

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

Attendance: Rob O'Connor(ROC), Cumbria Constabulary (Chair)
Matt Pearman (MP), Cumbria Constabulary
Steve Minnikin (SM), Cumbria Constabulary
Barry Cooper (BCo), Eden District Council
Andy Millburn (AM), Cumbria Constabulary
Jo Walker (JW), Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham (NeG), Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Lewis (RL), Cumbria County 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
Beth Clements (BC), RSPCA
Bill Lloyd (BL), Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Billy Welch (BW), Gypsy & Traveller Representative

Apologies: Matthew Neal, Eden District Council
Paul Florentine, South Lakeland District Council
Councillor Ian Mitchell, South Lakeland District Council

1. Introductions

These were completed with ROC taking the Chair in the absence of MN.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 25 February 2019

These were agreed as true record.

As a matter arising in relation to item ROC, he gave some further clarification about policing numbers. He stated that, *they are split into North (Kirkby Stephen and surrounding area) and South (Kirkby Lonsdale, Sedbergh and surrounding area).*

He stated that there will be 4 x Sergeants and 28 x Police Constables supported by PCSOs operating from Kirkby Stephen who will cover the North Encampment area ie up to Alston and down to Cotemoor

He stated that there will be 2 Sergeants and 10 Police Constables supported by 8 PCSOs operating from Kirkby Lonsdale covering the South Encampment area ie Kirkby Lonsdale up to Cotemoor

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

All the other actions from the meeting on 25 February were reviewed and agreed.

Action 7 (Horse Corral in Kirkby Stephen) caused some debate. AM covered how Kirkby Stephen Town Council were not agreeable to a corral. AM had spoken to local businesses, and some were very keen to board up the railings outside their premises to ensure horses could not be tied up. There will be no field/provision behind the Kings Pub. BL explained horse bailiffs were available at a cost, and questioned whether Kirkby Stephen Town Council would cover this. PD felt that they would not. It was recognised that there may well be an issue of horses being tied up in the area of Kirkby Stephen and it would have to be managed on a day by day basis by the respective agencies.

3. Appleby Fair Strategy Consultation Responses

The responses had been shared beforehand with members of MASCG, and were discussed at length in the meeting.

PD raised that the strategy was very similar to the 2018 one, other than a couple of extra paragraphs. BL stated that there had been changes, including the fact elected members were now part of MASCG. It was accepted by the group that the strategy should have been shared earlier to allow for adequate consultation.

It was felt that the responses were tactical, and the document was strategic (which is its purpose) and ROC explained underlying the strategy was the Gold Commanders strategy and his Silver Commander's Tactical plan. A further example was the Traffic Management Plan prepared by the County Council. It was felt that to re-assure people there were more detailed tactical plans, reference should be made in the strategy to the various operational sub groups that sit and their role.

KG covered how without doubt the formation of MASCG over the years had greatly assisted in the multi-agency response to the Fair.

BL asked whether all those who had responded to the consultation had received an acknowledgement, and for them to be re contacted to be informed that their responses had been considered by MASCG on 25 March 2019

Action:

- (1) MN to update the strategy to reflect the above comments.
- (2) MN to ensure that all those that have made representations are informed as to the outcome of MASCG meeting of 25 March 2019.

4. Operational Working Group

a) Highways

Update by RL as per written update on operational sub group report March 2019.

Action: NeG to prepare a document on one page about what changes people can expect to see ie no stopping on identified parts of A685 etc. To share with BL and BW for comment.

b) Parish Engagement

Update by EB as per written update on operational sub group report March 2019.

Live use of social media will require MASCG representatives to assist.

EB and AM had written to parishes about tolerated stopping places for future expansion. No parishes had come forward yet identifying any areas of land.

A discussion took place regarding the potential use of Cotemoor. PD had spoken to land owner and other interested parties as they had been enquiring with him what was happening. EB is progressing by looking at options to potentially use Cotemoor and will update at next meeting.

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Encampment

Update by EB and JW as per written update on operational sub group report March 2019.

Discussions again regarding use of Cotemoor which EB will progress with relevant parties. BL commented on need to ensure communication reflects that people may be displaced from A685 and where they can be directed to. Discussion regarding relevant parties who use Cotemoor and live nearby now being aware. PD said people had been asking him about use of Cotemoor. BL recognised at times there may be a conflict of interest for elected members who are representing their communities, but are aware of information coming out of MASCG.

Action: That the update be noted.

d) Licensing

Update by RD as per written update on operational sub group report March 2019.

PSPO signs now in place, EDC progressing recruitment of Licensing Officer, and will ensure suitable officer in place for the Fair.

There was a lengthy discussion about the opening times of seven licensed sites. The operational sub group proposed 4am opening on Thursday morning of the Fair, which all supported. It recognised that in previous years the site operated by BL/BW had opened on Wednesday night to ease congestion. This was contrary to the relevant licence conditions, but had been opened after discussions with MASCG. Bow tops can have access to licensed sites as of Wednesday afternoon.

Fair Hill licensed site of BL/BW had permission for three caravans prior to Thursday morning. BW commented on the difficulties of managing site without support of a number of his family and friends who needed to be on the site. BL/BW are considering submission of an application to EDC to seek an amendment to allow for further caravans to enable people to assist with setting up and managing the site on the first day.

Highways sub group had looked at a stack type operation using the Roman Road, but there was the need to keep all traffic moving.

ROC commented that prior to the 2020 Fair all licensed site owners should be approached for a view on future opening times.

Action:

- (1) That the official opening time should remain this year as being 0400 hrs on Thursday morning. It was recognised that if the stack operation did not assist and there was significant congestion, then a discussion should take place between BW and ROC as the Police Gold Commander (who will be in Appleby) who would then consider whether opening access to the licensed sites earlier would ensure public safety, the well-being of animals and ease the congestion and impact on the settled community.
- (2) SM to ensure Body Worn Video is captured by the Police to assist in informing the decision in future years, and KG was invited by BW to accompany him at the gate to Fair Hill to see how busy and congested it gets.

e) South Lakeland

No representative present from South Lakeland, but written update provided as per operational sub group report March 2019.

5. Communications and Engagement

NeG circulated a plan to the group earlier in the day for consultation. JW updated regarding the use of social media half hourly chats each day between 28 May and 5 June and Police engagement plans.

Action: That the Communications and Engagement Plan update be noted and comments be brought back to next MASCG meeting.

6. Any Other Business

NW raised about fixing dates for pre and post fair meetings in Appleby. Looking at dates in mid-May and mid-July. This was agreed, and NW will confirm dates.

BC commented on how RSPCA would be looking to ensure pre Fair patrols in Kirkby Stephen, and more of a presence on the Flashing Lane this year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 29 April 2019 at 2pm in Conference Room 2, Police HQ, Carleton Hall, Penrith.