

## **Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 29 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  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary  
Peter Aiston, Cumbria Constabulary  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary  
John Everingham, Eden District Council  
Stephen Vickers, Cumbria Constabulary  
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue  
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  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Richard Batham, Highways England  
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Highways

**Apologies:** Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council

### **1. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 1 March 2021**

These were agreed as a true record.

BL said that in relation to the Traffic Regulation Order, he was awaiting a response to a letter he had written. LM said that the Traffic Regulation Order was currently on hold as they were awaiting further information from the Police. A full response will be made when all the relevant information had been received.

### **2. Discussion on 2021 Fair**

LC said that at the last meeting it was noted that the Fair couldn't take place at when it usually would as it was still within the lockdown period. A meeting had taken place between agencies to better understand the impact if the Fair took place just after lockdown ending or a date in September. The three main key points when discussing this was 1) impact on agencies resourcing issues over the summer 2) public health perspective and 3) what an alternative date would mean from a

resourcing perspective. It was also noted that the views of the community had been taken into account when understanding the implications for the Fair.

## **Public Health**

From a public health perspective, RD had spoken with Colin Cox, Director of Public Health regarding both of the proposed dates. It was noted that the closer the date was to the potential end of lockdown on 21 June, it was more at risk of being impacted upon if the lockdown roadmap timetable moved. A September date would work better to allow the vaccination programme to roll out and for things to down following the lockdown. It was also noted that we could not rule out a third wave/lockdown due to what was currently happening in Europe.

## **Resourcing**

Police: In relation to the earlier dates, this would cause some issues as with lockdown just finishing there would be maximum demand on their services. It would also coincide with other events which were already planned such as Kendal Calling not to mention staff wanting to take annual leave over the summer. Enquiries had also been made into accommodation for officers whilst at the Fair and it was noted that there was little available. It was also noted that the settled community were sensitive to the current position and were nervous on the event taking place. A date in September would be easier for the Police to accommodate.

Highways: The Traffic Regulation Order was due to run out at the end of June. The need to re-advertise this for different dates would be a further financial cost. It was also noted that the Tour of Britain was due to come through Eden on 10 September which would mean staff would be deployed to work on this.

EDC: Generally, resourcing issues mirrors those of the Police and would like to avoid an August date. The September date seemed to be the one which worked the best. The don't come early message would be more vital this year either side of the Fair.

RSPCA: A later date would be better as accommodation was not available during the summer.

SLDC: No heavy impacts for SLDC. The Respect Group had been contacted who preferred a later date.

As a summary, LC said that it was evident a date in early September was preferable, probably the first week in September if the Fair was to go ahead. This was agreed by all in attendance.

## **Community Feedback**

BW said that he had been speaking to farmers who allowed their fields to be used. There would be a problem in that the land wouldn't recover for grazing over the winter so preferred a date in July/August. The Town Council would also need to be approached as they leased Fair Hill to BW for the duration of the Fair. In this regard, BW suggested a date of 22 July.

MK and KG mentioned the community tension element as there had been significant pushback from the settled community and licensees. They were nervous of a third wave etc.

SW had been keeping in regular contact with licensees with the majority of the reluctant to open during the period of the Fair even if it was postponed to a later date. The DPS's made it clear that in normal times they would be happy to open but this wasn't normal times.

After much discussion, LC said that the group needed to come to a conclusion as soon as possible and now that BW had put forward another proposition than what had been discussed, that it needed some thought. The proposed start date would be Thursday 22 July and agencies were asked to go away to see what this would mean from a public health and resourcing point and report back to a meeting which will be organised w/c 12 April. LC would also speak to the Clark at Appleby Town Council to get a view from them.

RD mentioned the Appleby Bypass roadworks could cause major issues from July. He would send through a note to the group on what this could mean for the Fair.

SP suggested that a procedure with timescales of cancelling the Fair (should it be needed last minute) should be looked at. This was noted.

### **3. Operational Working Group Updates**

#### **a) Highways**

There was nothing further to what RB had already covered.

#### **b) Parish Engagement**

EB said she was awaiting a decision on the dates before making any contact with Parish Councils. It was noted that Watty Yat will not be available as a temporary stopping place and would meet with the new owner.

#### **c) Licensing**

SW would consult with the DPS's regarding the potential new date.

#### **d) Communications**

NG/JE would put together a message to send out later today and send to the group for comments before sending.

### **4. Any Other Business**

None.