

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 26 November 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal (MN), Eden District Council (Chair)
Nick Wright (NW), Cumbria County Council
Barry Cooper (BC), Eden District Council
Steve Minnikin (SM), Cumbria Constabulary
Matt Pearman (MP), Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham (NG), Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Lewis (RL), Cumbria County Council
Kevin Crawley (KC), Cumbria County Council
Emma Brass (EB), Eden District Council
Paul Florentine (PF), South Lakeland District Council
Neil Buck (NB), Eden District Council
Jo Walker (JW), Cumbria Constabulary
Andy Millburn (AM), Cumbria Constabulary
Robert Docherty (RD), Eden District Council
Debbie Storr (DS), South Lakeland District Council
Billy Welch (BW), Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Bill Lloyd (BL), Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Rob Melloy (RM), RSPCA
Rob O'Connor (ROC), Cumbria Constabulary
Nick Griggs (NGr), North West Ambulance Service

Apologies: Lisa Tremble, Eden District Council
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council

At the outset MN explained that there had been a re-assignment of police duties in relation to MASCG. Superintendent Mark Pannone had been replaced by Acting Chief Superintendent Rob O'Connor as the senior police officer on MASCG and its Vice Chairman. Inspector Ben Swinson had been replaced by Superintendent Matt Pearman and Inspector Jo Walker was also welcomed onto MASCG.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17 September 2018

These were agreed for publication.

2. Draft Appleby Fair Strategy 2019-2022

MN introduced a revision to the Appleby Fair Strategy with an effective date of 2019-2022. It was agreed that the document could proceed to formal consultation with minor amendments to be dealt with by MN as Chairman of MASCG in consultation with DS and ROC. NG advised that the appropriate consultation should be a press release and publication of the website with a request for the comments of the public with a timescale of one month for a response.

Action: That the relevant Strategy document be approved for the purpose of a public consultation exercise with the document to be brought back to the MASCG meeting in February for final approval.

3. Member Representation on MASCG

MN asked MASCG to reconsider the matter of member representation on MASCG. At the previous meeting, it had been agreed that there should be a member working group set up comprising member representation at the various tiers of local government. Before notification letters had gone out, there had been a change of position of the Police and on balance, the view of the Police was that

representation on MASCG was something that needs to be given positive consideration.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that member representation should take place as from the next meeting of MASCG in February with the representation consisting of one County Councillor and one District Councillor from Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council. It was agreed that MASCG meetings would benefit from a strategic input of Members in this manner informed by the relevant working groups. It was noted that a discussion would be taking place regarding working groups later in the meeting.

Action: MN to write to NW at the County Council and DS at South Lakeland District Council requesting their nomination for membership of MASCG.

4. Barriers at the Flashing Lane

KC introduced the recommendation of the Highways Working Group. A report had been brought to the previous meeting to recommend the removal of the barriers at the Flashing Lane. This had been resisted at the meeting and the revised recommendation of the Highways Working Group was to provide limited replacement removable barriers on either one side or both sides of the Flashing Lane. A more expensive approach would be to provide barriers on both sides of the Flashing Lane at a similar length as is currently in place. A long discussion took place and it was noted that there was no allocated budget and the matter was ultimately a decision for the County Council as highway authority. The matter would need to be discussed by the County Council's Departmental Management Team.

Action: That the County Council be recommended to install full or partial fencing on both sides of the Flashing Lane or ideally an equivalent provision of barriers as is currently in situ. Any such fencing to be removable so that it is only in place in the run up to and during the Appleby Fair.

5. Number of Encampments on the A685

KC referred to a further piece of work carried out by the Highways Working Group. The group has in effect recommended that there may be a move to reduce and eventually remove encampments for the length of the A685 between Brough and Kirkby Stephen. It was noted that the A685 is a diversionary route for the A66 trunk route and in the event that such diversion should have been necessary during the Appleby Fair in 2018, there would have been considerable problems. It was proposed that a Working Group be set up to seek to identify high priority areas along the A685 for which no tolerance could be given and for which there would be a quick decision at Silver Command level to remove them.

