

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 17 September 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal (MN), Eden District Council (Chair)
Mark Pannone (MP), Cumbria Police (Vice Chair)
Steve Minnikin (SM), Cumbria Police
Damian Lavictoire (DL), Cumbria Police
Roly Earl (RE), Cumbria Police
Neil Graham (NG), Cumbria Police
Andy Millburn (AM), Cumbria Police
Debbie Storr (DS), South Lakeland District Council
Neil Buck (NB), Eden District Council
Dawn Hurton (DH), Cumbria County Council
Daniel Evans (DE), Cumbria County Council Highways
Kevin Crawley (KC), Cumbria County Council Highways
Emma Brass (EB), Eden District Council
Sarah Griffiths (SG), Eden District Council

Apologies: Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Fiona McCreadie, NHS
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 July 2018

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Draft Evaluation Report 2018

The draft evaluation report was introduced by MN. The introduction and background information was agreed. In terms of Cumbria County Council's costs these were confirmed by KC as being £45,375. It was agreed that for the figures for Cumbria County Council for 2010-2018 they should be amalgamated given that the County Council was no longer setting out other costs. KC confirmed that the the budget for 2018 was £45,000 thereby resulting in an overspend of £375. It was anticipated that the County Council's financial contribution for future years would be in line with this figure subject to appropriate inflationary increases. It was noted the RSPCA's figures had not yet been provided and MN would chase this.

Action: The draft Evaluation Report be approved and MN be authorised to finalise and publish upon receipt of relevant information from the RSPCA.

3. Post Fair Meetings Analysis

DH introduced the analysis of post-Fair meetings and presented a summary of the main issues which were raised in 2018. MP stated that this was a very useful summary and could be used as a reference for those present.

Action: That the Post Fair Meetings Analysis be approved as an accurate summary of the post fair consultation responses.

4. Notes of Meeting Re: Member Advisory Group for Appleby Fair and suggested Terms of Reference

MN introduced the notes of the meeting of the Member Working Group meeting along with the suggested terms of reference of a Member Advisory Group for Appleby Fair. This had been held by representatives of the District and County Council and the Police with a view to furthering the proposal for the member engagement process.

There was a discussion about whether South Lakeland District Council was adequately represented under the proposals. After consideration, DS asked for one District Council Member to also be in attendance. It was noted that SLDC's consultation with Members was via the Respect Group. However, it was considered that in order to avoid duplication of consultation, it would be appropriate for the member Advisory Group to represent both Eden and South Lakeland District Councils interests.

Action: The draft terms of reference and structure of the Member Advisory Group be approved subject to MN making final amendments to reflect the addition of a South Lakeland District Council Member representative and one Officer representative. DS to notify MN of the names of the relevant representatives.

5. Infrastructure at the Flashing Lane

KC introduced a report which was the result of the Highway Working Group's deliberations. It suggested removal of the barriers at the flashing lane as it was considered by KC that the barriers caused a potential hazard which was present at all times of the year. Also in his opinion the barriers were non-continuous and did not prevent pedestrians entering onto the carriageway thereby causing potential conflict with fast moving horses and associated vehicles. MP raised his concerns about the proposals within the report and indicated a view that having a barrier in place during the Fair was better than no barrier. After considerable debate and consideration of the concerns of MN and MP (the latter on behalf of Cumbria Constabulary), it was agreed that the County Council would give further consideration to the views of MASCG and come back to the November meeting with a finalised proposal. It was considered important to finalise MASCG's view with regard to this in order to inform the emerging new Appleby Strategy.

Consideration was also given to traffic numbers on the A685 and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to seek to reduce the level of occupation on the A685. It was considered this would be an appropriate task for the Highways Sub-Group to report back to the November meeting of MASCG.

Consideration was also given to a proposal from the Highways Working Group that South Lakeland District Council should introduce a representative on the Highways Sub-Group. Consideration was given to this and it was resolved that South Lakeland District Council should appoint a representative to the current Highways Sub-Group.

Finally, consideration was given to a recommendation that the encampment teleconference should commence a week earlier. Teleconferences commenced on the Friday before the Fair in 2018. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the teleconferences to take place a week earlier, ie the Friday before the second May Bank Holiday.

- Action:**
1. That the Highways Sub-Group recommendations regarding barriers at the Flashing lane should be re-considered given the concerns of MASCG and brought back to the MASCG meeting in November.
 2. That the Highways Sub-Group (which will include an officer representatives from South Lakeland District Council) shall give consideration to the issue of the number of encampments on the A685 and consider seeking to reduce numbers and report back to the November MASCG meeting.
 3. That daily encampment teleconference shall commence on the Friday before the second May Bank Holiday of 2019.

6. Frequently Asked Question

EB introduced an interim list of frequently asked questions which she had produced. This was welcomed and it was agreed that this should be finalised for the November meeting.

Action: EB to carry out further work on the questions. All to comment and notify Louise Biggs of any suggested changes or additional questions.

7. Appleby Fair Strategy and its Revision - Discussion

The Appleby Fair Strategy 2018 was discussed by MN. He reminded the group that this was an interim Strategy and indeed the previous Strategy was not subject to public consultation. It was agreed that work should commence on developing a new Strategy. The work would be carried out by MN in conjunction with MP and a report would be brought to the November meeting. In the meantime, MN would seek input from NG as to the appropriate means of public consultation on the revised Strategy.

Action: MN to prepare suggested revisions to the Appleby Fair Strategy in conjunction with MP and NG and report back to the November meeting.

8. Encampment Protocol and Potential Review

MN referred to the Protocol and the fact that it operated well in 2018 and provided sufficient scope for subjective judgements to be made about the appropriateness of certain unauthorised encampments. MP agreed and was also of the view that the Protocol was a useful document and did not need any further revision.

Action: That the Encampment Protocol be approved for 2019 with no changes.

9. RSPCA Presence Pre-Fair

RE discussed the need in his view for some further presence of the RSPCA in phase one. This could involve drive through patrols which certain checks made by officers of the RSPCA. There was a perceived need for such patrols by members of the public.

Action: MN to write to Rob Melloy and ask that consideration be given to the suggestion of further presence from the RSPCA during phase one.

10. Sub Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

EB stated that she was waiting to hear from the Melmerby Village Green Group. They wanted to have a meeting and had made initial comments that they wished to make some changes in terms of the approach to encampments

in Melmerby. It was noted that there would be a clear knock on effect if there was a reduction of encampments in Melmerby on other sites within the vicinity.

Action: That the update be noted.

b) Licensing

SG indicated that she was having a meeting with licensees in Kirkby Stephen on 27 September 2018. She was also going to attend a meeting with Kirkby Stephen Town Council this month as well, along with AM.

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Communications

There was no update from NG.

d) Highways

There was no update from Highways.

e) South Lakeland Working Group

There was no update from DS.

11. Any Other Business

A discussion took place as to whether there should be a different approach by Trading Standards in terms of monitoring the goods sold on the market field and in terms of animal welfare and horse passports.

Action: A meeting be arranged with a representative of Trading Standards attended by MN and MP (or representatives on their respective behalf).

12. Date of Next Meeting

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