

Notes of the Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group held on Monday 20 November 2023

Attendance: Daniel StQuintin, Cumbria Constabulary (Chair)
Louise Biggs, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Ian Mitchell, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council
Councillor John Murray, Westmorland & Furness Council
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland & Furness Council
Steve Wilde, Westmorland & Furness Council
Richard Batham, Highways England
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA
Dan McAulay, Westmorland & Furness Council
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways
John Banks, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary
Steve Hunter, Cumbria Constabulary
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council
Alec Swatton, Westmorland & Furness Council
Sue Warner, Westmorland & Furness Council

1. Apologies

Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council
Rob Melloy, RSPCA
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 25 September 2023

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Items for Update/Discussion

a) Kirkby Stephen Meeting - 7 December 2023

It was noted that the Kirkby Stephen debrief meeting had been postponed until 7 December. Councillors Dew and Murray said that it was disappointing, as the Appleby consultation had taken place quickly after the Fair.

b) Update on Capital/Revenue Funding Bid

Councillor Dew asked what the current position was in relation to the capital/revenue funding bid as no information had been provided.

Daniel had received an update from Steph informing that the potential growth bid was still in the budget planning process. Steph would be asked to provide an update on her return.

c) Update on Review of Encampment Protocol

Councillor Dew noted that the review of the Encampment Protocol was on the Operational Working Group to be looked at in April 2024 and commented that it needed to be looked at well before then so arrangements can be made with local landowners.

Emma confirmed that the April date was when the protocol was to be signed off and not when work would start on it.

d) Progress on External Consultants Report

This was still with the Legal Team for consideration. Councillor Dew expressed his concerns at the delays the report had experienced. Bill confirmed that Billy Welch had now been approached by the consultants. Steph would be asked to respond on her return.

e) Evaluation Report 2023

Councillor Dew asked that it was noted that it was well overdue. This would be fed back to Steph.

f) Website Update

The MASCG website was in the process of being brought back in-house to the Council. It would not change the majority of the website's design, but would give the more tools and provide additional security for the website.

g) Date of 2024 Fair

Councillor Dew noted that 6 June 2024 would be the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and as the Fair started from 6 June, we needed to be mindful of any celebrations taking place within the local community. Sue Gilbertson would ask the Appleby branch of the British Legion Club to see if they had any plans and bring an update to the next MASCG meeting.

4. Communications and Engagement Update

Apart from the website update given elsewhere on the agenda, the only other points of note was from the Police in relation to an officer receiving an award for work securing a sentence an attack carried out at Appleby Fair in 2019 and a dangerous driver at the fair in 2023 had been sentenced last week. All public facing comms in relation to the Fair would start in the New Year.

5. Operational Working Group Update

Laura McClellan provided an update on the issues of posts to ensure safety on the highways surrounding Appleby during the Fair and in particular, relating to the issue of encampments on the side of highways. Replacing posts was leading to strains on budget and officer time. Laura outlined a proposal to install a ditch and bunding on several highways, the largest area being the A685.

The proposal was supported and she clarified that the costs would come out of the road safety budget and result in savings from the post fund. Laura also said that this

would be a trial and that the area in question was not contentious, as that section of highway was clearly dangerous for any encampment.

Councillors commented that this was a good idea and should very much be an initial experiment to ensure the schemes success, but also commented that a more permanent solution was needed regards the encampment situation.

6. Any Other Business

Emma had received a request from a specialist GRT service based in Norfolk offering a number of services including children's services, inclusion and opportunity. They had asked if they could attend the fair to raise awareness and promote their services and culture at the fair.

MASCG agreed it was a good idea, but noted that the company needs to consider staffing, security, toilets accommodation etc. Emma would liaise with them to provide all the necessary information.

Sue Gilbertson had asked Steph for help with a query regarding Appleby Town Council's insurance cover regarding the license for Fair Hill. Steph had indicated that she was going to ask someone to check this. Emma would pick this up and get back to Sue.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18 December 2023 at 2.00pm via Teams (now rearranged to Tuesday 19 December at 10am).