

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 23 April 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal, Eden District Council (Chair)
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary (Vice Chair)
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Daniel Evans, Cumbria County Council Highways
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Gaynor Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary
Dawn Hurton, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Ben Swinson, Cumbria Constabulary
Paul Williams, Arcadis/Highways England
Brian Williams, Arcadis/Highways England
Alan Apps, Arcadis/Highways England
Matt Townsend, Arcadis/Highways England)

Apologies: Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways

1. Presentation from Highways England in relation to the A66 Improvements

This item was preceded by a “safety moment” in which the need to look for motor cyclists and the need for motor cyclists to wear proper protective clothing was highlighted.

Matthew Townsend of Highways England introduced this agenda item and Alan Apps proceeded to explain the proposed improvements to the A66 from Scotch Corner to Junction 40 of the M6 which will result in the whole route being brought up to dual carriageway standard. He explained journey times on the A66 are unreliable due to road works, the fact that the road becomes single carriageway at various sections and the higher than normal proportion of accidents. He explained that approximately 16 miles of the route was currently single carriageway. There are options for in either just converting the existing single carriageway into dual carriageway or alternatively creating a new dual carriageway along the route with two lanes of the existing carriageway being converted into a separate road similar to the arrangement alongside the A1(M) south of Scotch Corner. The Gypsy and Traveller representatives of MASCAG said they would certainly support the latter option as this would enable a far safer means of crossing the north Pennines than the dual carriageway.

Alan Apps did indicate that in terms of options for non-motorised users as part of the design proposals, emphasis would be made upon encouraging such users to utilise the minor roads across the north Pennines rather than the A66.

Bill Lloyd emphasised that there can be real difficulty for horse drawn vehicles to safely gain access onto a fast moving dual carriageway. Billy Welch indicated that the type of surface used in the design of the dual carriageway could be a factor in terms of its usability by horses. It was indicated that it would be an advantage for the lanes to be wide enough to enable motorised vehicles to move past non-motorised vehicles safely. Alan Apps indicated that there is a possibility that some usable grass verge could be made available for horses along the route. It was clarified that it was not possible for a dual carriageway to have a hard shoulder as that is a design feature that is appropriate only for motorways.

Clarification was given that the project was subject to engagement during 2018 with consultation taking place during 2019, applications for planning consent would be made in 2021 with a decision due in 2023. The proposed completion date for the construction of the dual carriageway was 2028.

Billy Welch and Bill Lloyd agreed to have further discussions about the proposals with representatives of Highways England as part of the public engagement process.

Matthew Neal thanked Highways England for attending the meeting and for arranging the presentation.

Action: The update be noted and Highways England to be encouraged to discuss the proposals further with the Gypsy and Traveller representatives.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 March 2018

Action: The minutes were agreed for publication.

3. Working at Appleby Fair Risk Assessment

Matthew Neal presented the District Council's Risk Assessment for its staff. He invited other organisations involved in MASCG to have regard to the Strategy in terms of developing their own strategies and they should have no hesitation in borrowing any of the content of the Risk Assessment.

Action: Eden District Council's Appleby Fair Risk Assessment to be noted by the group and the organisations involved in MASCG to be encouraged to have regard to the content in terms of developing their own Risk Assessment.

4. Infrastructure – Transfer of Market Arcade Toilets

Neil Buck referred to the toilets facilities at the Market Arcade in Appleby. He indicated that whilst the responsibility for the toilets had been transferred back to Appleby Town Council, the District Council nonetheless would be maintaining the toilets during the duration of the Fair.

Action: That the update be noted.

5. Official Response from MASCG to Government Consultation

Matthew Neal indicated that this document had been brought to the attention of him by Bill Lloyd.

A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the consultation document seemed to be weighted very much in terms of seeking ways to remove Travellers from sites. There was barely any mentioned of means of engaging and working

together with Gypsy and Travellers. The general feeling of the group was that the tone of the document was unfortunate. It was agreed that each organisation should have regard to the document and be encouraged to provide a response to the consultation document to the Government by the deadline of 15 June 2018.

- Action:**
1. The consultation document be noted.
 2. Each organisation involved in the group to be encouraged to provide a response to the consultation document to the Government by the deadline of 15 June 2018.

6. Pre and Post Fair Community Meetings

Dawn Hurton from Cumbria County Council indicated that the pre-Fair community meeting which would be attended by Matthew Neal, Mark Pannone, Councillor Connell and Highway representatives would take place on 21 May 2018 at Appleby Market Hall. The preference of the group was for the post-Fair community meeting to take place in early to mid-July and certainly not during the summer holidays.

Action: Date of pre-community meeting of 21 May 2018 to be noted along with the post-Fair meeting to be held in early to mid-July. It was also agreed that the arrangements for the meetings should be in accordance with previous years.

7. Sub Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass indicated that the website had been updated with details of available sites. She confirmed that Alston gym were ok with their site being included in the information.

