

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Wednesday 4 August 2021

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Matt Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Councillor Andy Connell, 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
Richard Batham, Highways England
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Mike Clusker, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Peter Aiston, Cumbria Constabulary
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Laura Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Amanda Cruddas, Environment Agency

Apologies: John Everingham, Eden District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
John Banks, Cumbria County Highways

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

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Public Health Update

Arrangements had been made for a vehicle to be placed at Salt Tip Corner offering Covid vaccines. Alongside this, lateral flow tests would also be offered. EB would check if vaccines would be just for the Gypsy and Traveller community or whether anyone could have one – it was suspected the latter. NG would, from next week, make reference to the vaccination hub in any comms.

BL said that it was still intended to use QR codes at the main gate of Fair Hill even though there was no legal requirement it was felt good practice to do this. He would also make sure that people were aware of the vaccine bus when coming onto Fair Hill to encourage maximum take up.

SW asked about getting a QR code for the site at Scroggs Bank/Loop Road at Kirkby Lonsdale. EB said as long as there was a postcode linked to the area this could be set up. EB would email the link.

RD gave an update on the current Covid situation nationally and in Eden. Currently, numbers were steady with approx 5-20 cases per day. Information would be available at the LFT stand if anyone did have a positive test.

3. Communications and Engagement

An update was given from the pre-Fair meeting held on 22 July which had gone as well as could be expected. Thanks were given to KBS/KL for the organisation of it. The key messages from the presentations and questions/answers from the public would be placed on the Appleby Fair website.

A Q&A session had taken place over Facebook the previous week which had gone well. Over the Fair period, standard posts had been scheduled on road safety, flashing lane warnings etc.

4. Encampments

EB gave an update on the current position. There was a small encampment currently at Roman Road with others scattered around the District.

There was an issue at Watter Yat in that there were different owners of the verges and only one landowner had given permission for it to be used. Facilities had been placed on the side that could be used and signs would be placed on the other side to say that it could not be used as a tolerated site. It was agreed to bring to the attention of the landowner whose land would be in use the issues and that they were fully aware of any liabilities should any incidents occur. EB/AM would speak to the landowner.

Liability on landowners was a complex issue and as PD had previously said, this issue was constantly being brought up. LC said that a firm and clear position was needed on this for future Fairs.

PA gave an update on numbers of caravans in the Eden areas. As of the previous day, there were 22 in the area which is less than half of those in a usual year. These were mainly in the Powis Road/A685 area. PD said that Police were regularly patrolling the A685 area and everything that could be done had been.

5. Operational Work Group Updates

a) Highways

LM said that everything was pretty much complete. Posts had been installed and a small issue had arisen regarding a sign which was in the process of being resolved.

SW raised an issue of general speeding traffic on the loop road and wondered if cones/bollards could be placed at the entrance and exit to protect children in the road. LM would speak to the traffic Team Leader for the south to see what could be done and would let SW know.

RB said that there would be Highways England signs on the A66 informing of horse drawn vehicles and two extra signs would be placed at Powis junction. He also said that the roadworks on the A66 were being removed during the Fair from 6am the next morning.

AC mentioned the signs at Jubilee Bridge which said that there was high water level. As this was not the case, he wondered whether these could be covered over. LM would look into this.

b) Licensing

SW reported that premises in Appleby were due to make their decision on opening the following day. He was confident that most would be open. SW would update KG on which pubs would be opening in Appleby once he knew.

In Kirkby Stephen, there would be three opening in the area namely the Pennine Hotel, Kings Arms Hotel and Kirkby Stephen Sports & Social Club. The Licensing Team would be in the area from this weekend right through the Fair.

c) South Lakeland

Nothing to report.

6. Any Other Business

BL had received queries from Ireland regarding bringing across horses as it was believed since Brexit there were new restrictions around Horse Passports. RD would follow this up with Trading Standards who were responsible for this.

RM said that river water work would be undertaken prior to the Fair although there would be no team available for rescue/recovery. There would also be reduced vet cover with none at Salt Tip Corner as per usual.

KBS said preparations were underway for the post-Fair public meeting which would be held on 2 September.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 September 2021 at 2.00pm.

LC finished the meeting by thanking everyone for their efforts and was confident that the Fair could be as safe and enjoyable for everyone involved.