public were reporting the theft of posts (sometimes singular posts) which was a strain on resources. SC said that a proportionate and pragmatic approach to this was needed and agreed that recording individual post thefts didn't make sense. PD also supported this decision – the Police needed to concentrate on more important issues during the Fair.

BL asked whether it was known whether the posts were stolen, burnt or moved to allow access - it was noted that the majority were burnt. BL said that there was a genuine health risk of burning posts as the fumes were dangerous. Landowners had an obligation of protect people from harm and suggested that a warning was put out about fumes.

It was agreed that a single report would be filed at the end of the Fair when the posts were counted back in.

### **b) Update on Consultants**

PD had asked for an update on the work of the consultants. SC was looking to revisit the original remit of the work of the consultants. It was felt it needed to focus on the key issue of whether the Fair could become a managed event going forward. In relation to the transit site element, it was not practical to interview people. She would be meeting Steve Jarman on where this needed to go and would provide an update before the next MASCG meeting.

### **c) Toilet Provision**

BL said that the funding for the additional toilets in Appleby had now been paid. There was a contingency left if the need for extra toilets arose.

### **d) MASCG Daily Meetings**

AMK asked when the daily MASCG meetings for the Fair would be starting. SC/LB would put together a schedule.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 22 May 2023 at 2.00pm.