

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 24 February 2020

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Mike Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Laura Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary
Jo Walker, Cumbria Constabulary
Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
John Everingham, Eden District Council
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways
Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council

Apologies: Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary
Matt Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary

Before the meeting started and with LC new to the Chair, he asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 25 November 2019

These were agreed as a true record.

PD asked that encampments was added to the agenda for the next meeting.

After the meeting, an update was received from Bill Lloyd to say that he had circulated information regarding the sale of the common land at Watter Yat but no-one from the Gypsy/Traveller community had come forward or indicated that they would be interested in purchasing the land.

2. University of Lancaster - Economic Impact Study

LC said that he had been contacted by the University of Lancaster regarding some MSc students getting involved in developing a specification for looking at the wider economic impacts of Appleby Fair. It was noted that the 2004 Jura study would be a useful base on which to build upon.

LC asked for volunteers to form a group to work with the University of Lancaster that could develop such a specification. KG, PD and JE said that they would like to be involved and this was supported by the group.

Action: LC to arrange initial meeting with University of Lancaster.

3. Request by MP to attend MASCG Meetings

LC updated the group on a request he had received for the PA of a local MP to attend MASCG meetings and asked for a collective opinion.

As the area that Appleby Fair had an impact on was wider than just Eden, ie South Lakeland, Durham, Richmond, it would be unfair to allow one MP to attend and not others. It was therefore agreed it was not appropriate for the PA to attend but all notes of MASCG would be circulated to the constituency office. LC would inform the MP of this decision.

Action: LC to write to MP informing of MASCG's decision.

4. Operational Working Group

a) Highways

RL gave an update on the amended Traffic Management Plan for the 2020 Fair. The Traffic Orders would be going out to consultation shortly. KG noted that Garths Head Road was missing from the Plan. RL said that letters would be sent to residents advising them of one way traffic.

It was noted that the barriers at The Sands and Jubilee Ford worked well and was safer for all concerned. KG said that although the barriers did work well, there was no turning circle for horses and could the barriers be moved to accommodate this. RL said moving the barriers further was not safe.

KG also mentioned that there were no signs from the Penrith side of the A66 directing people to the Rotary car park. RL said he would contact Highways England as they would need to give permission for any signs. KG also raised the issue of the parking arrangements on Colby Lane causing problems for residents and the TRO was not being enforced. It was suggested that the Civil Enforcement Officers could make more patrols in this area during the Fair.

In relation to the A685, it was noted that it was not possible to do ditching/bunding due to utilities in the verges and barriers were too expensive. There was to be a site meeting between Highways and the Police to discuss this issue.

b) Parish Engagement

EB gave an update in relation to Watter Yat. The current landowners had received a legal letter from an adjacent landowner claiming a substantial amount of money due to loss of value to land, damage etc due to the land being used as a temporary stopping place. This had the potential to cause issues with other sites around the District. EB said that she was looking to seek legal advice on this matter.

In relation to Melmerby Village Green, there had been unsuccessful attempts to contact the landowners. A letter would be sent to the owner to see if the land would be available for their year's Fair.

c) Licensing

SW gave an update in relation to licensing activities. An action plan was in place to visit all pubs/takeaways etc in Appleby and Kirkby Stephen plus outlying areas by 20 April.

In relation to the Charter, this was not in place for this year although all DPS's had agreed to use plastic glasses and keep closing times the same. He went

through the changes to various DPS's at various premises. Some premises had still not confirmed whether they would be opening although he would be in a better position to report back once the visits had been undertaken.

d) South Lakeland

SR said that preparations for this year's Fair were underway. Scroggs Bank had been purchased but the new owner is going to allow it to be used for encampment purposes. The current water supply doesn't comply with current regulations to alternative options were being looked into.

5. Communications and Engagement

It was confirmed that Cumbria Constabulary would be leading the comms for this year's Fair with Eden District Council taking over from 2021.

It was agreed that NG/JE would meet to discuss the comms role. JE would shadow NG for this year's Fair.

NG said that a conversation had taken place about reaching travellers not currently represented on MASCG. Posters were a possibility. NG asked that all agencies thought about the key messages that they wanted to get out and let him know so these could be added to the Communication Strategy.

6. Any Other Business

EB said that she had been contacted by Macmillian who would like to base themselves at Salt Tip Corner for the duration of the Fair. RL would look into this.

EB said that she had been contacted by the Teesdale Traveller Group asking if there had been any issues with roads etc during the run up to last year's Fair as it seemed to take longer for travellers in the area to leave. The group couldn't think of any obvious reasons apart from the weather/bank holiday. EB would respond.

BL had attended the Sedbergh Respect meeting the previous week and has arranged to present a Gypsy Culture event on 12 May 2020.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 March 2020 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith.