

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 23 November 2020

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Rob O'Connor, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Kellie Bradburn-Simms, Cumbria County Council
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary
Peter Aiston, Cumbria Constabulary
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Highways
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service

Apologies: Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

LC welcomed Peter Aiston to the meeting who had recently taken over from Mike Taylor.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 21 September 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

PD raised the issue of the legal implications for landowners which was being covered elsewhere on the agenda. He also asked about the options paper on encampments and the equine trading registration (covered in comms update).

2. Suggested Timeline to identify key stages in decision on 2021 Fair

It was noted that any decision on deciding how to go forward with the 2021 Fair would be hard due to the event not being an organised one. Challenges would depend on vaccinations, whether the tier systems would still be in place, social distancing rules etc. EB also said that it was illegal to stay anywhere overnight and with lots of different tiers to Cumbria it would be difficult legally to deal with.

LC said that as it was unclear where we would be in a few months' time with Covid, the fact that we wouldn't know what laws, guidance and regulations may or may not be in place we could continue to plan for the Fair as if it was to happen, so that we wouldn't be playing catch up nearer the time.

NG would look at putting together a draft statement and circulate to the group saying that until Government made any announcements in the New Year, planning for the 2021 Fair would continue as normal.

3. Operational Working Group Updates

a) Highways

It was noted that the changes to the Traffic Regulation Order would be out for formal consultation with statutory consultees in the New Year. If anyone wanted to view the consultation they would be able to do so via Cumbria County Council's website. It was noted that the barriers on the flashing lane would also be looked at.

b) Parish Engagement

EB said that work on contacting parishes had not yet started. EB/MT had been actioned to meet with the new landowner of Watty Yat but until the legal position had been confirmed and had all the facts this was yet to take place. LC would chase this up with the Council's Legal Team.

EB said that work was underway issuing permits for the food stall traders.

c) Licensing

SW said that he was having conversations with security companies regarding the security required at public houses. He would have a further update on this for the February meeting.

d) South Lakeland

Nothing to report.

4. Communications Update

It was noted that the comms lead for Appleby Fair usually alternates between the Police/Eden District Council. NG had kindly agreed to take this lead again for the 2021 Fair with JE shadowing. NG would have a conversation with JE.

RM said that at the moment, the RSPCA didn't have a press office. He would let the group know when someone was in place.

In relation to the query NG had received regarding equine registration, it was noted that this was something which Trading Standards would deal with.

5. Any Other Business

a) Update on Temporary Stopping Places/Legal Implications for Landowners

Covered under parish engagement above.

b) Progress on Economic Impact Study

A meeting had been arranged for 9 December with Julian Healy of the University of Lancaster to discuss the economic impact study. PD/BL said that they were happy to be involved at the appropriate time.

c) To agree dates for 20201 MASCG Meetings

These were agreed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 22 February 2021. (This has been moved to 1 March to allow for the announcement from the Prime Minister in relation to easing lockdown restrictions).