

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 25 September 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
Bill Lloyd, 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
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Daniel StQuintin, Cumbria Constabulary
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways
Michael Wilkinson, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Austin Shields, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways

Daniel StQuintin introduced himself as the Gold Commander for Appleby Fair.

1. Apologies

Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 14 August 2023

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Progress Update on Draft Learning Lessons Report

There were still some outstanding issues to pick up post Fair.

Comms and engagement: A meeting was taking place on 5 October with Councillors from Kirkby Stephen on how Appleby had impacted them pre-fair. Communities have a voice into MASCG via the Councillors. Councillor Simpkins was holding regular surgeries, the first being on 11 October, for members of the public to attend and ask questions.

Steph gave an heads up on budget saving/growth proposals for 2024 and has submitted a growth proposal for Appleby, one capital and one revenue. The revenue one to give more capacity and capital, to look at whether highways improvements could be undertaken and changes to signage to make it more understandable. The next steps is for Members to consider informally, would then go out to consultation with agreement due in February 2024. The proposal included ditching and bunding long the A685, flashing lane.

In relation to the Encampment Protocol, looking to do something different around Appleby and the surrounding areas. At the moment, we currently have legacy Eden/SLDC policies and need to make sure it is consistent now we are one authority.

4. Progress on External Consultant Report

This was still with the Legal Team for consideration. SC had received an early draft but couldn't share for legal reasons. BL confirmed that the consultants had contacted Billy Welch.

5. Communications and Engagement Update

A watching briefing was being kept until the New Year when comms would start again for 2024.

6. Operational Working Group Update

Highways - A debrief had taken place. Areas highlighted for posting would be readdressed and look at alternative options such as ditching/bunding. This would be discussed at the next Operational Working Group meeting.

Parish Engagement - Discussions taking place around issues raised at Winters Farm re: the mobile bar/parking.

Licensing - No current engagement plans with licensed premises, that would start in the New Year. A Pub Watch meeting had been held with little feedback received. A meeting had also been held with the DPS of the Pennine Hotel on proposed changes for 2024.

South Lakeland - The use of Scroggs Bank had been secured for 2024.

The group were asked to review their pages on the Appleby Fair website as part of wider 2024 comms strategy review. If any pages need to be taken down, please feedback to Dan and Neil.

The Ops Group had recommend that MASCG invite the W&F project lead from Highways England A66 project to future meetings to offer regular updates. This would be progressed.

7. Any Other Business

Lee provided an update on the Police resources for Appleby Fair 2024, Daniel StQuintin would be Gold Command with himself as Silver and Kim Brown as Bronze. A refresh of the Neighbourhood Teams would be taking place from October.

Steph had received contact from the Coroner in following the death of the young boy at this year's Fair. They were asking what MASCG in totality have done around planning and organisation and may ask for additional information from agencies. If direct contact was made with agencies, Steph asked that it was referred to her.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 October 2023 at 2.00pm. (This was cancelled due to availability of key officers).