

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 27 March 2017

Attendance: Robin Hooper, Chief Executive (Chair)
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Oliver Shimell, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Nigel Butcher, Cumbria County Council
Daniel Evans, Cumbria County Council
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Kevin Johnston, Cumbria Fire & Rescue
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Matthew Neal, Eden District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative

Apologies: Terry Bathgate, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Adrian Medcalf, Highways Agency
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Highways

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Introduction of Emma Brass

Emma Brass was introduced to the group as the person replacing in the main the activities which had previously been undertaken by Elaine Lomas. She would co-ordinate the licensing of caravan sites and also food safety issues connected with the Fair. Some of the issues which had previously been dealt with by Elaine in relation to litter picking from waterways may not now be undertaken in the future.

3. Review of Operational Plans for the Agencies

Mark Pannone updated those present on the Police plans for the Fair. He confirmed that the starting point was the review of the strategy and then the methodology for implementing the strategy in terms of the plans for implementation which would be put in place. A copy of the proposed strategy for the 2017 Fair would be circulated after the meeting. There were ten strategic objectives within the strategy for implementation. The overall aim for the strategy was to work with partners to seek to ensure a peaceful, safe and enjoyable Fair. The three principle objectives within the strategy was preservation of life, public safety and road safety.

There was a general discussion on the various strategic objectives which Mark reported on. It was agreed by MASCG that the objectives which were set out in the plan reported on by the Gold Commander would be adopted as the strategic objectives on behalf of MASCG so there was a common set of objectives for co-ordinating and management of the Fair across the relevant agencies.

Mark Pannone reported that the work of the Police was something which was undertaken through the year and the build up to the Fair was now about to be co-ordinated. In particular, it was noted that from 22 May, work would start in the South Lakeland area and for north Cumbria that would commence on 25 May. The first harness racing would start on 28 May. The Kirkby Stephen licensing charter would commence on 3 June and the second harness racing would be on 4 June. The resources generally within the Police for operating of the Fair would increase from the 6 June in preparing for phase 2 which would be the Fair itself. Phase 2 would commence on Wednesday 7 June in readiness for those people arriving for the Fair on the following day.

The operation orders for the Police were now in place and meetings with other Police Forces across the north had taken place in order to discuss the various actions and agree who needed to do what in preparation for the Fair. It was identified and supported that the work needed to be well co-ordinated in order to ensure the safety of people within Cumbria and those visiting the Fair from elsewhere.

In the conversations which had taken place with other forces and other agencies, it was noted that at this stage there was no desire for any form of quick wins or other actions on routes into Appleby therefore making the transfer into the Fair in June, hopefully a normal calm event.

There was a general discussion on what intelligence may be available at the present time. Mark Pannone confirmed that there was nothing to report on at this stage. Billy Welch confirmed that from his own intelligence within the Gypsy and Traveller community, there were no fore warnings of anything likely to happen at the Fair which needed to be planned for at this time.

4. Other Operational Plans

It was noted that all the agencies would be requested to update on their operational plans as necessary either at the April or the May meetings.

5. Date of Appleby Fair

A note from Bill Lloyd on behalf of the Gypsy and Travellers had been circulated which discussed the standard responses which were issued in terms of advising on when the Fair traditionally started which were as follows:

“The important date is the second Wednesday in June. Until the Market Field opened up (and the main Fair days became the Saturday and Sunday) the main day of the Fair was always the Tuesday before the second Wednesday in June, which was the last day of the Fair - unless 1 June fell on a Wednesday. In that case the whole Fair moved back a week, so the last day would be the third Wednesday in June”.

The day of the Fair in 2017 will be Wednesday 14 June which is the correct traditional date.

6. Community Meetings

Nick Wright reported that arrangements had been put in place for the community meetings to be held as follows:

- The pre-Fair meeting would take place Monday 22 May 2017 at 7.00pm which would be the same day as the MASCG meeting

- The post-Fair meeting would take place on 17 July 2017 at 7.00pm, likewise on the same day as the MASCG meeting.

Both meetings would be held in the Public Hall at Appleby.

There was no proposal to have a second meeting in Kirkby Stephen although the Police confirmed that there would be public drop-in sessions in the weeks prior to the Fair in Kirkby Stephen should any member of the public wish to attend.

7. Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass confirmed there was nothing to report.

