

## Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 25 April 2022

**Attendance:** Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)  
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council  
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council  
Councillor Karen Greenwood, 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  
Nick Turner, Eden District Council  
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary  
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council  
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary  
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
John Banks, Cumbria County Council Highways  
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council  
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service  
Ben Swinson, Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service  
Liz Mason, North West Ambulance Service  
Laura Williams, Cumbria Constabulary

- 1. Apologies:** Louise Biggs, Eden District Council  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary

### **2. Minutes of MASCG held on held on 28 March 2022**

PD: MASCG meeting notes are public documents, accuracy of the content is important. PD raised two amendments. LC requested he forward corrections for note 2 and note 6 to KBS to complete the amendments.

No further amendments were raised, all other notes agreed.

### **3. Update from the Encampment Working Group**

LC: Notes from the working group meeting on 20 April 2022 were circulated to all members. Issues around encampments tolerated and unauthorised stopping places were discussed, as well as arrivals during stage one and larger groups. In previous years tolerated sites had not reached capacity and it was felt there was a reluctance to utilise sites that are available and if this would still be the case if alternative sites were identified. Engagement with landowners to discuss land availability and rental costs were also discussed by the group. In the past requests have been submitted via parish councils for available land in parishes for encampments, as well as local newspaper advertisements. In addition, the group raised that the issues around liability landowners is still to resolve. Due to all of these factors the working group were unable to identify alternative sites in time for AHF 2022 at this time but have

suggested MASCG consider employing a land agent to complete a search for potential sites. There are over 100 licenced caravan sites in Eden that operate to licenced conditions and a number of them have availability each year around the time of the fair.

The working group summarised some key suggestions for AHF 2022 to assist with use of tolerated stopping places:

- Police who staff the highway during AHF Phase One are informed of all licenced sites and tolerated stopping places, to provide options to people in unauthorised zones.
- Identify suitable highway land that is suitable for motorised vehicles caravans.
- Regular messaging to GRT community on arriving at the right time for the fair and not early.
- Work with GRT Reps on MASCG to understand why some people are choosing to arrive early.
- Contribute outcome of working group to bid for Dept of Levelling Up Funds for 2022/23
- Look at how encampment sites and tolerated stopping places could be utilised more by early arrivals.

LC: Had spoken to ORS Consultant who have contributed to development of local planning policy in Cumbria on behalf of local authorities. An ask has been submitted to ORS for advice and support with an application to the Traveller Site Fund, and to look at eligibility for AHF. Even if it is not applicable or practicable this year, the specialist work would help to ascertain if a bid would be viable in the future. This can be taken forward by the new authority to pursue for next year if appropriate. MASCG members and working group will be asked to contribute to the work undertaken by the consultants.

BL: Offered a contribution to the work from the GRT community, the ideal group who could support this would be the gypsy and traveller liaison community. He thanked the working group for their work on tolerated stopping places. He raised that a lot of issues with regards to encampments are on the A685, should Police take more precautions to stop travellers moving onto sites that are not suitable?. Also, will the Police Bill will be enforceable in June, if so police will have actual power to move travellers onto sites that are tolerated. BL also agreed with the point about early messaging on dates of the fair and not arriving too early and suggested a draft text from MASCG be put out early. He asked if the working group meeting notes were available publicly as he would like to share with the Gypsy and Traveller representative undertaking research on behalf of Oxford University.

LS: Support proposal for consultancy work to look at tolerated stopping places an informed bid to improve facilities will be welcome. Police updated information is that it is highly unlikely the Police Bill will be in force for AHF 2022. The new Bill does come with quite restrictive powers around the approach to managing encampments that would not be entirely different to how we operate now as the guidance indicates quite high tolerance levels.

PD: The Police and Crime Bill will come with lots of conditions attached. It is how it is perceived by the public which will be the issue. The timing to submit a bid to the Traveller Site Fund is too short for 2022. Agree a piece of work should be completed around stopping places going forward. The 100 sites available during AHF are not used probably due to suitability or cost. Local residents at Cote Moor are not keen for

more GRT to arrive on this site. PD said he wouldn't want to see the Encampment Subgroup notes formally published online until MASCG members had a proper chance to scrutinise them. It's a key matter that needs attention moving forward.

KG: Thanks to the working group for meeting. All members are correct this has been looked at for years but don't agree it has been left last minute. It has been an ongoing annual issue. Les' plan to collate in depth research to use for funding application will be really sensible and supported this. It is unfortunate that the Government has made the fund timescale so restrictive that it doesn't fit with AHF 2022. Well done to all who have contributed so far, we need to build on the work done, utilise input from consultants to take something really useful forward for new authority.

LC: The time frame for making a bid is three months, even if the information was ready, we would struggle to complete and submit an application in time however next year will be viable.

#### **4. Licensing - Sands Road Closure - extension of hours and support re road reopening later in the evening**

LS: From experience of 2010 we are concerned about limited licenced premises open and the issues this could present. The Midland, Grapes and Kings Head will only be open during AHF 2022 and licenced premises capacity will be limited. There was tension raised in the town centre last year when the pubs were closed. To mitigate the impact of potential issues The Grapes plan to open an off-site licenced service on the Sands through Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the road closure. This additional licenced site would provide a controlled area easy to manage. From policing perspective, it is an ideal location for both Gypsies and horses, it is monitored by CCTV and doesn't impact on the road network and services. To enable this, we suggest extending the Sands Road closure up to 9pm and ask for this suggestion to be supported by agencies within MASCG. We understand the road will need to reopen at 5pm to allow for road cleaning and sweeping, we could secure additional provision to support this.

NB: This was discussed last year. I suggest we still clean up a 6pm but recommend CCC do a clean up after the extended period.

Les asked the Highways Officer if the TRO offers flexibility to open and close the road as required LM confirmed that it does.

LC: Asked in principle is there a willingness from MASCG to allow for the extension and how long should it last?

LS: If there are no immediate objection from MASCG, BL would be best to provide feedback on this.

BL: Unable to provide an answer now but will talk with BW. With limited number of premises open they will become overcrowded quickly. If there are not licenced premises in town people will return to the hill or market field and purchase drink from the town. BL also pointed out that the limited number of licenced premises also means there will be a limited number of accessible toilets.

NB: Advised the group that the number of toilets on The Sands has increased for this year with the addition of urinal units, this will hopefully be an improvement from last year.

SW: Advised that the Grapes don't want to open the inside of the pub following issues last year. SW queried the time for cleaning of the Sands, NB confirmed 30 minutes will be required and 6pm wouldn't present any issues. The decision around timing would be best left to the discretion of LS; Silver Command, to be made on the day. The

proposal will be popular with the travelling community. LS agreed to support cleaning at 6pm for 30 minutes.

LC: Proposed a `not later than` should be adopted to provide guidance. LS agreed `no later than 10.30pm` would be useful. LS agreed this would be useful for directing people in the town so the area is more controlled.

SW: Concern for road re-opening at 9pm encouraging people to head to licenced premises and causing capacity issues. If the sands is re-opened by 10.30pm this will co-inside with closure of other licenced premises.

LM: Concerned that CCC crew for second clean may not be available at 10.30pm, the latest would likely be 9.30pm

BL: If the road closure is going to be extended the residents will need to be informed.

KG: Thanked Bill for raising this. The Sands extended closure mitigates the problem of open premises and exceeding capacity and risk associated with this, but we have to consider the residents on the Sands. The advantage of reopening at 6pm means the noise level reduces and local residents have some normality at the end of the day as crowds disperse in that area. People who are returning from work to this area and the town, do this when the closure is reopened. There will be a definite impact on local residents with this proposal. When the proposal is shared publicly, we must provide a clear explanation to residents as to why the decision was taken as it may create further disruption for residents. SW agreed this would need to be communicated well with residents though didn't feel there would be a significant difference.

RM: The river entrance at the end of flashing lane on the Sands is one of the most high- risk areas for horses getting injured, extra provision would need to be considered by our agency if the closure is extended.

LC: Confirmed MASCG approval in principle to extend closure on the Sands for use of Grapes off-site licencing. The duration to be clarified and agreed. Clear communication required for people living in the vicinity. All those involved in this decision to come to the next MASCG meeting with the full proposal. Lee Skelton was asked to work through the detail with all officers and collate information for approval at the next meeting.

LW: In the TMP, Garbridge Lane is reduced to one lane and then opens to two way could this be removed? It will reduce traffic flow and congestions. LS confirmed the TRO was designed with flexibility; removing this wouldn't present any problems.

NT: At the Operational Sub Group meeting communication on licenced premises as early as possible was raised.

SW: We are waiting confirmation on rural licenced premises to provide a full list of pubs that will be open to be communicated widely. The information will hopefully be ready within the next couple of weeks.

BL: Suggested the off-site licencing of Sands during extended closure should be included in the information once the decision on timing for Sands has been finalised.

## **5. CAG Meetings/Daily TCG Meetings - Jubilee and Phase 2 - format, battle rhythm and attendance**

LC: An officer group met last week to discuss a schedule for the CAG meetings identifying location, organisations, and facilitation of meetings, also including community representatives. Overlap issues with jubilee bank holiday to support communities with any issues that may arise was part of the discussion. A schedule for

meeting dates has been prepared and circulated with the meeting notes. MASCG agencies are asked to respond with confirmed contributions for the meetings.

