

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 22 May 2017

Attendance: Robin Hooper, Eden District Council (Chair)
Oliver Shimell, Eden District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Terry Bathgate, Cumbria Constabulary
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Daniel Evans, Cumbria County Council Highways
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Mark Harris, South Lakeland District Council
John Barwise, South Lakeland District Council
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary
Matthew Neal, Eden District Council
Kevin Johnston, Cumbria Fire and Rescue
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Nigel Butcher, Cumbria County Council Highways
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative

Apologies: Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 24 April 2017

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Elections

Matthew Neal as the Acting Returning Officer briefly introduced the issue of elections and confirmed who the single point of contact would be from the Police for whom he and others may be able to make contact prior to and during Election Day. The transport plans for those who were working on the election had been discussed and agreed with Matthew Neal with the various personnel who would be working and that was going to be shared with the Police as part of the overall planning.

3. Update on Operational Plans

It was confirmed by those present that the operational plans which had been in place for the previous year would continue to operate for 2017. Should any changes to the operational plans be considered, then that would be shared with MASCG prior to the Fair or at the strategic meetings which would be taking place each day.

4. Draft Agenda for MASCG Meetings during the Fair

The agenda for the MASCG meetings during the Fair was agreed. It was noted that the meetings on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday would be chaired by Robin Hooper and the meeting on the Sunday would be chaired by Mark Pannone.

5. Feedback from Alston Parish Council

Emma Brass reported that she had made contact with Alston Parish Council as a consequence of the questions which Bill Lloyd had raised. The Parish Council had confirmed that the facilities that were normally available within Alston would be available for the Fair.

6. Issues raised by Tom Harker

Robin Hooper reported that a meeting had taken place on 8 May 2017 with Tom Harker, Roly Earl and Robert Docherty. The meeting had taken place consequential upon the issues which had been raised during the Fair in 2016 and an invitation to Tom Harker that the issues could be considered at MASCG should he wish to raise them again prior to the 2017 Fair. The following issues were raised during that discussion:

- i) Tom Harker had requested that consideration be given to The Sands being open for all forms of transport and that it should not be closed in future. His reason behind this was to help people attending the Fair get into town to do their shopping. He said that butchers and the baker did not do very good trade during the Fair and it was because the road was closed. He also believed other shops likewise may have had problems. It was noted that during the discussion with Mr Harker that Robin Hooper advised that the road was closed because of the amount of pedestrian activity and the number of people in the area and it was unlikely that would change. The issues were discussed by MASCG who considered the overriding strategic position for MASCG was that of public safety and public safety was best achieved by closing The Sands to vehicular traffic in accordance with the arrangements which had been put in place in previous years. Robin Hooper said that he would advise Tom Harker accordingly.
- ii) That consideration should be given to the movement of the sale of horses and indeed horses generally out of The Sands area as soon as they had been washed. Mr Harker's reason for this proposal was horses were being sold there and he thought they should move elsewhere to be sold, possibly Salt Tip Corner. Robin Hooper had explained at the meeting on 8 May that MASCG had sought to encourage the horses to be moved after being washed and the rope that had been put between the trees by the Gypsy and Travellers was only there to allow horses to be tethered for a very short period and any horses there for a prolonged period would be moved. MASCG said that they would wish horses to be moved soon after they had been washed rather than them being left generally within the area of The Sands. This was both from a public safety point of view as well as for horse welfare. It was agreed that Robin Hooper should advise Tom Harker accordingly.
- iii) That Salt Tip Corner be used for horse sales which Mr Harker believed it used to be in the past and was well received as a consequence. There was a discussion on this by MASCG and it was noted that a number of horses already were tethered in the Salt Tip Corner area and a number of those horses were being sold in accordance with the wishes being raised by Mr Harker at the meeting on 8 May.
- iv) That lorries be permitted to park with horses for sale on the road from Clickham Cottage to the Rising Sun. Mr Harker's reason for this was to enable horse sales to take place and it was wanted by the horse traders that that facility be made available. He said that he would manage the parking of lorries and the

