

**Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group
held on Wednesday 7 July 2021**

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Matt Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Councillor Andy Connell, Eden District Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Colin Cox, Director of Public Health, Cumbria County Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Karen Lowthrop, Appleby Town Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Highways
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary
Richard Batham, Highways England
Mike Taylor, 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
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue

Apologies: Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Steve Minniken, Cumbria Constabulary
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service

1. Notes of the Previous Meeting held on 21 June 2021

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Public Health Update

Following the request at the previous meeting, CC had circulated data in relation to the current Covid situation in Cumbria. The case rates in Eden were going up although they were currently the lowest in Cumbria. It was noted that case rates were similar to those in December but hospital admissions and deaths remained low – this was due to the vaccination programme.

It was felt that by the time Appleby Fair came round, there may be some impact from the change in restrictions which the Government will announce on 19 July. The most likely changes would be in relation to social distancing in pubs, QR codes etc. CC also confirmed that as Director of Public Health, the powers that came with the role were due to be extended to stop events but confirmed that Appleby was not the type of event that these powers covered.

CC also reminded the group that funding was still available which could help with funding additional door staff, additional staffing, Wi-Fi for QR codes etc. It was also noted that thought needed to be given to the location of a testing site. Following conversations with his counterparts in County Durham/Yorkshire were undertaking work on pushing people to take a test before coming to Appleby.

BL said that a possible location for the testing site could be the crossroads corner. He was happy to help with any organisation which CC was grateful for.

SW thanked CC for the meeting he had attended with the pubs which had been well received. The offer of extra support will be taken up once DPS's had decided on 15 July whether they would be opening.

PD asked how the relaxing of restrictions would impact the public meeting on 22 July. CC said by the point, it would be permissible to do without social distancing but would encourage people to wear masks. LC said that KBS was currently undertaking work on this and a sub-group would be formed to look at this in more detail. KBS said the capacity for the hall was 60 and a plan was being put together including restrictions with a caveat for what could happen. KL had undertaken risk assessments under the current guidelines but would look at numbers.

3. Communications and Engagement

NG/EB had been busy updating pages on the Appleby Fair website. EB was still working on the information in relation to stopping places. There would be a push on the 'don't come to soon' comms and also the vaccination comms. NG was aware of a letter BW had written to the Guardian on the Police Bill but it was not a matter for the Police to comment on. KBS would email through the comms for the public meeting.

4. Encampments

EB said that the land owner at Watter Yat was going against the wishes of the Parish Council in that the area wouldn't be available to use as a tolerated stopping point. A meeting has been suggested to look at the implications of this.

In relation to Great Asby, an area of the green could be used but only during the Fair. Cotemoor, Alston, Melmerby and Warcop would be the usual arrangements.

LC asked what the mitigation on site not being available would be. EB said it was unknown and would depend on people being displaced. Numbers at Watter Yat over previous years had been variable and ranged from 19-82 caravans. The land owner had been advised on what to expect from the Police/Local Authority should anyone camp there. It was agreed that EB would bring to the next meeting an outline of the controls/mitigation if tolerated sites were unavailable.

BL said that although numbers couldn't be predicted, the general feeling was that there would be larger numbers. If people need a place to be redirected to he wondered whether Scroogs Bank Field could be used for this purpose. SW would look into the capacity of Scroggs Bank.

PD said that the lack of tolerated stopping places was a long anticipated problem that should have been dealt with much earlier in the year. In addition, the issue of legal liability for landowners still hadn't been properly clarified. There was a good chance that the problem would be further exacerbated in future years if the Cote Moor order is revoked. The lack of sites means that the police have nowhere to send travellers parked dangerously on the A685 which puts them in an impossible position.

5. Operational Working Group Update

a) Highways

LM said that the works which were put on hold until this meeting would now go ahead. The Temporary Order would come into force from 19 July.

b) Parish Engagement

Nothing to report.

c) Licensing

SW said that other than what he had mentioned above, the only other point to note was that engagement with pubs for Phase 1 in Kirkby Stephen and Appleby would commence after 18 July.

d) South Lakeland

SW said a Respect meeting had taken place the previous week with no issues raised. All orders had been placed for skips/toilets. BL had heard that the loop road had been blocked off. SW would look into this.

6. Any Other Business

a) MASCG and CAG Meetings during the Fair

MK said that usage of Appleby Police Station would be cut down this year to only those who needed to use it to allow everything to be Covid safe for staff. DL said that the MASCG meetings could be easily set up as Teams calls. In relation to the CAG meetings, they could be held in the Market Hall and if needed, could be held online.

PD mentioned the CAG meetings that would usually be held in Kirkby Stephen. AMK confirmed that these would still be taking place outside and could also hold a virtual meeting in the afternoons.

b) River Ramp, Appleby

RM said that the RSPCA would usually check the installation of the ramp to the river and asked who the contact for Eden would now be. The details of the correct person would be forwarded onto him.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 10.00am.

Actions to carry forward

2. Public Health Update	Kellie Bradburn-Sims to organise sub-group to look at public meeting arrangements	KBS
4. Encampments	Emma Brass to report back to next meeting on mitigations if tolerated sites are unavailable	EB