

## **Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 24 April 2017**

**Attendance:** Robin Hooper, Eden District Council (Chair)  
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative  
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary  
Terry Bathgate, Cumbria Constabulary  
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary  
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council  
Oliver Shimell, Eden District Council  
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council  
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council  
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA  
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council  
Adrian Medcalf, Highways England  
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary  
Emma Brass, Eden District Council  
Matthew Neal, Eden District Council  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative  
Daniel Evans, Cumbria County Council Highways  
Neil Buck, Eden District Council  
Kevin Johnston, Cumbria Fire & Rescue

**Apologies:** Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

These were agreed as a true record.

### **2. Update on Operational Plans**

Everyone was invited to give an update on the operational plans for their respective services. In relation to this, Terry Bathgate reported that confirmation had been received in relation to the UAV which meant that drones would be engaged as appropriate at the Fair. In relation to Highways England, it was confirmed that the signs to be erected on the A66 and the M6 would be in place slightly earlier than last year where possible in terms of warning vehicles that there would be horses and carriages/carts on the roads around the Cumbria area prior to, during and after the Fair.

### **3. Draft Communication Strategy**

Barry Cooper had circulated an updated and revised communication strategy for the Fair. It took into account learning from previous Fairs and also the anticipated activities which were likely to be in place for the Fair in 2017.

The general messages which Barry confirmed would be included within the communication strategy and the dissemination of information would be as follows:

- that Travellers should not arrive early and that the Fair started on Thursday 8 June;
- that there would be limited public transport due to some buses not now running and therefore, anyone wanting to use public transport should consider using the rail services; and

- that there is a general election scheduled to be held on the first day of the Fair and as a consequence there will be polling stations in Appleby and other locations in the general proximity of Appleby which would need to be respectful for the voting that people would wish to be involved in.

All members of MASCG were invited to review the strategy in relation to their telephone numbers.

In relation to draft press releases, the first draft press release had been produced and was ready to be circulated which would be signed off by the relevant people after the meeting.

In relation to the website, any changes that needed to be made should be given to Barry so that it can be updated.

Reference was made to the use of Facebook and how feeds onto Twitter could be placed on Facebook to ensure the effective communication to those people that use the different forms of social media. It was noted there had been reliance in the past of the work that Lisa Housby had done, who was a representative from the Gypsy and Travellers who now worked for the Fire Service. It was hoped that the work she had done in the past would continue in the future.

There was general thanks and appreciation to Barry Cooper for the excellent work that he had been carrying out on the communication as well as the production on the communication strategy specifically.

#### **4. Parish Issues**

Emma Brass reported that there were no issues generally arising from the Parishes except in relation to Brough Parish Council. There was confirmation that the activities which had been put in place for 2016 would also be followed through for 2017.

In relation to Melmerby, there was nothing further that needed to be undertaken at this stage from that which was already in the plan.

Bill Lloyd asked in relation to Tyne Willows at Alston whether it could be confirmed that the arrangements which had been in place in the past would continue to be in place for 2017 as there had been some rumours that there might be a wish to close the site for 2017. Emma Brass confirmed that she would check the situation with Alston Moor Parish Council and report back direct to Bill Lloyd and MASCG.

#### **5. Licensing Issues**

Oliver Shimell introduced Sarah Griffiths who was the new Licensing Officer for Eden District Council. He confirmed that he and Sarah had undertaken a visit to the various public houses in the general area of Appleby and Kirkby Stephen over the recent weeks to confirm the opening hours and operations which would be taking place at the public houses.

In relation to the visits which had taken place, it was noted that:

- Hare & Hounds - would be opening and would also want to operate the outside space which would be something that would need to be taken into account as part of the Town Police Clauses Act "road closure" which Neil Buck was arranging.
- The Masons Arms, Long Marton - the charter had been signed and the licensee was hoping to put in place a fence around the perimeter of the area which would be licensed for the purposes of selling and consuming alcohol. This would help

to control and regulate the activity in the area. Andy Millburn asked whether or not there would be any SIA funding for the Masons Arms for the security in that area. Oliver Shimell said that this was being reviewed and a quote for fencing had been made available to the licensee. It was noted that there were commercial issues which needed to be taken into account by the various licensees on the activities which they could afford as a cost prior to opening on those days and the various licensees would be having regard to that.

- Stag Inn, Dufton - was ok and that would be opening
- Greyhounds, Great Asby - would be opening but it had not signed the Charter. It was understood that the licensees were intending to open the pub until 1.00am on the Friday and Saturday nights.
- The Grapes, Appleby - has been refurbished and would be reopening.
- Crown & Cushion - would be opening and the security arrangements which had been put in place in 2016 should also be put in place in 2017.
- Kings Arms, Kirkby Stephen - would be opening and the licensee was supportive of using the back field again for horses which was welcomed by MASCG. It was noted that the licensee did have experience of managing high volume events from previous public houses which they had been involved in managing.

## **6. Highways Issues**

Daniel Evans reported that the contractors had now started putting in the posts on the A685 and would also be undertaking various works from now around South Lakeland as well as in Eden. It was noted that the Belah lay-by however, would not be available for camping this year due to contractors having put hundreds of tonnes of chippings in the lay-by therefore making it unavailable. It was noted that this was a disappointment to MASCG as the lay-by had been popular place for camping in the past. Barry Cooper would put a note Facebook explaining the circumstances around this which had nothing to do with MASCG or the organisation of the response by MASCG to the Fair.

Emma Brass and Barry Cooper would otherwise look at the area of the A685 to see whether or not there were any other locations which could be identified for any overnight stays for Gypsy and Travellers arriving early even though the clear message was not to arrive early for the Fair.