arrangements generally and take responsibility for that. At the meeting on 8 May, Robin Hooper had responded advising that the area was there for emergency vehicles and a route for horses getting to the flashing lane and not for parking. Consideration had been given on 8 May to whether or not a sales area on the fields in the area could be found and identified which those people wishing to sell horses could use. Mr Harker had said at the meeting that he was content for lorries not to arrive after 10.00am and leave after 6.00pm and was happy with any form of enforcement of anyone in order to ensure that it was safe and free access in the area. MASCG gave consideration to the issues. They were grateful for the offer to support the activities on the road by Mr Harker, however the overriding consideration was one of public safety and the introduction of parked vehicles with horses attached to them was not considered to support public safety generally in the area. It was therefore agreed that Robin Hooper would respond to Mr Harker accordingly.

- v) In relation to the organisation of the Fair in general, Mr Harker wanted it to be as it had been in the past but knew the likelihood of it being such was very remote. Robin Hooper had advised him at the meeting on 8 May that if an organising committee of individuals and/or a company came forward in order that Appleby Fair would be properly regulated and licensed, then that was something that MASCG would welcome and it could be dealt with appropriately. However, it was noted that there had not been interest from such people to come forward to be organisers for the Fair. This matter was noted by MASCG.

7. Feedback in relation to Meetings with Jimmy Winter

Bill Lloyd and Billy Welch reported that it had not been possible to have a further meeting with Jimmy Winter in relation to issues connected to the highway verges in the flashing lane area since the last MASCG meeting. It was noted that perhaps time might exist during the Fair for such a meeting to take place when the activities in the area of the flashing lane were actually taking place from which a more specific discussion could take place as to the safety of the individuals in that area and what alternative arrangements may be able to be put in place by those who were organising the activities in that area. Bill Lloyd and Billy Welch said that they would endeavour to do that.

8. Public Meeting – 22 May 2017

Nick Wright reported that the meeting would be starting at 7.00pm in the Market Hall, Appleby later that evening. He confirmed that the new County Councillor for the area, Andy Connell would chair the meeting and presentation on the activities which were being undertaken by MASCG in the three phases of the Fair would be presented by Robin Hooper supported by Mark Pannone from the Police perspective. It was noted that the meeting would provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask any questions they had of any issues and those Officers and others in attendance would then be able to answer as appropriate. Robin Hooper went through the various issues which he thought may be appropriate to raise at the public meeting and those were acknowledged by all present.

9. Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass reported that she had received communications from Great Asby Parish Council, Melmerby Parish Council and Alston Parish Council all seeking reassurance as to the actions which would be taken over the forthcoming weeks up to, including and after the Fair. Emma Brass confirmed that the various actions

which had been undertaken in previous would indeed be undertaken in 2017. Rubbish bags would be provided also in the usual places in order that rubbish could be stored in those bags and collected by the cleansing teams for disposal.

10. Licensing Issues

A detailed list of those public houses which would be open during the Fair was circulated to all MASCG members. Sarah Griffiths reported that Appleby Manor, Tufton Arms and the Pennine Hotel would all be open for residents only during the Fair.

In relation to the Black Bull, Kirkby Stephen the licensee had said that he was not willing to sign the Charter. Discussions had taken place with the licensee by representatives from the Police as well as the Licensing Officer, but the licensee was adamant that he wished to open at the normal times. It was considered that the public house would need to be watched during the period to assess whether any issues arose which would need attention to be given to them. It was considered that that would be as far as possible immediately upon the events happening in order that the licensee could be appraised of them and whatever action was then needed, he would have the opportunity to undertake. It was noted that the license for the sale of alcohol concluded that 1.00am each day.

11. Communications

In Barry Cooper's absence, it was noted that the Police Communications Officer was in attendance and it was confirmed that he would act as the lead on communications on Friday 9 June in light of Barry Cooper being engaged with the election on the night of 8/9 June. It was noted that the map which had been used for identifying highway routes in 2015 would be uploaded to the website to replace that which had been used in 2016 as that map had only been introduced for a one year only purpose. It was noted that if there were any update communications which needed to be made, then they could be made as usual through Barry Cooper or Louise Fawcett who would arrange for the necessary actions to be undertaken.

