

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

**Attendance:** Matthew Neal, Eden District Council (Chairman)  
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary  
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Matt Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service  
Les Clark, Eden District Council  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

**Apologies:** Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Nick Turner, Eden District Council  
Jo Walker, Cumbria Constabulary  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 September 2019**

These were agreed as a true record.

PD commented that minutes of the previous meeting were very comprehensive and accurate and it would be useful to have a minute taker for future meetings.

**Action:** That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed.

### **2. Draft Evaluation Report 2019**

MN noted that the approval of this report had been held over from the last meeting to enable further input into the Evaluation Report. He therefore asked for further comments with a view to enabling the document to be finalised and published.

PD mentioned that the 15 parishes that he represented were not in support of provision of temporary stopping places and wished for Eden District Council to identify and if potentially purchase land for such use.

He also mentioned the need for an economic impact study or updating of the findings by Jura Consultants in 2004 so as to allow a more informed view of the economic benefits of the fair.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that the draft report should be amended so that the wording in the section about the need to increase income so as to mitigate the cost of the fair should be moved to action points. MN also agreed to add some wording in the action points about the need for MASCG to explore various means of increasing the number of temporary stopping places.

**Action:** That it be agreed that the Evaluation Report be published subject amendments as follows:

1. move the wording about exploring means of income generation from the section about costs to Action Points.
2. add wording about the need for MASCG to explore various means of increasing the number of temporary stopping places.

### **3. Encampment Protocol**

EB introduced the protocol and confirmed that it was in the same format as in the previous year and this was simply an annual review.

MN mentioned that Kirby Stephen Town Council had raised some concern about the differential treatment within the Encampment Protocol of Appleby compared to the outlying areas. MN stated that there was a reason for differential treatment in that there were licensed sites within 1.5 mile zone of Appleby which meant that any unauthorised encampments within these areas was automatically high risk. Other areas outside the 1.5 mile zone would be treated on their merit as low, medium or high risk. PD confirmed that he was aware of the Town Council's view. Whilst he had issues with Eden District Council's views on the potential acquisition of Watter Yat, he confirmed that he was content with the protocol.

**Action:** Agreed that the Encampment Protocol was appropriate and should be confirmed as the relevant policy for the 2020 Fair.

## **4 Operational Working Group**

### **a) Highways**

RL reported that utilities information had been received and there were BT services in all potential ditch and bund areas making this an unviable option. Posting the area would be the default option. He did state that consideration was given to using temporary rhino barriers along the prohibited parts of the A685 as an alternative to using posts. There was no funding for this and therefore a bid would be put to the Local Area Committee.

RL also mentioned in the update a Brough to Kirkby Stephen cycle path along the A685. PD stated that this would be at a cost of £250,000 and may well be aspirational.

**Action:** That the update be noted

### **b) Parish Engagement**

EB stated that there was no update has there had been no community engagement since the last meeting. She would be making contact with Melmerby Village Green Group with a view to setting up a meeting within the next month.

**Action:** That the update be noted

### **c) Licensing**

SW stated that permanent metal PSPO signs were going up within all relevant towns and villages within Eden, including Appleby and Kirkby Stephen. Fixed penalty books were being sent to the Police along with guidance.

SW stated that licensees had raised concerns about various issues, including the costs and outcomes in relation to security provisions, the requirements of

the Licensing Charter and other issues. SW stated that there had been discussion with senior officers of Eden District Council and the Police and the proposal was that a Licensing Working Group be set up to report to MASCG resourced by SW and AM and to be attended by representatives of licensees of Appleby, Kirkby Stephen and outlying areas.

**Action:** (1) that the update be noted; and  
(2) agreement to be given to the setting up of a Licensing Working Group as described above.

#### **d) South Lakeland**

MN mentioned that whilst there was no representative of South Lakeland, he could update the group that the field at Scrogg Bank, Sedbergh had been sold to a local resident and the use of the field for travellers each year would continue. Indeed a covenant had been imposed on the land to this effect.

**Action:** That the update be noted

### **5. Communications and Engagement**

In the absence of Nick Turner, MN stated that there was no update on media issues as matters were quiet from a fair perspective at this time of year. He did give an update on resourcing and indicated that whilst Eden District Council had been identified as the lead on media he could not commit that the actual resource that the Council put into the media would be substantially greater than in the 2019 Fair. NG stated that the resources for the Police would be similar to last year.

MN stated that identification of Eden District Council as the lead for media issues should be considered to relate more to points of contact for the media rather than resourcing.

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

### **6. Burning of Fence Posts**

BL introduced as short paper on the dangers of burning fence posts. He was aware that a minority of people travelling to and from the fair have been known to take and burn fence posts. He stated that some fence posts are impregnated with preservative that are extremely toxic particularly when burnt.

RL indicated that the fence posts that were used by the County Council were not particularly toxic and only caused a minor health risk when burnt.

MN emphasised the fact that it is a criminal offence for a fence post to be removed and similarly a criminal offence to burn it.

**Action:** It was agreed that an additional line would be put into press releases about the risks of burning of fence posts whilst emphasising that such removal is illegal.

### **7. Temporary Stopping Places**

PD expressed the view that Eden District Council should commit to increasing the provision of temporary stopping places and potentially purchasing land for such use. He stated that parishes which he represented were not equipped for such a task. He indicated that he had visited Watter Yat with Eden District Council's Chief Executive and discussed the matter with the Leader of the Council.

**Action:** That it be noted that MASCG's potential identification of sites for temporary stopping places is to be included in the Evaluation Report.

## **8. Economic Impact Study and Income Streams**

A discussion took place about the Jura economic impact study which was carried out in September 2004. Both PD and KG agreed that it would be useful to at the very least, extract some of the conclusions from that report and update them so that more solid assertions could be made about the economic impact of the Fair. ROC indicated that he had had discussions with Cumbria University representatives with a view to seeing if there could be any academic work carried out on the economic benefits of the Fair.

LC stated that he had had some discussions with staff from Lancaster University.

There was general agreement as to the need to try and maximise income from the Fair and any recommendations arising from any academic impacts as referred to above could be considered.

**Action:** That discussions continue with Cumbria and Lancaster Universities as outlined and it be agreed that Officers should be tasked with attempting to source resources of either University to review the economic impact of Appleby Fair. Failing this consideration be given to updating the conclusions of the Jura report.

## **9. Any Other Business**

MN indicated that this was his last meeting as Chairman of MASCG and that Les Clark would assume the Chair for the next meeting on 24 February 2020.