

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 14 August 2023

Attendance: Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Ian Mitchell, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor John Murray, Westmorland & Furness Council
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland & Furness Council
Steve Wilde, Westmorland & Furness Council
Richard Batham, Highways England
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA
Dan McAulay, Westmorland & Furness Council
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary
Mohammed Dhalech, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Sue Warner, Westmorland & Furness Council
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council

1. Apologies

Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
John Banks, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 3 July 2023

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Progress Update on Draft Learning Lessons Report

This was a work in progress. Debriefs by the Police and RSPCA had happened and would be included. SC had also met with Appleby Town Council to gather feedback. SC would also be meeting with elected members and Kirkby Stephen Town Council to collect any lesson learned that had not been covered in the operational group updates.

SC would be meeting with the civil contingencies team to do risk assessments/mitigations. A draft risk assessment and plan were currently being worked on. In relation to the Public Space Protection Orders, a broader review would be undertaken on this from September.

There was one big piece of work missing, the report on the Fair of the consultants – this was the next discussion item on the agenda.

It was SC's intention to have a draft report ready for the next meeting which would also inform the Appleby Fair Strategy.

4. Progress on External Consultant Report

Originally, this was due to be completed by November 2022, the date had been pushed back to allow the consultants to attend the Fair in person and attend the post Fair meeting. The two fundamental issues they had been asked to look at was could the Fair become an organised event and to look at options for transit sites. To date, no draft report had been received. SC/EB had met with the research team twice to provide more information. The main question now was whether to draw a line under this and pursue via legal or carry on.

PD said that no consultation had taken place with elected members/Gypsy & Travellers and felt that the brief/remit had not been fulfilled. This was the consensus of the group. SC would get a view from legal and take forward from there.

5. Feedback from Post Fair Public Meeting held on 5 July

Overall, the meeting had gone well with only a couple of issues raised. The Travelling Man Festival had worked well and mitigated the impact on the town. Residents concurred with this view.

6. Phase 1 and Future Arrangements for Kirkby Stephen

Councillor Murray raised this issue so it didn't fall down the cracks. The biggest concern for Kirkby Stephen was the horse fair that took place the week before Appleby Fair and the lack of clarity. Fields between Brough/Kirkby Stephen had been used which took pressure off the A685. Earlier engagement with farmers was needed on this as it had to be sustainable for them. EB was having ongoing conversations on this issue.

Clarity in advance of drinking in the street was needed along with policing. Also, need to know the situation in advance on those businesses who chose to close during the Fair.

SC/SW would be having discussions on this with the Police on views for a plan for next year's Fair. It was a choice of the licensed premises as to whether they opened or not.

Councillor Dew said there was a meeting in September for specific Kirkby Stephen issues to be discussed. He had also sent SC an email with his reflections on this. On balance, 2023 had been a better year.

7. Communications and Engagement Update

It was noted that work was being undertaken on how to revamp the Appleby Fair website to make it more user friendly and informative. Councillor Simpkins, elected member for Appleby & Brough would be holding regular community surgeries in relation to the Horse Fair. This would be an opportunity for the local community to ask questions. The first meeting was being held in October.

8. Operational Working Group Update

Councillor Dew asked about the Travelling Man debrief. SW confirmed this had happened the previous week and the minutes would be circulated. It was important to have an overview of this as a risk had been taken which had paid off. There were some learning points to be taken away. SW said there would be changes to the site layout so that horses/people were not mixing. Overall, the event had achieved its aim of moving people out of the town. BW said that he had received excellent feedback and the event had been a massive success. Thanks from the group were given to SW for a fantastic job.

- **Site Provision 2023/24**

The site owner of Scroggs Bank had recently passed away. There was going to be a covenant added to the land so that it would be available for horse fair use but SW didn't know whether this had happened. It was also noted that the planning permission on the site ran out next year. There was interest in the land but not for horse fair use. SW had worked hard to secure use of the field and didn't want to lose this provision. SC/SW would speak offline.

9. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 September 2023 at 2.00pm.