Tolerated Stopping Places, Alston

Emma Brass referred to a visit that she had made with Inspector Taylor and Dan Evans from Cumbria County Council Highways. She referred to a stretch of road between the B6294 from its junction with the A686 to the top of the Loaning. She also referred to another minor road from A686 to Randalholme. The opinion of the three officers is that both roads were suitable to accommodate temporary tolerated encampment. The road to Randalholme would not be suitable for a road closure due to the need for local properties to have access. The other road would be suitable for a road closure to be actioned by the Police. She indicated that temporary toilets could be made available if the sites were used.

In terms of other potential sites, she indicated that there was a potential site available being a layby located to the east of the Hartside Café.

The group was content with this proposal and the Police indicated that they were willing to implement a Police road closure as referred to if necessary.

Emma was questioned about the fact that there was no information about accommodation at Long Marton or Powis Lane. She would ensure that the matter was clarified on the website.

Action: The update be noted and approval be given to the options for the tolerated stopping places in Alston.

b) Licensing

Boarding of railings Opposite the Royal Oak

Sarah Griffiths updated the meeting about the boarding of railings opposite the Royal Oak. She indicated that railings outside St Michaels Church, Bongate were boarded up to prevent horses being tethered to the railings. This was done by Amey at the request of the Police and the RSPCA. The licensee of the Royal Oak has complained about the boarding and said he may not open for this year's Fair as the boarding is unsightly and affects his trade and should be painted. He also complains that the boarding was put up too early.

Sale of Alcohol for Bridge End News, Appleby

Sarah indicated that a Temporary Event Notice was likely to be submitted for the above premises. It was noted that this would effectively turn a small shop into a small public house. Sarah advised the meeting that it would not be possible to attach conditions to the Temporary Event Notice that were not attached to the existing premises licence.

There was some concern for the sale of alcohol this premises would not be placed upon the same methodology as the other licensed premises whereby they had to sign the Charter and are required to have suitable door staff at all times. It was noted that the prospective applicant would be able to give assurances about how the premises could be operated and could be asked to sign the Charter.

It was noted that the Temporary Event Notice application would need to be referred to the Environmental Health Team of the Council and the Police. They would have three working days to put in representations after which any objections would have to be considered by the Council's Licensing Committee. It was agreed that no formal decision should be made by MASCG on the matter but the considerations referred to in the meeting should be referred back to the prospective applicant to consider.

Public Space Protection Orders

Sarah indicated that the Public Space Protection Order which would deal with consumption of alcohol in public places to cover Appleby and Long Marton was due to be signed by Matthew Neal imminently. She was obtaining quotes for temporary signs for use at the Fair.

- Action:**
1. It be agreed that the boarding of railings Opposite the Royal Oak should be erected as in previous years albeit it was agreed that the boarding should be placed on the Monday before the commencement of the Fair. It was agreed that no provision should be made for it to be painted.
 2. Sarah Griffiths to advise the prospective application of the matters mentioned by MASCG and any application for a Temporary Event Notice to be dealt with in the usual way.
 3. The other updates be noted.

c) Communication

Neil Graham gave an update indicating that warnings about discouraging early arrivals was set out on the appropriate website. He is currently working up messages which will be sent out at the appropriate times.

Action: The update on communications be noted.

d) Highways

Traffic Management Plan Approval

Kevin Crawley informed the meeting that the Cumbria County Council Local Area Committee had approved the Traffic Management Plan for Appleby Fair.

Highways Mini-Depot at Salt Tip Corner

Kevin distributed a plan showing the location reserved for a County Council storage unit which will be in effect a mini-depot at Salt Tip Corner.

Barriers at Flashing Lane

Kevin confirmed that arrangements would be made to carry out surveillance of the operation of the Flashing Lane with a view to being able to make suggested improvements to barrier arrangements. He confirmed that the current barriers were fit for purpose, subject to some minor repairs which were in the process of being carried out for the 2018 Fair.

Action: The updates be noted and the proposed location of the mini-depot be approved.

e) South Lakeland Working Group

Simon Rowley indicated that he was awaiting the post and boulders needed for various locations from the County Council. Kevin Crawley confirmed that these would be delivered imminently.

Simon also indicated that he was having discussions with North and West Yorkshire Authorities and intelligence will be passed on to South Lakeland District Council about movement of Gypsy and Travellers and potential times of arrival.

Action: The update be noted.

8. Any Other Business

Ben Swinson indicated that small body mounted cameras would be worn by Police Officers. He stated that there will be a charity stand at Salt Tip Corner.

Neil Buck indicated that a play area at Kirkby Stephen which had been subject of unauthorised entry last year would be secured more robustly on this occasion which will make it more difficult for entry to be gained.

Bill Lloyd gave clarity about the harness racing. It will be taking place on 28 and 29 May 2018 and 3 June 2018.

Action: That the above updates be noted.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 21 May 2018 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, and Penrith.