12. Police Cells

Mark Pannone reported that the cells in Appleby would not be open for Appleby Fair in 2017. Custody rules had changed and a further risk assessment had been undertaken which evidenced the need for major financial refurbishment programmes and other actions to be undertaken should the custody cells be available for use. In light of the cost implications of that, it was felt a more appropriate and measured solution would be to utilise the police cells which were available in Carlisle, Kendal, Barrow or Workington should the need arise. It was hoped that no such requirement would be place however it was agreed that it was appropriate that the cells in Appleby should not be used for 2017. Mark Pannone said he would keep the situation under review and report as appropriate to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable.

13. Highways Issues

Daniel Evans reported that the activities of posts on highway etc were all going to plan. The variable message signs on the various routes in and around Cumbria and in particular, Appleby would be introduced from Friday 26 May. The barriers for use on The Sands would be delivered on 6 June.

14. Issues in South Lakeland

John Barwise reported that the public in Sedbergh had taken place on 9 May and no issues had arisen. A drop-in session had also taken place the previous week and two people had been in attendance. Likewise, no issues of substance had been raised. He reported that Scroggs Bank had been sold in the intervening period since the 2016 Fair and whilst the new occupier had not otherwise been aware of the activities of the Fair within the general area prior to purchasing the house, he was supportive of making sure water supply was available on the fields in the area. The issues therefore that were otherwise of concern in this area, had now been resolved.

15. General Policing Issues

Mark Pannone reported that there were no issues at this stage to raise and resources were all in place for phase one of the Fair.

16. Environment Agency Issues

Trevor Marsh reported that the alarm system at 0.5m should the river levels reach that level, the Police would be notified. The rapid response to rising water in the Appleby area would therefore require the water policy which had otherwise been agreed in 2012 to be put in place as necessary should that situation arise. Trevor Marsh reported that in relation to other Environment Agency issues such as water quality and pollution, there were no issues at this stage.

17. Portaloos

Bill Lloyd reminded MASCG that one of the portaloos had been set on fire on Fair Hill the previous year. That had potentially caused danger to someone who was occupying an adjoining portaloos at the time. There was a general discussion about the use of fire extinguishers in the area and Billy Welch confirmed that he still had fire extinguishers left over from 2016 and he would ensure that they were available for Fair Hill and in terms of the use of portaloos generally, the issue would be picked up by Neil Buck as part of his event planning for the Fair.

18. North West Ambulance Service

It was reported that the same arrangements for the Ambulance Service in 2016 would be implemented for 2017.

19. CCTV

Billy Welch reported that all the Gypsy and Travellers supported the introduction of more CCTV for public safety in the area.

20. Media Groups

Mark Pannone reported that he was aware that various media groups were giving consideration to coming to Appleby to film different parts of that which takes place. As more information became available that would be circulated.

21. Parking around the Royal Oak

Neil Buck reported that fences panels would be erected around the metal fences at the Royal Oak in order to discourage the use of the fencing for the tethering of horses due to the poor condition of the fencing in that area.

22. Outside Broadcast

It was confirmed that no motorised vehicles should be in the area of The Sands during the Fair period where such vehicles could cause an obstruction or otherwise imply that it is acceptable to have a motor vehicle were the road was otherwise closed. The request therefore that had been made by Lee Quinn to have a Landrover Discovery in the area as a mobile studio was rejected. It was agreed that Robin Hooper would arrange for Lee Quinn to be advised of that.

23. Notices to the Civil Aviation Authority

Robin Hooper reported that Louise Fawcett had made arrangements for the Civil Aviation Authority to be advised of the low flying and use of drones during the Fair. This was in order that the Civil Aviation Authority could avoid flying across the area for health and safety reasons.

24. Recharging Arrangements for the Bowling Club

It was agreed that Eden District Council and Cumbria Constabulary would each pay £475 towards the facilities at the Bowling Club for the duration of the Fair and the RSPCA would contribute £50.

25. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19 June 2017 at 2.00pm in the Whelpdale Room, Mansion House, Penrith.

The meeting ended at 2.40pm.