

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on 23 July 2018

Attendance: Matthew Neal, Eden District Council (Chairman)
Nick Wright, Cumbria County Council
Charlotte Lory, Cumbria Constabulary
Steven Minnikin, Cumbria Constabulary
Roly Earl, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency
Robert Docherty, Eden District Council
Emma Brass, Eden District Council
Sarah Griffiths, Eden District Council
Neil Buck, Eden District Council
Simon Rowley, South Lakeland District Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Nigel Butcher, Cumbria County Council Highways

Apologies: Nick Griggs, North West Ambulance Service
Mark Pannone, Cumbria Constabulary
Kevin Crawley, Cumbria County Council Highways
Rob Lewis, Cumbria County Council Highways
Ben Swinson, Cumbria Constabulary
Barry Cooper, Eden District Council
Rob Melloy, RSPCA

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 18 June 2018

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Draft Evaluation Report 2018

The draft Evaluation Report was introduced by Matthew Neal. He queried whether there was a view that the document should have a separate section setting out the thoughts of Mark Pannone. It was agreed that Mark Pannone would be consulted by Matthew Neal on whether a separate section should be prepared in his name.

Roly Earl indicated that the statistical information from the Police had been provided to Louise Biggs.

Action: That all outstanding statistical information be provided by relevant agencies to Louise Biggs by September 2018.

3. Feedback from Sedbergh Public Consultation Event of 25 June 2018

Simon Rowley stated that he had attended the drop-in event. He was accompanied by Inspector Paul Latham and eighteen people attended. Bill Lloyd and Billy Welch were also in attendance. The general view of people was that the agencies had been caught out and that improvements needed to be made in terms of the response to encampments and communications with regard to opening and closing of sites.

A South Lakeland District Councillor has done a "survey" which had set out a number of questions. The survey was not done in a balanced manner. It was also reported that a letter that had been sent by Matthew Neal as Chairman of MASCG

in response to a letter in the Westmorland Gazette by Town Councillor Alan Muirhead had not led to any other significant correspondence.

Action: That the update be noted.

4. Notes of Kirkby Stephen Public Meeting and Feedback from Appleby Public Meeting

This meeting was discussed and Matthew Neal indicated that whilst the Kirkby Stephen had been in some ways been chaired well by County Councillor Dew certain comments that he had made had not been helpful particularly his summary that the people of Kirkby Stephen had completely lost confidence in the police.

It was considered that people left both meetings frustrated as a number of the questions that were asked could not be fully answered because the representatives who were giving the answers did not necessarily have all of the detailed information available to fully answer the questions.

There was a suggestion that, while there was anger and hostility at both meetings, the Appleby meeting was more intense. It was agreed that, if such a level of hostility is to be expected in the future, support for chairing Members should be considered. Nick Wright agreed to take away this action.

Emma Brass suggested that there should be a list of commonly asked questions and answers which could be set out on the Council's website and on the Appleby Fair website. It was also agreed that it would not be necessary to have any further public meetings in the near future and that consideration should be given to whether a similar set of meetings would be appropriate post Fair in future or whether there may be alternative methods of obtaining public feedback, perhaps drop-in sessions.

It was noted that threats had been during the Appleby meeting by certain members of the public that if the Fair was not run differently in future any future meetings would be considerably more hostile.

Action:

1. Emma Brass to prepare an initial set of questions and answers and that be circulated amongst MASCG members for further questions and answers to be prepared. Such questions and answers to be brought to the next meeting of MASCG for consideration and approval.
2. That consideration be given to other means of obtaining feedback from the public for future post Fair meetings. Such matters to be considered at a future meeting of MASCG.

5. Consultation with Elected Members

Matthew Neal set out his proposal as obtained within a report for a consultation to take place elected Members consisting of representatives of the County Council, District Council and the Parishes with two representatives from each tier of Local Government. Previous discussions had mentioned the possibility of further community involvement from other agencies. However, the view of the meeting was that it would be sufficient for elected Members to represent the views of the public.

There was concern that any consultation body should be set up as a trial and that the Terms of Reference should be clearly set out, namely that the body is of a consultative basis and not in a position to give instructions to Officers of MASCG. It

was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to work out the finer detail of the workings of such a consultative body.

