

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 18 May 2020

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Kellie Bradburn-Simms, Cumbria County Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Matthew Pearman, Cumbria County Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways
Jo Walker, Cumbria Constabulary
Michael Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary

Apologies: Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Buck, Eden District Council

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 20 April 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Situational Update

MP said that there had been some isolated sightings of Gypsy/Travellers but nothing of any significance. There had been a meeting with other forces who had no intelligence of any migration towards Cumbria.

JW said that from an Eden perspective, encampments patrols had started that day.

BL said there had been no further feedback with regard to the message he had put out regarding the walking of a horse through Appleby on a day of the Fair.

RL asked about boulders in a layby at Kirkby Lonsdale and whether they should be removed. It was felt by the meeting that there was no need to remove the boulders at this time as it was felt if removed, then it could encourage use of the layby.

RM said that from an RSPCA perspective, things were quiet. No intelligence has been received but if it was a small team would be deployed to look into any horse trading reported.

RD said that contact had been made with neighbouring authorities in the north east who reported no problems. Food traders and licensees had also been contacted. Patrols of encampments with the Police had started today. EB had put signs up at Cotemoor etc which stated that camping was not permitted.

PD said that in relation to Kirkby Stephen, there had been reports on social media of disturbance, although no Gypsy/Travellers were in the area.

KG said that in relation to Appleby, the reports on social media regarding the walking of the horse through the town had upset some locals. Otherwise, nothing else has been reported.

3. Communications

NG said that in relation to the post about the Fair note going ahead and having to walk a horse through the town was an urban myth. BL said it was not unlikely that someone will try to make the point and wondered how it should be responded to. It was agreed that the legal position on this should be sought and have something circulated in advance.

Monitoring of social media was being undertaken but there were no issues to report. The messages regarding the Fair would continue to be pushed out in the run up to the Fair.

PD/KG gave their thanks to everyone for the work that had been undertaken to date.

SP asked for some guidance on different scenarios which would be useful for Councillors.

4. Encampment Policy

RD gave an overview of the encampment policy and how EDC and the Police would operate during the Fair. The first aspect of the protocol was already in place.

PD had read the policy and said that the key was for early intervention to prevent people from coming.

MP said that the protocol was a good piece of work and suggested to utilise the county protocol as the one for Appleby was more flexible. A discussion took place regarding the protocol and it was agreed that the county protocol would be circulated to the group.

5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 22 June 2020 at 2.00pm.