

**Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group  
held on Monday 21 June 2021**

**Attendance:** Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)  
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council  
Matt Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary  
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Karen Lowthrop, Appleby Town Council  
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Highways  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary  
Richard Batham, Highways England  
Mike Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary  
Peter Aiston, Cumbria Constabulary  
John Everingham, Eden District Council  
Stephen Vickers, Cumbria Constabulary  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council  
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue  
Matthew Pearman, Cumbria Constabulary  
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary  
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council  
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council  
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council

**Apologies:** Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Colin Cox, Cumbria County Council (Director of Public Health)  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council

**1. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 June 2021**

These were agreed as a true record.

**2. Impacts of Government Roadmap Announcement**

It was noted that under the Government roadmap, the lifting of restrictions had been put back to 19 July 2021. This meant that gatherings remained at 30 people outdoors with social distancing/face masks still in place. LC asked if anyone had any particular issues they wanted to raise.

MK said that from a policing perspective and with the cancellation of Kendal Calling, the delay to the guidance on the event research programme is fundamentally useful information and guidance on what needs to be in place for large events moving forward. The lack of clarity on this is a cause for concern going forward. Conflicting information from the Government on the 19 July date and the rising rates in Cumbria. Will need to see what the event research programme data says.

KG said that with Kendal Calling being cancelled and also the cancellation of Notting Hill Carnival plus other ticketed and non-ticketed events, this will now raise questions in Appleby of how wise it is to go ahead with the Fair.

RD said that an important factor that has to be remembered is irrespective of what is happening nationally, there has to be consideration of what the local situation is. In Eden we are above the English average with infection rates at the moment and this is increasing across the whole of Cumbria. We must keep this in mind going forward.

BW said that Kendal Calling/Notting Hill Carnival needed weeks to plan and could understand why they needed to make the decision to cancel. He felt that Appleby Fair could be ready to go within 24 hours. He felt that no-one took any notice of the current lockdown restrictions and did what they wanted anyway.

PD pointed out that the Gypsy/Traveller community may be ready to go within 24 hours but CCC was planning to start implementing its traffic management measures from 5 July at significant expense to Eden Local Committee so a decision regarding the Fair needed to be made as soon as possible. PD said that the Chair of Kirkby Stephen Town Council had asked him to express the Town Council's view that the Fair should be cancelled in light of the rise in Covid infections.

EB responded to BW comments on the Fair being ready to go in 24 hours, this isn't the case for the agencies involved. Plans, staffing and orders all needed to be put in place. RD said that if infections rise, this will have a huge impact on resourcing from track and trace perspective and might affect resourcing for Appleby Fair.

SP asked for clarity on a previous conversation about the August date on the understanding that when the 21 June came, if things had changed then the group would rethink the date and then the Fair wouldn't happen this year.

LC said that this was an important point and suggested that at each meeting we should not only review the national situation or whether the roadmap has changed, but also keeping apprised what the local situation is. The feedback from Colin Cox will be important. The delay in the roadmap and the deteriorating situation in Cumbria and Eden makes it challenging in terms of public perception even harder. The role of MASCG is to make the Fair as safe as possible.

In the absence of CC, he will be asked to produce a position statement on the current situation for the next meeting.

EB said that at the meeting of the Covid Sub-Group the discussions were more focussed around the preparations ie lateral flow testing, etc and not the current situation in Eden. She also did say that Colin Cox as Director of Public Health does have the powers/direction that if within Cumbria/Eden infection rates are of such concern to public health he can stop events taking place.

PD felt it would be inappropriate to begin the traffic management measures on 5 July and suggested postponing the start of this until the after the next MASCG meeting on 7 July and hear the update from Colin Cox. He also made the distinction between this event and one such as the Euros which is a controlled Government experiment to find out information from mass gatherings - it is not just a random event that is taking place.

EB will feedback to the Covid Sub-group and make the request to prepare the position statement for the next meeting. LC said he could speak to CC if necessary.

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

As NG was on leave, JE/DM were covering any comms. They would be repeating messages on the vaccines and early arrivals.

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

Covered at 2 above.

### **5. Encampments**

EB/AMK said there had been a very positive meeting at Melmerby which was a tolerated stopping place. A meeting took place with Cote Moor residents on 16 June and a number of concerns were raised. It was felt that the Order currently in place on Cote Moor is no longer fit for purpose and needs reviewing because the site was originally intended as a stopping place for horses, not motorised vehicles; and, in addition, there was uncertainty about public liability and the potential loss of single farm payments both of which need clarifying. Business owners felt they should have been consulted - though it was pointed out that PD had passed on their concerns at the time the decision was made – and those engaged in hospitality and tourism said that they had felt obliged to cancel bookings with significant loss of income. The landowner has subsequently suggested that he is willing to cooperate with the MASCG this year with a view to making changes in the future.

EB is planning to hold a further meeting with the owner of Watter Yat and the Chair of Mallerstang Parish Meeting to discuss the future of the site. AM said that Great Asby have allowed for a certain area of the green to be used.

LC said he had received correspondence from landowners at Cotemoor which he would share EB so that a response could be constructed.

PD complemented officers in the professional way they had handled the meeting at Cote Moor and repeated his concern about the loss of income being experienced by local business owners.

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

One of the outstanding actions was in relation to the community meeting which was due to take place on 22 July. This was just beyond the date of 19 July when all restrictions are meant to be lifted. This would be kept under review with face to face for the 22 July but with a back-up of a virtual meeting.

#### **a) Highways**

The Traffic Management Plan had been circulated for comments. PD asked about the detail of the timing of the works. LM said that they were due to start on 5 July but could be put on hold until after the next MASCG meeting on 7 July. The Order had been advertised in the paper as these can't be delayed.

SV asked for clarity on managing access on the south side of the river for horses to be washed. LM would check and feedback to LB for the notes. Feedback from LM following the meeting confirmed that the washing of horses can still be facilitated and access will be maintained via the northern end of the Sands. This is the same process as it was in 2019.

PD noted his appreciation for the work done by LM and the team on a great job.

KG whether the request for the signs on the A66 to the Rotary Club car park had been included. LM confirmed that this had been included in the TMP.

#### **a) Parish Engagement**

KL said that she had received no recent emails in relation to the Fair. The rising infection rates in Eden were a concern to everyone. A concern had been flagged up by the TIC of people selling lanyards for Covid exemption over the June weekend of the original date.

PD said that parish engagement was important and the work of officers was appreciated by the local community and Parish Councils.

**b) Licensing**

SW said that DPS's had met with Colin Cox in Appleby where they had discussed public health issues and support for track and trace. There were concerns from the DPS's on how they would manage premises as some regulations were still in place. No-one had committed to opening and would make final decisions after 19 July.

**c) South Lakeland**

SW said that everything was on track. She was just waiting for a decision on planning for Scroggs Field from the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

**7. Any Other Business**

SW said that JB was currently unavailable and she would be covering calls for SLDC.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 10.00am.

### Actions to carry forward

<b>2. Impacts of Government Roadmap Announcement</b>	Colin Cox be asked to provide position statement on current Covid situation in Eden	<b>Action</b> – EB/LC speak to Colin Cox	EB/LC
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