

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 25 February 2019

Attendance: Matthew Neal (MN), Eden District Council, (Chair)
Rob O'Connor (ROC), Cumbria Police
Matt Pearman (MP), Cumbria Police
Steve Minnikin (SM), Cumbria Police
Barry Cooper (BC), Eden District Council
Simon Rowley (SR), South Lakeland District Council
Ian Mitchell (IM), South Lakeland District Council
Paul Florentine (PF), South Lakeland District Council
Andy Millburn (AM), Cumbria Police
Jo Walker (JW), Cumbria Police
Neil Graham (NeG), Cumbria Police
Rob Lewis (RL), Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck (NB), Eden District Council
Emma Brass (EB), Eden District Council
Robert Docherty (RD), Eden District Council
Karen Greenwood (KG), Eden District Council
Nick Wright (NW), Cumbria County Council
Phil Dew (PD), Cumbria County Council
Nick Griggs (NGr), North West Ambulance Service
Rob Melloy (RM) RSPCA
Bill Lloyd (BL), Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Billy Welch (BW), Gypsy & Traveller Representative

Apologies: Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council

1. Introductions

Attendees at the meeting introduced themselves including the three new Councillors representing Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 26 November 2018

These were agreed as true record subject to the following amendments; Sergeant Jo Walker should be listed as Inspector Jo Walker. There was a typographical error on the sixth line of paragraph 4 "barriers at the flashing lane", and in relation to the same paragraph the action should refer to the installation of full or partial fencing on both sides of the flashing lane.

It was also noted that the minutes referred to two officers both with initials NG. MN agreed to separate these out in the published version.

It was noted that the draft Appleby Fair Strategy consultation as being extended until 19 March 2019.

3. Draft Appleby Fair Strategy 2019-2022

MN referred to the ongoing consultation and as referred to above, it be noted that the consultation was to be extended until 19 March 2019 to enable parishes to be fully consulted.

PD expressed concern that parish and town clerks had not been directly notified that the consultation was taking place and therefore had not responded. MN responded that he had extended the consultation to address any concerns about

the level of consultation that had taken place to date. NeG agreed to contact the clerks directly'

KG asked if Appleby Town Council's deliberations on the matter of 20 March 2019 could be considered and taken on board. MN indicated that any such consideration could be fed in albeit a day late.

Action: That the extension of the Appleby Fair Strategy 2019-2022 consultation to 19 March 2019 be noted.

4. Member Working Groups Draft Terms of Reference: Communications & Engagement Sub-Group and Operational Sub-Group

MN introduced the updated Terms of Reference for the two sub-groups. PD asked whether a Councillor could be appointed to the Communications & Engagement Sub-Group given that the draft Terms of Reference did not include a Councillor but allowed for additional members to be added as required. MN indicated that the purpose of MASCG was to act as the strategic decision making group and the two sub-groups were designed to be operational not involving the involvement of members. MN indicated that all three Councillor members could feed into the work of the Sub-Groups by suggesting areas of work or giving their ideas to officers involved with the groups. PD indicated that he would review his position in this regard. MN indicated that indeed the effectiveness of MASCG in its revised format could be assessed after the 2019 Fair.

PD pointed out that the Communications & Engagement Sub-Group included gypsy/traveller representatives and was meant to foster understanding with the settled community, which he stated was not represented. PD asked officers to note that a gypsy/traveller cultural evening was being held in Kirkby Stephen on 29 April, 2019

Action: That the Terms of Reference for the two Working Groups be approved.

5. Proposed Measures for the A685

RL introduced plans setting out the location of the verges along the A685 to the south of Winton. These had been assessed from a technical highways point of view with the input of relevant Police Officers and were considered to be areas that were of particularly high risk where no encampments should be tolerated.

There was a discussion about the level of consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community. It was however, established that these are already areas that are absolutely prohibited for camping and the proposals from the Highway Authority are that these would merit a new category in the Council's enforcement policy which would require them to be an immediate priority in terms of removing any encampments thereon.

BL and BW considered that there would need to be clarity about how bow tops would be treated in terms of these new measures on the A685

Action:

- 1) That it be noted that the enforcement protocol will need to be updated to include a new category of encampment relevant to these prohibited areas.
- 2) That communications on the Appleby Fair website be updated to include the information about these particular areas and that a revised enforcement plan be brought back to the next MASCG meeting to reflect these areas.

Consideration of such a revised enforcement protocol to be considered first by the Operational Working Group.

6. Presentation by Rob O'Connor

ROC set out his plan for staffing by the Police in the various phases of the Fair.

