

## **Notes of Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 29 April 2019**

**Attendance:** Matthew Neal (MN), Eden District Council (Chair)  
Steve Minnikin (SM), Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Wright (NW), Cumbria County Council  
Matt Pearman (MP), Cumbria Constabulary  
Emma Brass (EB), Eden District Council  
Karen Greenwood (KG), Eden District Councillor  
Neil Graham (NeG), Cumbria Constabulary  
Kate King (KK), Cumbria Constabulary  
Louise Gaskell (LG), Eden District Council  
Jim Maguire (JM), South Lakeland District Council  
Rob Lewis (RL), Cumbria County Council  
Andy Millburn (AM), Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Griggs (NGr), North West Ambulance Service  
Mike Clusker (MC), Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service  
Bill Lloyd (BL), Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Phil Dew (PD), County Council Councillor  
Billy Welch (BW), Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Barry Cooper (BC), Eden District Council

**Apologies:** Jo Walker, Cumbria Constabulary  
John Barwise, South Lakeland District Council  
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Rob O'Connor (ROC), Cumbria Constabulary  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA

### **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 25 March 2019**

These were agreed as a true record subject to a minor typographical error.

Under matters arising, PD indicated that a revised Communications Plan was due to come to this meeting. NeG stated that only minor changes had been made to it. He would circulate it and take account of any comments made.

### **2. Appleby Fair Strategy 2019-2022**

MN introduced this revised document and explained that it had been amended to take account of comments at the last MASCG meeting and further work had been done on its contents at the Operational and Comms and Strategy Working Groups.

The general consensus was that the latest version was in a suitable state to be considered finalised.

PD had some comments on matters of detail and formatting. The more significant points were:

- could reference be made to the changes to Police strategy that have been reported at certain public meetings the most recent being at Kirkby Stephen Town Council either within the document or in a web link within the document;
- could reference be made to summary documents outlining strategic and operational plans;
- reference should be made to tolerated stopping places rather than tolerated sites;

- he queried the ability of landowners, communities and parishes to manage their areas; and
- there needs to be consistency in the message about management of encampments on the A685 over the next five years.

A discussion took place. MP stated that it would not be appropriate for the Police's detailed plans to be made public but he would discuss with ROC whether some headline summary of the strategies which were appropriate for the public domain could be prepared.

It was agreed that there is a need to ensure that the message with regard to encampments on the A685 needs to be consistent.

EB indicated that the draft strategy's reference to encouraging parishes and communities to manage their areas was consistent with the MASCG strategy over previous years and was a requirement due to the inevitable displacement that would occur arising from reducing encampments on the A685.

**Action:** MN in conjunction with ROC to finalise the draft taking into account the comments made, subject to circulating the proposed final draft for comment to MASCG prior to finalising.

### 3. Operational Working Group

#### a) Highways

RL explained that there were changes being made to the Appleby Fair Traffic Management Plan. These related to two matters.

The first change was in relation to the A685 from Kirkby Stephen to Brough. There is a need for the level of encampments on this stretch of the A685 to be significantly reduced over the next five years. It was agreed that this would be reflected in the revised draft.

There will be Highways Safety Identified Areas which will be strictly enforced to prevent any camping due to the sensitive location from a point of view of highway safety.

Other areas of the A685 outside this category will be subject to regular patrols. There was discussion from BL about such strict enforcement potentially leading displacement elsewhere in terms of unauthorised encampments.

A press release regarding the A685 was also discussed and it was agreed that reference should be made to a significant reduction in camping on the A685 between Kirkby Stephen and Brough. BL also requested that communications should also stress that removal of signage relating to encampments along with A685 would also be the subject of enforcement and potential prosecution by the Police.

There was a discussion about the scope for preventing sulky racing along the A685 and it was noted that this will be responded to dynamically by the Police in conjunction with the County Council.

EB stated that with this new enforcement process, the public should see a difference in the level of encampments along the A685.

The second changes to the Traffic Management Plan was in relation to The Sands, Appleby whereby the pedestrian crossing next to The Sands is to be

guarded by the application of strong wall barriers on both carriageway approaches.

A discussion took place about encampments along the Loop Road near Devils Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale. The Operational Group, Inspector Latham had asked for guidance about how the TRO would be enforced. If it were to be strictly enforced it would need encampments to be removed overnight.

MN and MP agreed that it would be appropriate to deal with any such encampment in accordance with the matrix within the Encampment Protocol.

**Action:**

- (1) that the update be noted;
- (2) it be agreed that the aim in terms of the strategy and communications in relation this stretch of the A685 between Kirkby Stephen and Brough is that encampments should be significantly reduced to over a five year period; and
- (3) encampments at the Loop Road in Kirkby Lonsdale to be dealt with in accordance with the Encampment Protocol.

**b) Parish Engagement**

EB indicated that tolerated sites had all been advertised along with associated maps.

AM stated that Powis Lane at Long Marton has in effect been made not available and this would be made clear in communications.

A discussion took place about potential use of MOD land at Warcop as a site for Gypsies and Travellers. No progress had been made by BL or PD in terms of seeking agreement from the MOD despite their best endeavours. KG said that she would also seek to lobby for some provision to be made.

EB informed the meeting that there would be no change to the arrangements at Cotemoor this year.

**Action:** That the update be noted.

**c) Licensing**

MN gave an update on behalf of Robert Docherty. LG is in post to help provide some continuity of cover for Appleby Horse Fair. A Licensing and Enforcement Officer is commencing at Eden DC on 13 May. He will work on the Fair with LG.

An update was given about Appleby licence holders. All have signed the Charter. Only one Kirkby Stephen licensee has signed the charter. PD expressed concerns about the burden being placed on Kirkby Stephen licensees who have the choice to open, open with the Charter signed or close during the fair. PD was concerned that the cost of employing door staff could put undue burden on licensees. However, the view of the meeting was that it is up to licensees to decide how to run their premises.

LG has visited all the licenses in the previous week.

MN asked for it to be noted that the Bridge End News had obtained a Temporary Event Notice to operate with an on licence during the Fair. They will be using a door supervisor.

**Action:** That the update be noted.

**d) South Lakeland**

JM indicated that the Scroggs Bank planning application was due to be determined by Yorkshire Dales NPA Planning Committee in the following week. Even if refused, the site could still be use for an encampment for no more than 28 days in a year.

**Action:** That the update be noted.

**5. Communications and Engagement**

NeG agreed to look at putting together a communication on the basis of 'you said we did.

**Action:** That the update be noted.

**7. Any Other Business**

EB stated that there had been a message sent out on social media on behalf of the Gypsy and Traveller community about early arrivals which was not consistent with the message being sent out by MASCG.

**Action:** BL/BW to look into this.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 May 2019 in Conference Room 2, Police Headquarters, Carleton Hall, Penrith.