

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 28 March 2022

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Councillor Andy Connell, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Council Highways
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
James Houghton, Cumbria County Council Highways
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Richard Batham, Highways England
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
John Barwise, South Lakeland District Council
John Banks, Cumbria County Council Highways

Apologies: Councillor Karen Greenwood, Eden District Council
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary

1. Minutes of MASCG held on held on 7 March 2022

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Draft Encampment Protocol

The draft Encampment Protocol had been circulated. The purpose of the document was to formalise decisions on early encampments. There were no significant changes to the document this year but it could be affected by the Police and Crime Bill if it came into force.

PD said the Traveller Site Fund 2022/223 was available for authorities to make applications for provision of temporary stopping places. Cllr Dew pointed out that the protocol says that engagement should take place with parish councils and community groups throughout the year not simply in the last two months before the Fair. He also said that the expectation was that the police would take immediate action if encampments were formed in the exclusion zones on the A685. EB said that the Police could determine action without asking MASCG.

PD also raised the outstanding issue of who was liable for any damage caused by Gypsy/Travellers on land. It had still not been resolved.

3. CAG Meetings

A meeting would be arranged for the District Council, Police and Town Council to discuss plans for this year's CAG meetings during the Fair.

4. Daily Teleconferences

The daily teleconferences would start on 1 June and the frequency of them would be decided at that time. With regards to who would be setting them up, this would be taken offline.

5. Communications and Engagement Update

From the next Appleby MASCG meeting onwards, communications for Appleby Fair is to be predominantly co-ordinated by Nick Turner on behalf of EDC. This will include meeting attendance, regular updates and on-the-ground comms on the day of the fair.

The main focus for communications at the moment is on communicating the date of the fair, so that those that may be planning Jubilee events are aware.

Comms will pick up with EB imminently about making public the stopping places that are available. Any stopping sites to be confirmed will be listed as such on the Appleby Horse Fair website.

6. Operational Working Group Update

a) Highways

Consultation on the Traffic Regulation Order has ended with no representations received. This would go to the Eden Local Committee meeting on 31 March for agreement. Currently working on the draft Traffic Management Plan which would come to MASCG for comment.

b) Parish Engagement

Engagement with parishes was going well, AMK/EB had been meeting with parishes but no significant issues had been raised.

A working group would be established with relevant agencies included to focus on identifying additional stopping places and management of early arrivals. BW said that he was working with the Church of England who were offering land for Gypsy/Travellers for stopping place. He was due to meet with them on 14 May and report back to a future meeting. It was noted that Government funding was available for temporary stopping places and the working group would look into this. Deadline for applications was 13 June 2022.

The deadline for advertising tolerated stopping places on the Appleby Fair website needed to be agreed by MASCG. EB/DM would look to get information on the website on those sites which was known to be available and update accordingly going forward.

A clear rota was needed of availability over the Jubilee weekend of the main agencies. Everyone was asked to feedback availability to LB.

PD: Welcomed the establishment of a working group to look at the issues of additional stopping places but felt that this should have happened much earlier in the year.

c) Licensing

Following pub-watch meetings in March, three pubs will be opening in Kirkby Stephen and Four in Appleby. A Pub-watch meeting was planned for 11 April with rural pubs around Kirkby Stephen to agree opening arrangements for AHF 2022.

d) South Lakeland

JB would be visiting the new licensee for Scroggs Bank to let them know what currently happens.

7. Any Other Business

Pre & Post Fair Meetings – It was agreed that the pre-Fair meeting would take place on 18 May 2022 and the post-Fair meeting on 7 July 2022 both in Appleby.

LC was in the process of pulling together a response from members of the public but would need input from other agencies. He would circulate in due course for input.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 25 April 2022 at 2.00pm.