Action:

1. That a Working Group be set up consisting of Nick Wright, Matthew Neal, Robert Docherty and Steve Minnikin.
2. That the Working Group finalise the arrangements for the consultation body and report back to the September 2018 meeting of MASCG.

6. Request from West Yorkshire NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme to attend the 2019 Fair

Matthew Neal presented this request. It was agreed that the Programme Manager for the Screening Programme should contact County Highways and/or Appleby Grammar School for permission to occupy a site for this purpose.

Action: Matthew Neal to contact the Programme Manager and to direct the query to County Highways and/or Appleby Grammar School depending on whether they wished to utilise a site at the Grammar School or Salt Tip Corner.

7. Parking Arrangements at Appleby Bowling Club

Matthew Neal sought views on the effectiveness of the parking arrangements. The general view of the meeting was that there should be a permit system. There had been quite a bit of damage to the turf at the Bowling Club which the Police had to pay to be repaired at the cost of £600. There is also a need for some oversight and could be provided by staff at the Bowling Club.

Roly Earl stated that there was a potential site at behind the Bowling Club owned by Hughie Potts, but it was agreed that a view should be taken as to the appropriate numbers of recipients of permits and that the matter could be considered from afresh early in 2019.

Action: That the matter of parking arrangements be considered at the first available meeting of 2019.

8. Infrastructure Update

Neil Buck updated the meeting on the extra resources that Eden District Council had given to Kirkby Stephen Town Council in terms of cleansing that was required within the town. Twenty-seven tonnes of litter/horse muck had been removed. Eden District Council's Contracts/Environmental Health costs had increased by circa £1,000 on last year.

Action: That the update be noted and that the cleaning operatives on behalf of Eden District Council be thanked for their efforts.

9. Sub Group Reports

a) Eden Parish Forum

Emma Brass gave an update about the site conditions of the seven licensed sites. She reminded the meeting that there were 97 licensed sites within the District. All have conditions and that there are seven licences within the licensed sites within the 1.5 mile radius. Most of them have a planning condition requiring opening at 4.00am on the Thursday of the fair and all have a licence condition to the same effect.

She proposed that there should be a sub-group considering the matter and coming up with proposals for regularising the proper treatment of the licensed opening times in future. She was concerned at the way that MASCG had authorised earlier opening times for the 2018 Fair. Any variation of the opening times in terms of the planning legislation would require an application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Billy Welch expressed his concern that earlier opening hours could lead to Gypsies and Travellers arriving even earlier thereby causing the Fair to become elongated. It was agreed that a Working Group be formed consisting of Nigel Butcher, Steve Minnikin and Emma Brass.

Action: That the update be noted.

b) Licensing

Sarah Griffiths updated the meeting and indicated that there were no outstanding Temporary Event Notices given that the one for Bridge End News had been submitted but then withdrawn.

The latter would be re-considered in April 2019 and any Temporary Event Notices that were submitted then would be considered together and a necessary decision would then be made. Sarah Griffiths also indicated that she would shortly having a meeting with licensees and brewers in the Kirkby Stephen area to consider the need to make changes to the licensees charter.

Action: That the update be noted.

c) Communications

Neil Graham indicated that the website which had advocated closing the Fair had had maximum numbers of 520. It had become a closed website and numbers had reduced subsequently.

The petition to ban the Fair has not gone ahead and things are generally quietening down.

Action: That the update be noted.

d) Highways

Nigel Butcher indicated that the Traffic Management Plan would be reviewed. The matter of the infrastructure at the Flashing Lane would be reviewed. He undertook to take a report in regard to these matters to the September 2018 meeting.

Action: That the update be noted and a report on proposed amendments to the Traffic Management Plan and the matter of the infrastructure at the Flashing Lane be brought to the September 2018 meeting.

e) South Lakeland Working Group

Simon Rowley had nothing further to add to his earlier update in relation to the Sedbergh public consultation event. Matthew Neal thanked him for all that he had done as South Lakeland's representative on MASCG. Simon explained that he would no longer be carrying out MASCG duties as he was being assigned to different duties within the Council. Debbie Storr, Director

of People and Places would be assuming the role of South Lakeland District Council's representative on MASCG.

Action: That the update be noted.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 September 2018 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Penrith