

## Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 23 September 2019

**Attendance:** C/Supt R O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary (Chair)  
Nick Turner, Eden District Council  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council  
Les Clark, Eden District Council  
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council  
Inspector Jo Walker, Cumbria Constabulary  
PS Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary  
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service

**Apologies:** Matthew Neal, Eden District Council  
C/Insp Matthew Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary

### 1. Previous Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of previous meeting held on 8 July were agreed with the following amendments:

- Page 2, item 2, final paragraph, fifth line up to 'income from Appleby Fair.' - PD confirmed that the remainder of the comments were not made by him and no reference made to 'crowd funding'. PD confirmed he had said 'the RSPCA had made a good contribution and the Town was keen to raise funds for them'.
- Page 4, item 4c 'Nateby at the Kings Arms' - should read 'Nateby at the **Black Bull**'.

### 2. Temporary Stopping Places

- The owners of one of the temporary stopping places have decided to put the site on the open market in January 2020. The site is common land and has a number of clauses and conditions. Independent Valuers have valued the site at circa £12,000.00. Two individuals have expressed an interest in purchasing the site, both of whom will prevent encampments which could displace 80+ caravans and have an impact on the A685 and other areas. In 2019, the first arrivals into EDC area were on 20 May. PD confirmed he has provided Matthew Neal with a full update in relation to this site and requested EDC be more proactive and that EDC take into consideration their responsibility to the Gypsy & Traveller Community and the potential to purchase the site.
- Asset of Community Value - KG note if the site is or can be made into an 'Asset of Community Value', this would allow local people a timeframe of six months to prepare a plan to buy the site.
- The site is frequented several times a year by a male who has been subject of several complaints from local land owners. The site is also used by public for wild camping and Anglers for fishing.

- The Political and contentious issues were noted. In order to move forward, PD confirmed he had written to the Leader of EDC who stated she will discuss the matter with the Chief Executive. The site has potential to generate some income.  
**ACTION - Phil Dew to provide progress update at next meeting.**
- EDC - for awareness, KG confirmed that EDC have to save £1.7m per year plus the extra money to be paid out for waste and recycling contracts and EDC may not have any available funds to purchase the site.

### 3. Economic Impact Study

- Previous EIS carried out in 2006. Recommendation that this be carried out by University of Cumbria and be commissioned by the District Council. This would assist people in understanding the Fair, the significance of the Fair and the nett benefits it brings to the local communities. ROC recognised the benefit of carrying out an EIS and noted there was no funding provision in place, this could be linked to potential income streams.  
BL expressed an interest in contributing toward the EIS.

**ACTION - C/Supt O'Connor to link in with senior officer seconded to the University of Cumbria and scope out the potential for UofC to do an EIS and linking it to the policing of the Fair.**

### 4. Income Stream

- Government - BW confirmed he had been in Westminster 16 September and had submitted a request to Government for funding for rural areas, including funding for temporary stopping places during ingress and egress to the Fair, improvements to Appleby re its historical significance and the potential to bring in tourists. The process will be long.  
BW had previously met with Lord Bourne (now resigned from the Government) who had shown an interest and willingness to help. Lord Younger is now in place as Minister for Communities, who would like to meet with Billy Welch to discuss issues and potential funding for temporary stopping places.
- Income - difficulties associated with any funds raised were noted and would require further discussion and decisions:
  - Where would the funds go to and who would be compensated?
  - If MASCG had funds coming in, it could be seen as the organisers of the Fair.
  - If funds are paid direct to those incurring costs, MASCG would not be involved.
  - How would funds be raised.
  - Potential to invest in the community and bring in more investment.
  - Potential that any income generated could assist in negating some of the negative comments about the overall costs.
  - OPCC - PD noted this issue is on their agenda with recognition something needs to be done.
- Evaluation Report - pg8, recognises the fundamental issue of income to assist with costs of Fair.
- After discussion, it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

**ACTION - PD to liaise with and discuss Income Streams with OPCC and update next meeting.**

## 5. Operational Working Group

### a) Highways

- A685 - possibility for additional funding being considered.
- 2019 budget was £50k. Anticipate a small overspend.
- Traffic Management Plan - to be revised for 2020 and agreed will be raised at MASCG in February/March for consultation and approval.

### b) Parish Engagement

- Kirkby Stephen Town Council meeting was attended by C/Supt O'Connor. Feedback was positive. Community engagement is ongoing.
- Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh meetings were attended by Insp Latham. Feedback was positive.

### c) Licensing

- DPS's - consultation/feedback meetings arranged with all in Appleby in November. Same plan is being progressed for Kirkby Stephen and Nateby. They are aware that there is no funding. They will be encouraged to have SIA on their doors in order to meet the four licensing objectives and be open for the Fair.
- PSPOs - approval given to purchase 150 metal signs for all Eden area towns.
- Licensing Plan - being developed and anticipate will be in place by end of year.

### d) South Lakeland

- No issues raised via the Parish Council meetings. Both were very positive how the Fair had been managed and 2019 and expressed a preference for a similar stance in 2020. C/Supt provided reassurance that the policing plan will be similar in 2020.
- Scroggs Bank - planning consent has been approved and purchase completed.
- Respect meeting due to be held 25 September.

### e) Multi Agency Report, item 5:

- Consider the opening times of the 7 licensed sites - previously discussed at MASCG with recommendation to meet with all 7 land owners, discuss and reach a consensus on issues.  
**ACTION** - Emma Brass to set up meeting with 7 landowners in January and progress issues.
- Flashing Lane - Highways will continue to effect running repairs until not fit for purpose.

## 6. Communications & Engagement

- Comms Lead - due to change to EDC. Handover to be arranged with Neil Graham.
- Channel 5 documentary, 'The Town That The Gypsies Took Over' (aired Tuesday 13 August) - initial cut was a misrepresentation and C5 changed a lot before it was aired. After discussion, members noted that overall, the documentary was not a good representation.

## 7. Draft Evaluation Report

- Draft Evaluation Report prepared by Matthew Neal had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.
- The following were noted:
  - NWSAS recorded injuries - significant decrease of 32.35% in comparison to 2018. This is potentially due to the barriers in place across The Sands.
  - RSPCA - It was noted that a number of reported figures were the lowest in 10 years. Confirmation of the accuracy of the figures was required as it was not clear if the figures were for phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Fair or phase 2 only.  
**ACTION - Matthew Neal to confirm what time period the recorded figures cover.**
  - Action Points for 2020 - PD raised concerns that the action points for 2020 did not reflect his views as put forward. KG raised awareness of the 'Conclusion' on pg9 and the significant and continuing changes being made after considerable feedback.  
**ACTION - All members were encouraged to read the report and provide feedback direct to Matthew Neal.**  
**ACTION - Matthew Neal to amend Draft Evaluation Report to ensure it reflects a representation of the Groups views and raise at next meeting for discussion and agreement prior to general publication.**

## 8. Any Other Business

- BW reported there had been a fail to stop incident involving an RSPCA vehicle driving on the A685 which had hit a horse with its wing mirror. Several members of the Gypsy and Traveller community had shouted for the van to stop, the RSPCA continued its journey. Not believed to have been officially reported to the Police at the time, ROC suggested discussion with Rob Melloy from RSPCA to inform him to review.
- Fence Posts - BL paper prepared and sent to Matthew Neal in relation to the preservative treatment applied to fence posts which should not be burned on an open fire as it is toxic. All were encouraged to read the document and discuss at next meeting.

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

- Monday 25 November 2019, 2.00pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith.