

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 19 March 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal, Eden District Council (Chair)
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary (Vice Chair)
Ben Swinson, Cumbria Constabulary
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council
Gaynor Taylor, Cumbria Constabulary
Andy Millburn, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Daniel Evans, Cumbria County Council Highways
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative

1. Apologies

Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 February 2018

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Update on Potential Alternative Barriers on the Flashing Lane

Kevin Crawley indicated that the current barriers were structurally in a reasonable condition with some minor work of repair required for the 2018 Fair. He re-iterated comments from his highway colleagues at previous meetings to the effect that the barriers are not a long term solution and other alternatives should be considered. However he stated that there was now insufficient time to implement an alternative solution in readiness for the 2018 Fair.

Ben Swinson stated, on the assumption that the carriers would remain for the 2018 Fair, that the County Council could take observations of the effect of the barriers on pedestrian movement and general safety. This information could be taken into account in terms of an early review of the appropriate barrier treatment for the purpose of future Fairs.

Action: That the current barriers should remain for the 2018 Fair and MASCG will review the matter for the subsequent 2019 Fair taking into account any observations and information obtained from the Police, County Council and other agencies regarding the operation of the barriers during the 2018 Fair.

4. Appleby Fair Strategy 2018

Matthew Neal introduced the finalised Appleby Fair Strategy and asked the group to note that the Strategy had been placed on the Appleby Fair website. He also pointed out that the Strategy would be reviewed and appropriate public consultation

carried out in terms of populating a Strategy for subsequent Fairs, after the 2018 Fair.

Action: That the finalised Appleby Fair Strategy 2018 be noted.

5. Media Strategy

Neil Graham thanked members of the group for inputting and commenting on the draft Strategy. He accepted that further clarification and update would be put into the document depending upon any further comments which had been forwarded as soon as possible and in terms of any clarification that could be obtained during the meeting.

Action: The latest draft of the Media Strategy be approved and Neil Graham to finalise the Strategy upon taking into account any further comments provided by officers of MASCG (such comments to be copied to Louise Fawcett).

6. Recharging Arrangements for Appleby Bowling Club

Matthew Neal presented a short item of which he suggested that the Appleby Bowling Club as in previous years charged £1,000 for the use of the Bowling Club by MASCG with the invoice being paid by Eden District Council in full, who in turn will recover £475 back from the Police and £50 from the RSPCA.

Action: The above arrangements and apportionment of costs be agreed.

7. Sub-Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass stated that she had attended a meeting with Alston Moor Parish Council and the gym in which the same points that had previously been made about the potential use of the gym for the 2018 Fair were made again. She had still not obtained clarity as to whether the gym wishes to make itself available during the Fair. Alston Moor Parish Council have still not been able to find any alternative sites. There is one stretch of lane near the main road to Hexham which has potential to be closed to enable use by Travellers.

A discussion took place and Kevin Crawley indicated that if a Traffic Regulation Order were to be sought, it would need to be submitted within two weeks following the meeting. The Police also considered whether they could use emergency powers or exercise discretion to allow a tolerated obstruction of the highway having regard to the Fair Strategy's strategic aims and objectives.

It was agreed that the next meeting of MASCG would be too late to enable a decision to be properly made and implemented. It was therefore agreed that delegated authority should be given to the Chair of MASCG in consultation with the Vice Chair of MASCG to request a road closure being made by the County Council in the event that Emma Brass with Andy Millburn were to inspect the lane and consider it suitable for temporary accommodation for Travellers.

Emma Brass has been asked to attend a meeting of Kirkby Stephen Town Council. She will attend with Andy Millburn.

Action: The Chairman of MASCG, in consultation with the Vice Chairman of MASCG be given delegated authority to request that the County Council make a Traffic Regulation Order to seek the closure of the unclassified lane in the vicinity of Alston, referred to by Emma Brass.

b) Licensing

Sarah Griffiths had attended the new licensee at the New Inn, Brampton. That establishment will not be opening this year during the Fair but may open next year taking into account observations of how the Fair proceeds.

Sarah has taken the Charters for Kirkby Stephen and Appleby and had them signed by various licensees.

Sarah will be attending a meeting with the door supervisor company ProTec in May 2018. She will reiterate the concerns expressed by licensees subsequent to the Appleby Fair 2018.

Sarah finally indicated that the Public Space Protection Order consultation stage which included Orders for Appleby and Long Marton had been completed. 1,027 responses had been obtained, the vast majority of which were in support. A report on the matter will be taken to the meeting of Executive in April 2018.

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Highways

There was no further update from Highways.

d) South Lakeland Working Group

Simon Rowley indicated that all the previous temporary sites that had been available in South Lakeland remain available. There was an issue with means of preventing access to school grounds in Sedbergh and availability of grazing which Simon's officers are seeking to address.

8. Any Other Business

Ben Swinson raised the issue of the potential depot at site Salt Tip Corner. He indicated that it would be useful to be able to have a store block there with various pieces of highway equipment available for use by the Police and other services. Mark Pannone pointed out that any decision in this regard should be approved by the MASCG group. It was agreed that County Council Highways Officers should consider the appropriateness of Salt Tip Corner as a site for use as a depot or compound to enable the storage of equipment for use by the Police, Highways and other services.

Action: That a report on this matter to be brought to the MASCG meeting in April 2018.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23 April 2018 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, and Penrith.