8. Licensing

Oliver Shimell provided a report on the present situation concerning the proposals for the licenced premises to open or not during the Fair. In particular, from the schedule which was circulated it was noted as follows:

- The Grapes - Emma Brass would be meeting with the licensee to discuss with them the opening arrangements and any other issues which needed to be dealt with. It was noted that she would ensure that if there was any issues which the licensee had, she would raise them at the next MASCG meeting.
- Hare & Hounds - Oliver Shimell would go and see the licensee again on the 20 April to confirm whether or not she would be opening. It was hoped that the Hare & Hounds would open for the Fair and arrangements be made to close part of the highway off around the pub in order to help facilitate that.
- Masons Arms, Long Marton - It was noted that there had been a lot of horses and horse activity at the Mason Arms in 2016. As a consequence, a note would be put on the operational orders for the RSPCA to go and visit the Masons Arms during the event to check on the condition of horses at that location.
- Kings Arms, Kirkby Stephen - Andy Millburn reported that he had been to see the licensee. The licensee had confirmed that they would operate the Kings Arms in the same way as it had been previously with the opportunity to have horses and carts as appropriate in the field to the rear of the property.
- New Inn, Brampton - It was confirmed that the New Inn would close for the duration of the Fair this year as it did in previous years due to the licensee not wanting to have horses in the pub.

Those who had been involved with the production of the notes were thanked for the work they had undertaken to date in eliciting information from the licensees and it was considered that the item should be considered again in April and May when updates could be given as to the present position at that time.

9. Communications

It was noted that an article had appeared in the Herald about the removal of posts and the potential implication for policing of the Fair in 2017. The Communications Officer from the Police had arranged for a letter to be produced which had been duly signed by the Police and on behalf of MASCG and had appeared in full, in the subsequent edition of the Herald explaining the position.

Barry Cooper reported that the website contract was in the process of being renewed. The normal message would be issued on the website, Facebook and Twitter to confirm that people should not arrive too early and should only come for the Fair rather than prior to it. All present were invited if they had any comments to

be made or updates to be given on the website, then they should pass those to Barry Cooper or otherwise make arrangements for the amendments to be made.

Barry Cooper referred to the new Appleby Town Council website which was scheduled to come online in the near future.

Barry Cooper also confirmed that further detail would be put on the website about transport to and from the Fair in light of the bus service now not being in place but the trains would be in place for the 2017 Fair. He would also look at the highways map on the website to see if that could be updated and improved in light of the new information which was available.

10. Highways Issues

Daniel Evans reported that he and others had undertaken a site meeting on the flashing lane and had inspected the fencing and highways verges at that location. It was acknowledged that the area of land of highway verge was owned by the highway authority and even though that was the case, the land owner could not be compelled to undertake improvements to the hedgerow in that location. The highway authority would support any improvements which could be made to the hedgerow either by the land owner or by the Gypsy and Traveller community. Billy Welch confirmed that he would meet with Jimmy Winter to discuss access arrangements from the field and whether or not warning signs at least could be put up in that location in order to discourage access generally to the field. A copy of a plan which had been produced by the highway authority identified the various prohibitions which would be in place on the roads on and around the flashing lane and the signage which would be used in order to discourage pedestrian movement in that area as a matter of public safety.

It was noted that the intention would predominately continue to be about “warn and inform” with notices, signs and bollards rather than Police serving summons and prosecutions for anyone breaching the orders in that location. Albeit, that would be an option to be considered especially in light of the fact that additional CCTV would be in place on the flashing lane this year which could be used as part of the public safety message and also for any enforcement purposes should that be required.

Matthew Neal referred to the road closures which had been put in place in 2016 in the Market Square area which had been made under the Town Police Clauses Act. MASCG supported the entering into of those road closures again this year in order to facilitate larger areas for the public to consume alcohol in and also for the benefit of the market in that area.

11. South Lakeland Working Group

Simon Rowley circulated some operational plans which had been produced in relation to the activities which would be undertaken within the South Lakeland area. Only one meeting would be held with the local community and that was scheduled for 11 May. There were be no drop-in sessions this year. The work that the Police, Highways Authority and South Lakeland District Council had been involved with in previous years had led to a situation where many of the issues which had previously been raised, had now been mitigated or resolved. Those concerned where congratulated for the work they had done in previous years.

12. Issues connected to Westminster

Mark Pannone reported on the events which had taken place the previous week in Westminster over the terrorism act. Whilst it was not anticipated there would be any terrorist act at Appleby Fair, it was important that the Police did give

consideration to all potential events and what, if any, action should be taken in order to help preserve public safety. He confirmed that the single likely incident which might take place in such an event as Appleby Fair, would be a large vehicle seeking to enter a large space where there were large numbers of the public who could have harm caused to them as a consequence of a form a violent or terror attack. This risk along with several others were presently being looked at by the Police and also consideration being given to what, if any, mitigating factors would need to be put into place in order to preserve public safety.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 24 April 2017.

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.