

# Notes of the Special Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Thursday 7 October 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  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Karen Lowthrop, Appleby Town Council  
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Highways  
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council  
Richard Batham, Highways England  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Damian Lavictoire, Cumbria Constabulary  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service  
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary  
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council  
Laura Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary  
Charlotte Lory, Cumbria Constabulary  
John Everingham, Eden District Council  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Laura Williams, Cumbria Constabulary

## 1. **Date for 2022 Fair**

The main purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the clash of the 2022 Fair date with the extended Queens Jubilee bank holiday.

BW/BL had put together a proposal which had been shared with the group in advance of the meeting. The main recommendations were:

- In order to avoid a clash with Jubilee celebrations while maintaining the traditional date for Fair Day as the second Wednesday, the 2022 Fair will begin on 8 June for a week.
- By sticking to these dates, the Gypsies and Travellers who believe that the Fair is authorised by Royal Charter will be showing respect to the Royal celebrations.
- In order to counter any concern that the change of date is a precedent which may be used to threaten the unbroken continuity of the event, the dates of the 2023 Fair will be fixed as 8-14 June 2023.

LC asked for the group to make any comments/observations etc.

SW said the migration route will have an impact in Kirkby Lonsdale over the bank holiday dates. The owner of Scroggs Bank field had also given notice that it would no longer be available as a temporary stopping place.

EB said that planning permission did not allow people to access sites until 4am on the Thursday. The planning permission did not cover the dates of the Fair just a day (Thursday), there would also be implications for licences. It was a significant practicality that would need consideration.

BL explained that the Wednesday had been suggested to avoid backlash from those who don't accept change of date and to deter people from turning up early. The traditional date for the Fair had always been the second Wednesday of June. BW said that some feel there is a threat to the Fair/Charter.

PD echoed the comments of SW - the change of date only helps Appleby residents and would not be the same for outlying areas. During Phase 1, people arrive early and camp along the A685, this will still happen. He asked MK for reassurance that there would be sufficient Police presence to ensure there was no disruption locally over the Bank Holiday weekend. MK said he could not see any particular problems from a policing perspective. They were committed to the same level of resources as the previous two events.

KL thanked BL/BW for their proposals and said the date was acceptable to Appleby Town Council.

KG also gave her thanks for the proposed date. She also reiterated the issues it could cause for outlying areas. She asked for clarification from BL/BW as to why the end of May would not be acceptable as a change of date and co-inside Horse Fair with the trotting that takes place then. This may be a more preferable solution. BL said the primary reason for not going for the end of May was in relation to convincing Gypsy/Travellers that there was no threat to the Fair. Also it was felt an earlier date would not allow sufficient grazing for horses. BW said outlying areas did not need to worry as there would be no issues.

EB said there could be a potential issue with the green at Great Asby which is used as a temporary stopping place if it is being used for jubilee celebration events. Possible planning variations may be needed for the change from Thursday to Wednesday and could have cost implications if variations were needed. She would need to seek planning guidance on this. Numbers stopping there varied from 20-30 but if Scroggs Bank was unavailable this could cause an issue.

As this was a key issue for outlying areas in Phase 1 and with the crossover of people travelling to the Fair/Jubilee celebrations, a plan would be needed to deal with this.

At the loop road in Kirkby Lonsdale parking would not be available. Usually during the Fair, Jubilee field is locked but it was anticipated that it would be used for any jubilee celebrations by the Parish Council.

EB raised the issue of SIA door staff for licensed premises. SW said changes to the dates would affect the licenses as they all related to the first week in June. He would have to have negotiations with the DPS's and Pub Watch.

PD said he would prefer a token presence on the Wednesday. The not to arrive too early message would need to be reinforced.

KG thanked BW/BL for the suggested compromise, felt it was a sensible way forward and if planning/licensing was being complied with was happy to support.

LC summed up as follows:

- The Fair would start on Thursday 9 June but a small delegation of representatives from the Gypsy/Traveller community would be allowed to occupy Fair Hill on Wednesday 8 June to reinforce the traditional dates of the Fair.
- Reinforce do not come early messages
- Engagement work with communities during Phase 1 to ensure any potential impact on Jubilee celebrations was minimised
- Subject to review of planning/licensing - bring in line with permissions
- The police presence during Phase 1 of the Fair would be similar to 2021

NG/JE would put together a clear message from MASCG and circulate to the group for comments with a view to releasing later in the day. Until that happened, LC asked that this was kept confidential.