Action: That it be agreed in principle that it is desirable to remove over a period of five years eliminate the encampments on the A685. A Working Group be tasked to identify the high priority areas for the 2019 Fair and to seek the means of identifying alternative sites in conjunction with local parishes.

6. Proposal of Horse Corral in Kirkby Stephen Market Square

AM indicated that he had had discussions with local retailers in Kirkby Stephen and they were happy for there to be boarding up of railings in order to prevent horses being tied up to the railings in those locations. His view was that wish this ought to be carried out in conjunction with the provision of a temporary horse corral area at Kirkby Stephen Market Square. Kirkby Stephen Town Council was only willing to consider this if MASCG were to agree to indemnify the Town Council in respect of damage to cobbles which may be caused by horses. It was agreed that it was not

appropriate or possible for MASCG to comply with Kirkby Stephen Town Council's request.

Action:

- (1) It be noted that with approval that there was an intention for the railings to be boarded up in collaboration with local retailers in Kirkby Stephen.
- (2) It also be noted that it was not possible to achieve the conditions whereby Kirkby Stephen Town Council was able to approve the installation of a temporary horse corral area at Kirkby Stephen Market Square given that neither MASCG or any relevant agency was able to provide an indemnity to the Town Council in respect of any potential damage to the cobbles in this location.

7. Frequently Asked Questions

EB thanked everyone for their input in relation to the Frequently Asked Questions document and in particular, the ideas of BL.

Action: EB to recirculate the revised list of frequently asked questions and be authorised to populate the Appleby Fair website with such FAQs once finalised.

8. Sub Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

EB introduced a report recommending that the policy of MASCG be to seek to enforce the opening times for the seven licensed sites as 4.00am on Thursday. These licensed sites had 4.00am opening times in relation to the site licence and also (for most of them) the planning consent. Police resource would be required to implement the necessary road closure at Roman Road. MN noted that arising from the early opening of than in previous years. It was also noted that the licensees' charter does not provide for licensed door staff on Wednesday evening in Appleby.

A discussion took place about the level of resourcing required to ensure that 4.00am closing proceeded.

Action: It be agreed that MN to discuss the matter further with ROC to consider the resource implications with the matter to be brought back to MASCG in February 2019.

EB introduced a paper on the current sub groups and it was noted that there are currently five sub groups some of which meet regularly and some are not in fact constituted as groups. In order to support effective engagement, communication and properly utilise resources, she suggested the creation of two working groups and this had the support of the relevant MASCG sub group meetings. It was suggested that there be an Operations Sub Group to replace the current Highways, Licensing and Parish Council Sub Groups to discuss operational matters relating to the Fair. It will report into MASCG along with recommendations for decision making.

There would also be a Communication and Engagement Sub Group to lead on Traveller and community engagement. It would discuss matters and report to MASCG.

With attendees increasing in the run up to the Fair but not necessarily having to get certain non-local authority and non-Police delegates not being required to attend throughout the year. There were mixed views on this with some expressing the view that attendance at all meetings would enable a full

understanding to be had of the issues in relation to the MASCG during the Fair and others indicating that it be sufficient to attend as and when required.

Action: That it be agreed that the two Working Groups (Operations Sub Group and Communication and Engagement Sub Group) be set up to carry out the operational issues for these groups.

b) Licensing

MN gave an update to the effect that SG had been in discussion with Kirkby Stephen licensees and they were agreeable to having a common closing time but other matters were still under consideration.

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Communication

NG stated that there had been some further coverage about the road traffic accident and subsequent assault that took place in June 2018.

Action: That the update be noted.

d) Highways

There was no further update from Highways.

e) South Lakeland Working Group

DS stated that there was an Irish music festival scheduled to take place in Kirkby Lonsdale at the end of June. She stated that it was possible that it could attract some Gypsy and Travellers. She also stated that Scroggs Bank field was up for sale but as yet there were no takers.

Action: That the update be noted.

9. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 February 2019 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith.