

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 27 June 2022

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Cumbria County Council
Councillor Graham Simpkins, Eden District Council
Councillor Suzie Pye, South Lakeland District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Council Highways
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Nick Turner, Eden District Council
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Amy Frith, Cumbria County Council

1. Apologies

Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service

2. Introduction

LC introduced Councillor Graham Simpkins who had replaced Karen Greenwood as the EDC Member representative on MASC. He currently represented Brough Ward for EDC and the Appleby & Brough Ward for the new Westmorland and Furness Council.

3. Minutes of MASC held on held on 23 May 2022

These were agreed as a true record.

4. Debrief on 2022 Fair from each Agency

Cumbria Constabulary – The Police had received complaints from the public on 12 consistent themes, untaxed vehicles/no MOT, abandoned horses, blocking of pavements, unlawful encampments to name a few. There were issues that would be picked up in the Police debrief and likely to be raised at the post Fair meeting but it felt that overall, the Fair been largely discharged pretty well.

PD asked whether the definitive data on arrests etc would be ready for the post-Fair meeting. LS said that he should be able to have them in time for meeting.

Appleby Town Council – As this was SG's first Fair, she felt that the general atmosphere had been good. There had been some issues the Tuesday before the Fair with horses tied up/left unattended and felt it was dangerous at times. There had been a couple of issues with rubbish on Fair Hill after the cleaning crews had attended, but BW had sorted this. The Town Council had met the previous week and raised no issues other than the issue of school children being escorted through the town to school.

RSPCA – RM said that they had been caught out with resourcing during the transition from phase 1 into phase 2. The river ramp needed running repairs and would need to be refurbished before next years' Fair.

Cumbria Highways – Clarity of the one way system was needed and it had been agreed with the TIC that they have maps beforehand and improved comms before the Fair. The Traffic Management Plan had worked well, consideration would be given to the road closure at Station Road/Clifford Street for next year as it was good to have this as an option.

EDC Licensing – SW was collating feedback from licensed premises and would feedback once he had discussed some of the issues with the Police. He asked for thanks to be passed onto the street cleanings and toilet cleansing teams for all their hard work.

EDC Street Cleaning – The clean-up had gone well and praise had been received from all quarters. Any actions raised at the CAG meetings had been actioned quickly. NB had already raised the issue of the river ramp with the Property Team.

EDC Environmental Health – EB said that the clean up afterwards takes time and there would always be complaints about this.

Environment Agency – This had been a quiet Fair for the Environment Agency as the weather had been kind and no concerns over river levels etc.

South Lakeland District Council – No significant feedback had been received and went as expected. Residents in Sedbergh had raised issues of not feeling safe, rubbish, etc.

Overall, it was agreed that there was a good atmosphere over the period of the Fair – positive feedback received from both the Gypsy & Travellers and the settled community.

5. Post Fair Meeting and Questionnaire

Comms for the post Fair meeting had been circulated and arrangements for the evening were in hand. LC planned to add the following to his preamble; 1) the intention of engaging external consultants to carry out an evaluation of the appropriateness of stopping places and to put an action plan in place and; 2) to do a piece of work looking at the definitive position legally and practically of the fair being an organised event. It was important to get a neutral opinion on these issues.

6. Communications and Engagement Update

NT had circulated a summary of the communications received via various communication channels over the Fair period. For future Fairs, there would be briefing document for journalists and needed to be more responsive to questions raised.

It was also noted that the MASCG website needed upgrading by December. This would have to go via the appropriate LGR workstream to get their views to ensure continuity.

7. Operational Working Group Update

As the last meeting of the Working Group was cancelled, any updates would be held over to the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

PD mentioned the Evaluation Report for 2022 as it would need consideration, PD gave his thanks to LC for all his hard work. LC said that it was a good team effort which had a huge difference and the group did exactly the best that they could do.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 25 July 2022 at 2.00pm