

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 22 June 2020

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Mike Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council

Apologies: Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 18 May 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Update from Partners over Fair Period

SP said that in relation to feedback she had received, there was a lot of communication on social media that did not transpire. Parishes were happy with how it went.

KG said it was similar to the above in relation to Appleby and the surrounding areas. There had been a couple of incidents in the run up to the Fair in relation to overnight camping which had been dealt with quickly. On the Sunday approx. 100 Gypsy/Travellers arrived in Appleby and went about their business as if the Fair was still happening with no social distancing etc which was disappointing to see.

PD said that the problem over the weekend of the Fair was to do with the myth of the Fair. He congratulated MT and the team in relation to dealing with issues of camping at Stainmore/Watty Yat.

SR said that early concerns of a gathering at Devils Bridge didn't materialise. There was one report of Travellers in Sedbergh which had been a brief visit by a small group.

MT said that Phase 1 was a success. Extra patrols had been redeployed to undertake patrols and saw their role as providing reassurance to local communities with issues raised being dealt with on a case by case basis. Fixed Penalty Notices under the Covid legislation had been issued to a couple of vans at Stainmore. It was felt that the joint county protocol was not appropriate for this instance.

Over the Fair weekend, intelligence from surrounding forces suggested Gypsy/Travellers were heading to Appleby. A horse sale had been set up and those in attendance were given 60 minutes to move on, which they did.

It was concluded that the overall communication had been successful and a message would be put together by NG/JE on the good work of MASCG.

3. Update on Watty Yat

EB gave an update on the current position following the sale of Watty Yat by Kirkby Stephen Anglers Association. She was currently in the process of getting legal advice regarding using the ApplebyFair.org website to advertise stopping places and the implications this could have on landowners.

4. Sequence of Future Meetings

It was noted that the July meeting would be cancelled seeing as there would be no Public Meeting taking place this year.

5. Any Other Business

MT noted that Rob O'Conner was not be part of Appleby fair next year due to his retirement.

LC asked for his personal thanks to be passed onto everyone involved for all their hard work.