PD: Requested a Teams meeting with Lee Skelton to discuss how the Upper Eden meetings are facilitated.

LC: Asked all members to contribute to schedule which will be signed off at next MASCG meeting.

## **6. Event Risk Assessments & MASCG signoff - Flashing Lane/River ramp, etc**

LS: Due to the heightened risks around the river and flashing lane, a proposed risk assessment agreed by all agencies would normally be signed off by MASCG. Though we are not an authorising group, the risk assessment identified that agencies understand and accept the risks and measures are put in place in the interest of public safety.

RM: Didn't recall this being completed in previous years but would definitely support the proposal as it would definitely be needed.

EB: There hasn't been a specific risk assessment for MASCG. Prior to COVID a discussion around risk assessment for staff working during the fair was agreed. The change in the risk assessment focus was mainly due to the risks presented to staff.

LS: Agreed this action would be more appropriate for the Operational Sub Group to complete and to raise with the working group. LS agreed to look through historical data and work through a proposed risk assessment with ops group, to then present to MASCG.

NB: Offered LS support from staff at EDC to assist with the risk assessment.

## **7. Communications and Engagement Update**

Nick Turner introduced himself to the group at the start of the meeting and agreed to share his contact details with the notes from the meeting. NT advised he had received information from Eden comms team but still required logins for AHF social media accounts to share updates for the fair. NT also advised the AHF comms plan for 2022 needed to be updated, this will be circulated to all when completed. NT will also liaise with EB on updates for the website. LC offered assistance with comms plan updates and early messaging.

LC: Highlighted importance of message around `don't come too early`, and the extension of Sands closure.

## **8. Operational Working Group Update**

### **a) Highways- Traffic Management Plan**

LC: Members were unable to open the TMP pdf and requested KBS share the document again with the group.

KBS: Proposed the approval of the TMP is completed via email. LM agreed to resend the plan with a requested for all members to approve by email.

LM: TRO doesn't come in place for another couple of weeks, the 40mph has been put under emergency. Information will be shared with police, so they have the information.

### **b) Parish Engagement**

Covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **c) Licensing**

SW: Advised that the mobile bar will be between Jimmy Winters farm and the Rising Sun. It will be located in a field off flashing lane and open up to 10pm each night. The opening hours will be reviewed daily and will depend on how well it is received. Silver Command and Police will assess opening and closing of mobile bar. The purpose of the mobile bar is to take pressure off town pubs that are open. Mobile bar licensee is Liam Bainbridge well known within GRT community.

EB: Advised MASCG that the individual approached EDC for a licence independently and has been granted a temporary event licence for the bar. The provision has not be organised by the council or police.

LS: The mobile bar has been broadly welcomed and will help to reduce over capacity in town. It can be easily closed and removed if needed. It also provides another option alongside the Sands extended closure. Both will hopefully provide people with what they need and flexibility around hours will help to manage a safe fair.

PD: Asked if the Kings Arms in Kirkby Stephen was planning to open and when will the list of all pubs be shared.

SW: Confirmed the list will be shared via NT comms lead for AHF within two weeks. The Kings Arms have confirmed they are not opening in phase one and two. PD requested the list be sent to him as soon as possible.

EB: Asked if it would be better to put some information out about pubs planning to open and provide updates on other licenced facilities as they are confirmed. LC agreed this approach had worked in the past and happy to support this time.

SW: Requested a little more time to clarify with licensees before sharing information. This was agreed.

### **d) South Lakeland**

SW: The Respect meeting will take place in Sedbergh tomorrow to discuss many items and future planning on Scroggs Bank. John Barwise and others visited a pub near Middleton common now a home for adults in care. Previous landlords had conflict with travellers, discussions will help to resolve any issues this year. A report of travellers on A684 near Clapham had been received suggesting some are already on their way to AHF.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **a) Trotting Races 28-29 May 2022**

KG: Advised that the Trotting Races have been confirmed for 2022 but will take place on Saturday and Sunday rather than Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday as they would normally. KG asked the Police if this event has been considered with regards to Policing in the town as it does cause concern for residents and businesses. LS confirmed that Cumbria Police are aware of the event and a policing arrangement is in place supported by the event organisers. Policing will be in place during the evenings in the town.

### **b) Sign off on response to complaint**

LC: All were asked to complete and return response to issues that are still outstanding.

## **10. Confirm Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Monday 23 May at 2.00pm.

LC: Confirmed that all officers expressed their preference to continue meetings via Teams rather than in person.