

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 27 March 2023

Attendance: Les Clark, Eden District Council (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Eden District Council
Steph Cordon, Barrow Borough 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
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Cumbria County Council
Amanda McKirdy, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
Steve Wilde, Eden District Council
John Banks, Cumbria County Council Highways
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Richard Batham, Highways England

LC asked that Item 4 – Encampment Protocol be moved to the beginning of the agenda. This was agreed.

1. Apologies

Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 28 February 2023

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Draft Evaluation Report

LC said that other than a couple of very minor last minute amendments, the report was now in a position where everyone had looked/commented on it. The group confirmed that they were happy to sign-off the report. It would be published on the Appleby Fair website.

4. Draft Encampment Protocol

EB had updated the protocol following comments made at the last meeting in relation to the new Policing Act. A link had also been added to the Government fact sheet on the Act. The group were reminded that the document was not a public document and was for use by only staff/Police. The group were happy with the changes and were happy to sign-off.

EB thanked LC for all his help and support and wished him well for the future.

5. Communication and Engagement

In the absence of a comms update, LC would pick up the Evaluation Report comms.

6. Operational Working Group Update

a) Highways

The Traffic Management Plan circulated was very much the same as the previous year, with just three changes; the one way system at Garbridge Lane had been made permanent, introduction of 40mph at Powis Lane and the introduction of a temporary road closure at the Midland which could be made permanent for future years.

A request was made from LMC and RB to cease using VMS electronic signs as they were difficult to source and expensive. Hard signs would be used instead. The group was content with this proposal.

BL asked whether ropes would be required at the top of the hill by The Midland to corral horses. SW said that they were not required.

b) Parish Engagement

AMK highlighted a couple of potential issues, the first being in relation to awaiting a decision by Asby PC to confirm agreement on tolerated stopping place. A decision is still awaited in relation to the use of the village green in Dufton for camping during Phase 2 as it was privately owned. AMK would chase this up prior to the next MASCG meeting.

c) Licensing

There had been a couple of changes to the list previously circulated, the main change being that the Three Greyhounds, Great Asby would be under new ownership and planned to open during the normal Fair timings.

d) South Lakeland

Daily drop-in sessions would be cancelled due to low attendance. This would free up resources for verge patrols.

KBS said that the Operational Group were looking to develop an interactive parking map with available spaces to help Officers direct traffic and manage flow of visitors during busy periods. MK felt that this was something that could be done quite quickly.

7. Any Other Business

Community Advisory Group (CAG) - MK raised the issue of the CAG meeting during Phase 2 and the fact that they were poorly attended. He was currently exploring the option around a dedicated online form and any issues could be fed into the daily MASCG meetings for a response. SW was also in support of this approach.

PD said that as officer time was valuable, he felt this was a good idea. He said that to be flexible and in the event of a major issue, meetings could be called if felt appropriate.

MK said that the pre and post Fair meetings would still take place.

The consensus of the group was to go ahead with this and make sure that it was clearly communicated to residents etc.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 24 April 2023 at 2.00pm. Steph Cordon would be chairing her first meeting.

As this was the last meeting for LC, he thanked the group for all their hard work and commitment to Appleby Fair over his time as Chair. The group wished Les well and had been a privilege working with him in what had been some trying circumstances.