Daniel reported that road safety messages would be going out on SMS texts as well as through other routes in order to try and give clarity that people needed to take care on the roads. Traffic counts would be undertaken between the 1 and 15 June as usual in order to provide information which would help in managing traffic flows and management generally of traffic in the future. Daniel confirmed that he and Andy Millburn had met with the Headmaster of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School as well as Governors from the school to talk about parking and other issues. The meeting had gone well.

Bill Lloyd asked about the arrangements for the ropes which would be put between the trees on The Sands. It was confirmed that as far as the Police knew, the ropes from 2016 had not been stored and Bill Lloyd said that he would need to find other ropes in order that they could be used for the tethering of horses on a temporary basis along The Sands for the duration of the Fair.

Bill Lloyd also asked about the plans which would appear on the website. It was confirmed that the one way system which had been introduced in 2016 for traffic in

Appleby would not be put in place in 2017 and therefore, the original two way system would be in use. Barry Cooper would liaise with Bill over the plans to go on the website in relation to this.

## **7. South Lakeland District Issues**

Simon Rowley had nothing to report expect for confirming that the Chief Executive, Lawrence Conway would be in the area for the duration of the Fair and should anything arise, he would be able to be contacted.

## **8. General Election**

Reference was made to the general election which was scheduled to be held on 8 June. Matthew Neal as the Acting Returning Officer for the election confirmed that as his responsibility was for the conduct of the election, it was important that there was effective communication and relationships between himself and the Police. Mark Pannone as the Chief Superintendent and Gold Commander for Appleby Fair confirmed that such arrangements as would be needed in order to ensure the security and safety of the ballot would be in place.

Reference was made to the Town Police Clauses Act road closures within the market area of Appleby. It was noted that that was only for the Friday and Saturday and therefore should not have an impact upon the election on the Thursday. Likewise, in relation to the market in Market Hall on the Thursday, whilst that would be relocated there would be no intention of having a market in Markey Square on the Thursday as it was normally only held on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday in any event.

Reference was made to the various polling stations. It was noted that the Police had been advised that the polling stations at the following locations would be ones which may need some attention during the 8 June:

- Appleby Market Hall
- Long Marton Institute
- Dufton Village Hall
- Murton Institute
- Warcop Parish Hall
- Milburn Village Hall
- Polling Station in Kirkby Stephen (possibly)

Consideration would be given as to the security and other issues around the polling stations and it was confirmed that in relation to Appleby, there would be two Police Officers designated to support the Presiding Officer at the Hall for the duration of the Election Day. There would also be some support to ensure that if access was needed to the Hall in order to open the polling station, then that would be made available. However, it was hoped that within Election Services at the District Council appropriate planning could be put in place in order to see if any issues that could be foreseen would be resolved within the need for Police involvement either before 7.00am or indeed, later in the day.

The Police confirmed that there would be a relaxed view on parking around the polling station on the Thursday in order to assist anybody attending the polling station that was coming to vote. Whilst there would be a consistent approach for anybody in the general area, it was hoped that the relaxed approach would not be

abused and if there was any abuse by any individual, then the Police would be looking to enforce as normal.

Barry Cooper said that in relation to a communications issue, he would encourage through the website and Facebook, that representatives of the Gypsy and Travellers if coming to the Fair, consider registering for a postal vote and he would seek to put in place information in relation to the closing date for applications for postal votes.

Reference was made to the normal activities to assist the people coming to the Fair to get onto Fair Hill and Jimmy Winter's sites. It was noted that the Police would do what they could in order to ensure that there were no traffic jams in Appleby at the 7.00am time of the morning.

#### **9. Flashing Lane and Access to the Market Fields**

Bill Lloyd asked the question what had taken place in relation to discussions with Jimmy Winter over the gates into the Market Field. It was noted that Billy Welch had met with Jimmy Winter and had had some lengthy discussions over the activities generally in the area during the Fair in previous years. It was noted that part of the pedestrian movement issues had been as a result of licensed sites being other than at Fair Hill or the Jimmy Winter fields. It was noted that there was more than adequate capacity to deal with the number of people wanting to stay on either Fair Hill or the Market Field. However, in light of the fact that there were licensed sites elsewhere it was considered appropriate that Billy Welch and Bill Lloyd met with Jimmy Winter again to see what actions could be taken in order to alleviate any concerns that may exist over safety of pedestrians generally in the area around horses. It was noted that if any suggestions did come forward then they would be looked at by the Highways Authority and MASCG.

#### **10. Heavy Horses Issues**

It was noted that at the 2016 Fair, Tom Harker had requested that consideration be given to making facilities available for "heavy horses". He had been invited at that time to make a submission to MASCG for consideration as to how that could be accommodated within the general issues associated with the Fair. Nothing formally to date had been received and as a consequence, Robin Hooper as Chairman of MASCG said that he would write to Tom Harker asking what, if any, thoughts he had which could then be considered.

#### **11. MASCG Meetings during the Fair**

It was agreed that meetings of MASCG during the Fair would commence at 9.00am. Terry Bathgate said that his Silver Command meetings which were scheduled to start at 8.30am would be managed appropriately by him in order that he would conclude by 9.00am. This would mean that with a fair wind in the way in which the meetings were managed of MASCG, that they should be finished well before 10.00am to enable any press or media issues to be dealt with.

#### **12. Signs for Fields**

Bill Lloyd circulated copies of signs which may be placed on the outside of fields advising any horse owners that placed horses in fields without the owner's consent of the action which may be taken. It was noted that the signs were being provided by the NFU and copies of those were provided to Emma Brass so that she could then share them with the Parish Councils who in turn could make their availability known to landowners so that they can put them up in the areas concerned.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 22 May 2017, the same day as the public meeting which will be held at 7.00pm in Appleby.

The meeting ended at 3.00pm.