With regards to Police numbers, they are split into North (Kirkby Stephen and surrounding area) and South (Kirkby Lonsdale, Sedbergh and surrounding area).

There will be 4 x Sgts and 28 x PCs supported by PCSOs operating from Kirkby Stephen who will cover the North Encampment area ie up to Alston and down to Cotemoor.

There will be 2 x Sgts and 10 x PCs supported by 8 x PCSOs operating from Kirkby Lonsdale covering the South Encampment area ie Kirkby Lonsdale up to Cotemoor.

They will be on shifts covering from 0700 hrs to 0200 hrs the following day.

PD said that he had been very pleased with the approach of ROC as the new Gold Commander for Appleby Fair.

Action: That the update from ROC be noted.

7. Horse Corral in Kirkby Stephen Market Square

AM gave a brief update to the effect that no further work would be carried out by him on trying to bring forward a horse corral area given the amount of opposition that it had received.

Action: That it be noted that any horse corral area would have to be the responsibility of agencies other than those involved in MASCG and that no further work should be carried out by or on behalf of MASCG in relation to this matter.

8. Frequently Asked Questions

EB stated that she had not had any further feedback on her frequently asked questions.

9. Sub-Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

EB stated that Melmerby Village Green had indicated that they were content for relevant areas of the village green to be used for the purpose of caravans. There was a flower meadow which was prohibited for such use and locals would be enforcing this and removing any horses from such areas. EB also indicated that Great Asby had produced maps showing areas where they will allow parking of caravans. There was an issue about tents which are more difficult to enforce against.

EB also indicated that land at Watty Yat, which is tolerated as site for caravans by the current land owners, is up for sale and she was hoping that any subsequent purchaser of the land would be sympathetic to its continued use for caravan parking.

EB indicated that this year at Cote Moor is more complicated in that use of the area is prohibited save for from the Sunday before the Fair.

PD indicated that it would be useful if the Order could be relaxed to enable camping to take place in the run up to the Fair. EB stated that the interests of the land owner who uses the land for grazing had to be balanced against the

interests of local people and Gypsy and Travellers. It was noted that 4G was now available on Cotemoor. BW however indicated that he was of the view that people would not travel long distances to go to the Fair and spend it at Cote Moor. He was not convinced this was the solution.

There was an acknowledgement that if there was to be further enforcement of encampment on the A685, it was important that the land owners should be encouraged to provide sites off the highway. It was possible that the Church of England may have some land which could be available for such a purpose.

Action: That the update be noted.

b) Licensing

MN indicated that RD was taking steps to ensure that the licensing function will be carried out notwithstanding that the Licensing Enforcement Officer had left the authority. MN indicated that the licensees at Kirkby Stephen were being encouraged to sign the Charter. He clarified that the charter would not be requiring door staff to be engaged by a licensee.

AM indicated that the Charter was to be amended to enable Kirkby Stephen licensees to indicate which aspect of the Charter they would be willing to sign up to (including potentially using door staff). ROC stated that in terms of any non-co-operation by licensees or failure to sign the Charter in the event of any problems arising, there could be a review of the Charter by the Licensing Committee or in extreme circumstances, the Police could close premises down temporarily during the Fair.

In response to a question from PD, MN indicated that the Council's Licensing Section would not be unduly penalising Kirkby Stephen licenses and action would only be taken if such licensees did not properly consider advice given to them by professional Police or Licensing Officers.

MN indicated that it was a priority for the District Council to install robust signage for Public Space Protection Orders in Kirkby Stephen and Appleby,

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Communications

NeG stated that pro-active messages were being given out, links were being made with Friends and Families and Travellers Charity and he indicated that this may be a further means of engaging with the Gypsy and Traveller community.

NeG indicated that during the Fair itself, a second Communications Officers would be engaged for the duration.

Action: That the update be noted.

d) Highways

Nothing to report.

e) South Lakeland Working Group

SR indicated that Scroggs Bank field was for sale and a prospective buyer was in advanced negotiations with the vendor and were happy to impose a covenant to ensure that the land was made available to Travellers in the run up to the Fair. There had been a planning application to enable for it to be used for the purposes of a transit caravan site submitted to the Yorkshire Dales National

Park Authority and BL indicated that he wished to write to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to give his support. He indicated that portable toilets will be provided at Scroggs Bank and Devils Bridge and Hodge Bridge will have a wheelie bin provided. There will be sessions before and after the Fair for public consultation.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date of Next Meeting

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