

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 20 April 2020

Attendance: Les Cark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
John Everingham, Eden District Council
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Mike Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary

Apologies: Damien Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary
Matt Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 March 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Communications

LC said there were two issues for discussion. The first regarding the response from the communications following the announcement that this year's Fair wouldn't go ahead and secondly, in relation to intelligence that had been received around alternative planned gatherings.

LC said that the communications which had gone out had been well received and had received limited negative response. There had been a letter in the local newspaper which BL had responded to.

ROC had spoken to BW who said that the Gypsy and Traveller community were disappointed but fully supported the decision made.

KG said that the community in Appleby had been satisfied with the decision and had not received any negative feedback. PD said this was the same for Kirkby Stephen.

EB had spoken with 25 traders who would usually be on the market field. None had been surprised with the decision. She had also contacted colleagues in Northumberland/Durham to ask for them to circulate the message in their areas seeing as these had transit sites on the route to the Fair.

In the absence of NG, JE said that he was not aware of any negative feedback being received. It had been largely anticipated and most were relieved of the

decision made. The website had been updated to reflect the current messages. NG was looking to push the message wider via social media, other Police Forces, etc.

LC said the messages need to continue to be circulated.

LC gave an update on intelligence he had received over the last couple of days regarding chatter on social media about holding alternative gatherings to the Fair at a couple of locations.

In the circumstances the messages needed to be strongly reiterated using the continued advice from Government about necessary travelling and staying at home.

EB also raised the issue that there would be no facilities available such as toilets which could be used in messages as a deterrent.

PD mentioned the possibility of a gathering at Brough Hill in September/October. No-one else had heard anything in relation to this.

ROC had spoken to BW regarding the intelligence received who was also unaware of it and would not support such gatherings. He would speak with NG to put together some wording for release which he would circulate to the group for approval.

3. Any Other Business

EB raised the issue of having a protocol for dealing with anyone who may arrive. LC said that it might be appropriate to set up a smaller group of representatives from Eden and the Police to put something together before the next meeting. It was agreed that RD/MT would lead on this along with EB and SW.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18 May 2020 at 2.00pm.