

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 25 July 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
Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Council Highways
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Amy Frith, Cumbria County Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Sue Warner, South Lakeland District Council
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council
Richard Batham, Highways England

1. Apologies

Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

2. Minutes of MASCAG held on held on 27 June 2022

These were agreed as a true record.

BL raised the issue of the clean up on Fair Hill (Item 4). SG confirmed what had happened and the rubbish that appeared after the main field clean up was cleared away at no cost to the Town Council.

SW gave an update into issues that had happened in Sedbergh.

3. Feedback from the post-Fair meeting and Appleby/Kirkby Stephen Town Council Meetings

It was felt that the meeting had gone as well as could be expected and was an improvement on previous ones. Use of microphones had worked well as had having key speakers seated at the front table.

SG gave an update on the Appleby Parish Meeting when questions for a Parish Poll on the future of Appleby Fair had been considered. Four questions had been put forward and a response was awaited from the Monitoring Officer/Returning Officer. PD confirmed that Kirkby Stephen Town Council was due to meet the following day to consider this.

4. Update on Police response to continuing complaints about the style of policing

A letter had been received from Kirkby Stephen Town Council looking for comments from MASCG on five issues one of which was in relation to policing style. It was confirmed that this letter had been responded to by the Police & Crime Commissioner.

It was noted that more enforcement had taken place this year than in any previous year and the common complaint that locals were being singled out was simply not true. PD had written to the Police & Crime Commissioner/Chief Constable showing his support for how the team had responded during the Fair.

One issue that was important to clarify was in relation to children being in charge of sulkies. MK said that legalities into this would be looked into. BL suggested contacting the British Horse Society.

5. Update on Engagement of Consultants and Timeline

The specification for the procurement of the consultants had been circulated to the group. If anyone had any comments on the specification, they were to feedback by the end of the week so that the procurement process could start. There were two parts to the ask; one looking at the evaluation of stopping places and the other looking into the legality/practicality of the Fair being an organised event. It was hoped that work would start mid-August and be completed by the end of October.

6. Publication of Minutes including GDPR

EB raised the issue of some incorrect information in a set of previous MASCG notes that had not been picked up. It was important that the information was correct as the minutes were scrutinised by members of the public and quoted in public meetings. EB would provide the proper information to be added into these minutes. It was noted that everyone needed to make sure that they looked at the notes when circulated to avoid this.

Correction to MASCG Minutes from April 2022, Item 8c:

It was noted that during the Appleby Fair public meeting on 7 July 2022, it was raised by a member of public that information in the April MASCG minutes was different to the information provided at the public meeting by Mrs E Brass. Following examination of the minutes it appears that the 25 April 2022 MASGC minutes contained incorrect details. The minutes stated that a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) had been granted for the mobile bar, this was incorrect, an application was not received for the TEN until 24 May 2022. There had been an indication that a TEN would be submitted but it had not been granted. The applicant was also noted in the April minutes as being Ian Bainbridge, again this was incorrect. Mr I Pritchard had been in discussion with EDC licensing officer in April regarding a potential application but it had not been submitted or granted at the time of the meeting on 25 April. After a discussion about ensuring minutes are checked by group members it was agreed that a correction should be recorded.

7. Communications and Engagement Update

Only issue to note was that the Herald had published the corrected letter.

8. Operational Working Group Update

a) Highways

Nothing to report.

b) Parish Engagement

Nothing to report.

c) Licensing

A debrief was due to take place with the DPS's on 18 August. Feedback would be given at the next meeting.

d) South Lakeland

The Respect meeting had taken place – the general feeling was that everything had gone well apart from the incident at Sedbergh. There was an issue with boulders being moved in the SLDC area and SW would provide LM with the relevant information.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Confirm Date of Next Meeting

Due to annual leave commitments, the August meeting would be cancelled. The next meeting would be held on 26 September 2022.