

**Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group  
held on Wednesday 9 June 2021**

**Attendance:** Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)  
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council  
Matt Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Karen Lowthrop, Appleby Town Council  
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Highways  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Charlotte Lory, Cumbria Constabulary  
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue  
Richard Batham, Highways England  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service  
Mike Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary  
Colin Cox, Cumbria County Council (Director of Public Health)  
Councillor Andy Connell, Eden District Council  
Peter Aiston, Cumbria Constabulary  
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council  
John Everingham, Eden District Council  
Stephen Vickers, Cumbria Constabulary  
Laura Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council

**Apologies:** Matt Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary  
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council  
Steve Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary  
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council  
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council

**1. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 24 May 2021**

These were agreed as a true record.

All actions had been covered and in relation to the community meetings, this was in relation to the practicalities of the public meetings if restrictions were still in place and would be discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

**2. Summary Update from Weekend**

MK said that the Saturday/Sunday were busy due to the nice weather and a lot of day visitors. There had been some horse boxes in the Clickham area but there had been no issues. There had been 300-400 people on The Sands at the peak – mixture of Gypsy & Travellers/day visitors. The main issue was to keep the road network open around the area. There had been an issue with one of the pubs in Appleby which had been forced to close due to the volume of people. Other than that no enforcement action was required and caravan numbers were low, less than

10 in the areas. As MT/PA were the officers on the ground over the weekend, he asked them to give an update from their perspective.

MT said that the key point to note was the adverse reaction from the community who were questioning why the Gypsy & Travellers had come to Appleby. Interaction with the Gypsy & Travellers had been excellent and there were no anti-social/public order problems. The first priority was to keep the road network open which they had managed to do so.

PA echoed what had been said above. The issue with the pub in Appleby had been down to social distancing and the Public Spaces Protection Order had been activated due to people bringing drinks into the street. One of the big issues was people refusing/not wearing face masks and not following social distancing. This could cause issues in the future if restrictions are not lifted.

KL echoed the above from the Town Councils perspective. Community engagement was excellent but she had received some complaints. She also was concerned about people not wearing masks but made it clear that it wasn't just the Gypsy & Travellers. AC agreed with KL's comments. He felt the numbers estimated by the Police were correct.

SW commended the licensed premises for the way they managed their premises over the weekend. It was difficult for them to enforce face masks and trace and trace. In relation to the pub in Appleby that had to close, he would be working with the DPS (who was relatively new) to help them get things in order. In August, there would be SIA on the door.

BW said that if people didn't wear masks there should be a no entry policy for August in both pubs and shops and he would be encouraging the Gypsy & Traveller community to adhere to this.

RD reminded everyone that the Covid regulations had been in place for over a year and we needed to be prepared for August should restrictions still be in place.

### **3. Communications and Engagement**

NG said that he felt the media coverage over the weekend had been over the top. He had made the point of putting out the number of caravans that were actually in the area as part of the Police statements. One of the big issues is making clear what powers we do/don't have. He would continue to push the "don't come too soon" message and would do a push on the vaccination messaging.

### **4. Public Health Update - Update from Covid Sub-Group**

CC said that he had only received communication from 1 person over the weekend which was in relation to face masks and this issue would be looked at. The announcement on the way forward was due from the Prime Minister on Monday but as a guess, felt that with the Delta variant rising, he would be surprised if all restrictions were lifted and thinks face masks will stay.

The Covid Sub-Group had been looking at testing facilities for the Fair and there would be a mobile testing unit located somewhere. Lateral flow tests will also be provided for surrounding sites. The issue of enhanced hygiene facilities was proving problematic due to their availability. EB was looking at this. Good work had been undertaken by BW and others on the QR codes for contacting tracing purposes.

CC would be attending a Pub Watch meeting the following week with publicans to see what additional support could be provided to them. Additional funding was available for this.

LC suggested at the next meeting, there would be an item on the agenda to discuss the Government announcement on the roadmap and what impacts there may be.

## **5. Encampments**

EB gave an update on the current position. Contact had been made with most Parish Councils/land owners of the transit sites. To date there had only been one site that weren't prepared to open their land. Great Asby had said that none of their land could be used but were now prepared to let some areas be used. There would be a meeting with the owner of Cotemoor and the initial feedback received was they were ok for their land to be used.

PD asked for an update on Watter Yat as the Chair of Mallerstang Parish Meeting had been promised a meeting to discuss the arrangements. PD also felt that it was incorrect to say that the owner and residents of Cote Moor were happy for the common to be used in August.

In relation Warcop, AMcK had attended the Parish Council meeting the previous evening. PA reported that they had no issues or concerns. EB would be contacting Mallerstang to attend a meeting at Watter Yat with the land owner to confirm their thoughts.

SR said that all sites will be available within SLDC with toilets provided. The only issues was in relation to Scroggs Bank where there was no longer a mains water supply. Plans were being put in place to provide a bowser.

## **6. Operational Working Group Update**

It was noted that the pre-Fair community meeting had been arranged to 22 July at the Market Hall, Appleby and proposals had been put forward to make it Covid compliant. KL said that Appleby TIC would be managing the list of attendees and was important that a diverse audience attended. AC would be chairing the meeting.

LC said it would be useful for a pre-meeting the week before to discuss arrangements, format etc. Anyone who wished to be part of this are to contact LB.

### **a) Highways**

The Traffic Management Plan has been circulated before the meeting and would be discussed at the next meeting. LM said it was pretty much the same as previous years but with changes to timings and additional signage for car parks. Restrictions on the Traffic Regulation Order were temporary as the permanent Order was no in operation. Works on the posts would start 5 July and hoped to be complete by 19 July. If anyone had any technical questions on the Traffic Management Plan, they were to contact LM.

### **b) Parish Engagement**

Nothing further to report than that already discussed.

### **c) Licensing**

SW highlighted three key dates for licensed premises;

14 June – Prime Ministers announcement

17 June – DPS/Managers meet with Colin Cox to see what further assistance can be given

16 July – DPS/Managers will make decision as to whether they open or not in August

PD asked about the planned meetings which took place with DPSs at Kirkby Stephen on 25 May. SW had visited all premises including the Sports & Social Club and all but two had indicated they would be open. He said that plans were in place with all premises.

**d) South Lakeland**

Work would be undertaken with Highways on the posts and boulders in the run up to the Fair. SR also said that he was hopeful a public drop-in session could be arranged sometime w/c 12 July.

**7. Any Other Business**

**a) Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday June 2022**

It was noted that the dates for next year's Fair clashed with the extended Queen's Jubilee bank holiday. Feedback had been received from the settled community over their concerns that they would not be able to celebrate as a community with street parties etc. This will need to be looked at at the appropriate point. It was agreed to get through the 2021 Fair first and a sub-group would look at this in early September.

Finally, LC gave a special thanks to everyone who had worked over the weekend for all their hard work.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21 June at 2.00pm.

### Actions to carry forward

<b>6. Operational Working Group</b>	LC - Meeting to discuss arrangements, format etc for Pre-Meeting on 22 July	<b>Action</b> – Anyone interested in attending to let LB know	All/LB
<b>7. AOB</b>	LC - Sub-Group to look at clash of dates with Fair for Queen's Jubilee in 2022	<b>Action</b> – Arrange meeting for September 2021 – let LB know if want to attend	All/LB