

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 1 March 2021

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
Billy Welch, 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
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary
John Everingham, Eden District Council
Stephen Vickers, Cumbria Constabulary
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Polly Straker, South Lakeland District Council
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
John Barwise, South Lakeland District Council
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Highways
Matthew Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council

Apologies: Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Highways

1. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 November 2020

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Discussion on 2021 Fair

RD outlined the key roadmap set by Government to at the point at which the Fair is held. The main point to note was that the dates were not set in stone and restrictions would be lifted "no earlier than". There was a possibility that some restrictions could still be in place. The guideline in relation to gatherings at the time of the Fair would be up to 30 people, anything above that would be illegal.

BW said that Gypsy/Travellers had been talking and wondered whether the Fair could be held from 24 June if all restrictions were lifted. It was felt that this date was too soon after restrictions would be lifted (21 June) and there was a chance that some restrictions could still be in place at this time. EB also said that the current

planning permissions for licensed sites would need to be looked at as some of the conditions were date specific. BW did say that if restrictions had not been lifted by this time the Fair would not go ahead.

A discussion took place as to when a suitable date could be found taking into account school summer holidays, if restrictions were lifted visitor numbers would be high, events that were already planned, resource issues etc. MASCG were committed to looking at a new date for the Fair and a meeting would be convened of the agencies involved to look at this and to report back to the meeting on 29 March for further discussion. Comms would be put together to explain the current situation.

3. Land and Encampment Issues

a) Legal Opinion for Landowners allowing temporary encampments

EB gave an update on the legal position with Watty Yat. It meant that going forward, landowners who allowed use of their land as stopping places may be liable for any damage/nuisance that occurred. Discussions would need to take place with Parish Councils/private landowners as this may affect the use of land going forward. A copy of the legal advice would be circulated to the group for information.

b) Plans to prevent access to Watty Yat by the current landowner

It was noted that the current landowner of Watty Yat was looking to prevent access to people using it. PD urged MASCG/EDC to object against this. BL was happy to draft something to forward to the group to make a decision.

c) Powers available to prevent unauthorised encampments

PD raised the issue of people arriving early to the area. At the moment, people can be moved on using the emergency Covid legislation. If the Fair took place later in the year, the county protocol would be implemented. This was one of the main mitigating issues for the settled community. BL/BW would have a think as it could be part of messaging discouraging early arrivals.

4. Appleby Traffic Regulation Order

KC gave an update on the current position. There had been some misunderstanding created due to the order being consolidated into one. It was in place to cover the period 30 April to 30 June 2021 for horse movements with into the town. It was due to be discussed at the Eden Local Committee meeting at the end of March. It was noted that there was nothing different in the Order to any other year. If the date of the Fair was to change, a temporary Order would need to be looked at.

5. Economic Impact Study

LC had met with the University of Lancaster to see if it would be possible to reengage students in the study. As the situation regarding the Fair was still unclear, it had been left until a clear way forward was agreed.

6. Operational Working Group Updates

Highways – KC said that he was standing down from MASCG due to organisational changes. Laura McClelland would be taking over.

South Lakeland – JB gave an update regarding the water supply at Scroggs Bank. United Utilities had said that the supply didn't conform to current standards and the cost from the mains was too much. It was intended to supply PBC's with SLDC to cover the costs.

7. Communications

NG would be continuing in the role with JE supporting him. He would put together the comms following this meeting and circulate to the group for approval.

EB had been approached by the Durham Gypsy/Traveller Group to increase liaison with them and vice/versa.

8. Any Other Business

None.