

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 19 February 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal, Eden District Council (Chair)
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary (Vice Chair)
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Gaynor Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Ben Swinson, Cumbria Constabulary
Dan Evans, Cumbria County Council
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Mark Nicholson, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

Apologies: Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Kevin Johnston, Cumbria Fire and Rescue
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 20 November 2017

Matthew Neal stated that henceforth, he would circulate the minutes in draft form shortly after each meeting to enable them to act as an action list. This would mitigate against the risk any of the actions not being taken forward. He also indicated that he would set out more specific actions against relevant personnel in future minutes.

Action: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Appleby Fair Strategy 2018

Matthew Neal circulated a proposed draft of the Appleby Fair Strategy 2018. He indicated that he had studied the 2015-18 Fair Strategy which set out various proposed actions relating to consulting on the Strategy and engagement of the public. These actions had not been fully carried out and therefore he considered it appropriate to adopt this Strategy in the interim, pending a full review and a public consultation will take place shortly after the 2018 Fair.

Action: The document be adopted subject to some minor amendments relating to moving linking the first objective with the strategic aims. Matthew Neal to make these minor amendments in conjunction with Mark Pannone and circulate by email to the group with a view to adopting the Strategy providing no further substantive comments are made by members of the group.

3. Review of Encampment Protocol

Matthew Neal introduced this and indicated that no further comments had been received on the Protocol since the November 2017 meeting. He therefore

requested that approval be given to formal adoption of the document as set out in the agenda.

Action: The Appleby Fair Encampment Protocol be approved.

4. **Review of Opening/Closing Times of The Sands - Public Consultation**

Neil Graham indicated that he had discussed with Mark Pannone about various options for carrying out a public consultation. However, before doing so the views of MASCG were sought. Mark Pannone, on reflection, suggested that retaining the current opening and closing times of The Sands should be retained with an acknowledgement that the Police had discretion in exceptional circumstances to enforce the opening and closing times in the event that such enforcement could cause potential disorder. Neil Buck indicated that there is clearly an additional cost to the Council in arranging for clean-up after the closing of The Sands. The sweeper driver will be on restricted driver hours and therefore there is little scope to extend.

Action: It was agreed that the current opening and closing times should remain with an acknowledgement that in exceptional circumstances discretion could be exercised by the Police and MASCG in the event that strict enforcement of such opening and closing times was considered likely to cause disorder.

5. **Media Strategy**

Neil Graham introduced the Media Strategy which built on previous strategies which had been in place. He sought comments back from MASCG Officers. There were no substantive comments made during the meeting.

Action: A finalised version of the Media Strategy to be presented by Neil Graham to the March 2018 MASCG meeting, taking into account any comments provided by officers of MASCG to Neil Graham (such comments to be copied to Louise Fawcett).

6. **Alston/Alston Gym**

Emma Brass gave an update about the gym's position in relation to the use of it as a transit site. They are content for it to be so used but have attached various conditions for it to be used as a transit site which the Council is not in a position to be able to agree to. Emma Brass is having a meeting with them on 16 March 2018 upon which it will be finally established whether the site can be included as a transit site.

Emma Brass indicated that the Makepeace site will definitely not be available this year and she had written to them to suggest means of securing the site during Appleby Fair. She will write again to confirm the position and to check whether there is any potential leeway in terms of the decision not to make the site available.

Action:

1. Emma Brass/Andy Millburn to attend a meeting with the gym on 16 March 2018.
2. Emma Brass/Andy Millburn to give consideration to potential alternatives to the Makepeace site and potentially the Alston gym site.
3. Emma Brass to write to the Makepeaces to confirm the position in regard to the non-availability of the site and to check whether there is any chance of this being reviewed.

7. Powis Lane

Emma Brass gave an update about the licensed site at Powis Lane and confirmed that this would not be available for the 2018 Fair. Clearly, this may have a knock on effect in terms of displacing caravans and bow tops. It could lead to early arrivals in Appleby.

Action: Emma Brass/Andy Millburn to consider potential alternative sites and report back to the March 2018 meeting.

8. Melmerby Transit Site

Andy Millburn gave an update on Melmerby as he had received an email from the Village Green Group advising that the plans to make the site bow tops only is not being proceeded with in the current year. This was welcomed by the group.

Action: That the update be noted.

9. Road Closure Outside the Hare & Hounds Public House

Sarah Griffiths gave an update about the road closure. It was in operation in 2017 but, in actual fact, the cost of the security measures to enable outside drinking made the road closure not particularly financially favourable to the licensee. The road closure will take place in any case on the Saturday due to an existing Traffic Regulation Order. It was considered that there was little case for a District Council promoted road closure for the 2018 Appleby Fair.

Action: No road closure to be pursued based on the current position.

10. Update on Cumbria County Council's Review of Resourcing the Fair

Rob Lewis indicated that the budget for the current year will be £45,000 with a £15,000 contingency subject to the budget being approved in March 2018. The County Council Area Committee members attended a very helpful meeting which was also attended by Mark Pannone. It was considered likely that the budget will be approved.

Action: The update regarding budgeting be noted.

11. Update on Creation of Mobile Working Area

Matthew Neal indicated that he would not be pursuing the action of seeking a mobile working area in the Bowling Club given that Mark Pannone has at the previous meeting indicated that the agencies were welcome to use the Police Station during the Fair. He also indicated that in his view, such a mobile working area would detract from the use of the Bowling Club as a place for a brief period of relaxation and refreshment during the Fair.

Action: That the project for creating a mobile working area in the Bowling Club not be pursued.

12. Update on Barriers on Flashing Lane

Rob Lewis indicated that proposals were being worked up on a solution to removing the permanent barriers and introduce sockets and portable barriers. There will be an update at the next meeting.

Action: Cumbria County Council highway representative to attend the March 2018 meeting to update further on potential alternatives to the current barriers on Flashing Lane.

13. Sub-Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass indicated that the Watty Yat site at Mallerstang could be used as a site for Travellers during the Fair.

b) Licensing

Sarah Griffiths indicated that she would start doing the rounds of the licensed premises very shortly.

Reference was made to the Appleby and Kirkby Stephen Charters which were attached to the agenda and she invited any comments on the documents.

Sarah Griffiths indicated that in terms of the public consultation on the Public Space Protection Orders which would renew orders in Appleby and introduce new provisions in Long Marton were subject to overwhelming favourable responses from the public.

Action: Any comments on the Appleby and Kirkby Stephen Charters to be forwarded to Sarah Griffiths and comments copied into Louise Fawcett.

c) Communication

There was nothing further from Neil Graham having regard to the item already presented on the Media Strategy.

d) Highways

Dan Evans introduced the draft Appleby New Fair Traffic Management Plan 2018. The document was generally approved. The only substantive document was that in respect of the Flashing Lane Traffic regulation Order, it currently does not reflect the activities of what happened on the ground in that whilst pedestrians are technically prohibited from the road, enforcement of that provision will not take place.

Action: Mention to be made within the Plan that enforcing Traffic Regulation Order in respect of pedestrians would not be a priority.

14. Any Other Business

Roly Earl stated that he had attended to Emergency Servicers User Group in conjunction with Highways England in the context of the proposed dualling of the A66 from Scotch Corner to Penrith.

Action: Highways England to attend a future meeting of MASCG to present its plans for the A66 and clarify its proposals in relation to non-motorised users including bow tops. Invite to be arranged via Roly Earl/Louise Fawcett.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19 March 2018 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith.