

## **Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 5 December 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  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Laura McClellan, Cumbria County Council Highways  
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative  
Dan McAulay, Eden District Council  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary  
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary  
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Guy Kenyon, Cumbria County Council Highways

### **1. Apologies**

Matthew Kennerley, Cumbria Constabulary

### **2. Minutes of MASC held on 24 October 2022**

These were agreed as a true record. PD suggested a re-read as some parts needed tweaking.

### **3. Update on Work of Consultants**

LC gave an update on a meeting that had taken place with a small group of representatives from relevant agencies with the consultants. The main two key issues identified were work that could be done via the desktop - identifying statutory roles and responsibilities, background information etc and extensive consultation on views, concerns of the various communities involved.

Background information had been shared with the consultants and was in the process of pulling together a schedule of statutory responsibilities. This was still incomplete and LC asked if the outstanding information could be sent to him/LB by 12 December.

In the meeting with the consultants, the need for comprehensive stakeholder engagement was stressed as part of the evidence gathering process. Once they have received the information on the statutory responsibilities, they would then look at putting together a schedule for public consultation. It was expected that LC would be able to come back to the January meeting with the schedule for comments.

It was expected that the majority of this work could be completed and come to some preliminary conclusions on both the future of the fair and the stopping places. The consultants did say is that it was difficult to understand the Fair until it was seen in action. It might be that some of the work may need to wait until after the Fair.

PD was concerned about this being pushed back to the 2023 Fair and the continuity due to LGR. He asked for some assurance that something in writing would be

received before the 31 March. LC said that until he had the schedule from the consultants it would be difficult to give any assurances at the time.

LC said in terms of continuity post April, he expected that a small number of the people on MASCG would be affected by the LGR process, ie Chairman going forward and Member community representatives. He was seeking clarification from the new Chief Executive on this.

#### **4. Communications and Engagement Update**

NG made the group aware that a court case had begun which related to an alleged attack at the Fair from 2019.

SG mentioned that she had been inundated with Fol requests which were all of a similar nature from the same source. They had been pointed in the right direction where she couldn't provide details. This was also an issue for other agencies and was becoming time consuming due to capacity issues. SG asked for advice on how to deal with this. LC suggested that SG spoke to the Council's Monitoring Officer to see what support could be given – all organisations are bound by the same rules for Fol requests.

#### **5. Operational Working Group Update**

##### **a) Highways - Local Impact Report surrounding the proposed changes to the A66**

GK took the group through the Local Impact report which had been commissioned by Cumbria County Council and Eden District Council surrounding the proposed changes to the A66. The report would cover in more detail the following:

- Scale of Appleby Horse Fair (AHF) and its significance.
- Explain the purpose of Multi-Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCG), that was established in 2008 to develop an operational plan to provide co-ordinated community leadership.
- The Appleby Horse Fair Traffic Management Plan (AHFTMP) & its role in minimising impacts on the highway network
- The need for National Highways' (NH) engagement in updating the AHFTMP
- Need to consider AHF in its Environmental Management Plan and agree the approach as part of the Examination
- The opportunities to provide safer routes for horse drawn traffic off the A66 dual carriageway
- The need to consider routes for horse drawn traffic during construction and operation, including the implication for management of AHF traffic and stopping places for horses.

The group were asked to feedback directly to GK as soon as possible on what worked well at the moment; what could be improved and should we start doing that we are not doing already.

##### **b) Parish Engagement**

In relation to Great Asby, PD had spoken to the Parish Council as the group that were currently undertaking engagement had not reported back to the

Parish Council as yet. Problems seemed to be down to one family – PD would speak to BL on this issue.

**c) Licensing**

BL asked about the possibility of having the additional bar as per the previous year. Due to the closure of some of the pubs within the town, there would be an advantage to have this additional facility this year. He wondered at what point a decision could be made to get the necessary permissions.

SW said that it was too early to get decisions from the licensed premises as to whether they will open or not. They were busy concentrating on Christmas festivities etc. However, during January/February Pub Watch meeting would out the feelers in relation to this. SW had spoken to LS, a number of options were being looked at and the mobile bar would be considered at the appropriate time.

On a positive note, it was noted that a new premises licence holder for The Grapes had been appointed and it was expected they would open for this year's Fair. The Sports & Social Club in Kirkby Stephen had transferred across to a premises licence which would alleviate a number of issues that had arisen at the premises in the past.

**d) South Lakeland**

Nothing to report.

**6. Any Other Business**

**a) W&F Portfolio Holder Attendance**

A request had been received for the W&F Shadow Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Councillor Neil Hughes to attend future MASCG meetings in the run up to vesting day and beyond. There was concern about the political aspect of this. LC would feedback as appropriate.

**b) Email from Community Group**

The group were asked to have a look at any outstanding questions raised in emails from the Community Group and the relevant agency provide the appropriate response.

**c) Evaluation Report Update**

LC reminded agencies to get any outstanding financial and operational information to LB before Christmas if possible.

LS said that in relation to overall aims and objectives of MASCG itself and when they were next up for review – in relation to licensing, it would be useful to have strategic direction as to whether the group were looking to focus licensing activity in the immediate footprint of the event, ie Appleby or looking to support wider. The same principle could be used to look at the event as a whole.

LC thought the appropriate point to look at the strategic objectives was once the work of the consultants had been undertaken and with the new authority.

He also asked agencies to have a think about the key issues/lessons learned and to let him have this information for inclusion.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 2.00pm.