

Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group
20 February 2024 at 3.00pm
Microsoft Teams

Agenda

Attendance: Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council (Chair);
Daniel StQuintin, Cumbria Constabulary;
John Everingham, Westmorland & Furness Council;
John Banks, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways;
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways;
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Councillor Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr John Murray, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Rob Melloy, RSPCA;
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA;
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary;
Steve Hunter, Cumbria Constabulary;
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary;
Ross Woods, Cumbria Constabulary;
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council;
Peter Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue;
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue;
Louise Biggs, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Alec Swatton, Westmorland & Furness Council.

1. Apologies

Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Richard Batham, Highways England;
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary;
Steve Wilde, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary;
Cllr Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council;

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 26 January 2024

Cllr Dew commented that, upon review, he would like to amend the draft minutes of the MASCG meeting held on 26 January 2024 to include points raised regarding the A685 and stopping places. It was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly to incorporate Cllr Dew's amendments. Subsequently, the minutes were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

3. Agency Updates

Steph Cordon asked for an update from all of the agencies based on MASCG.

Police – Steve Hunter noted that planning has been underway for the Fair had been underway for some time, and that there were no issues from a staffing, logistical or

media perspective. Steph explained that she had been invited to a planning a tabletop exercise in relation to Appleby Fair, being run by the Police, on the 13 March, and invited agencies to attend if they could.

Fire – Peter Kavanagh noted that there was no issues currently, and that planning was underway to ensure adequate crew cover and availability for the Fair. The Fire Service would liaise with Police closer to the time, and would be set up in the control centre with the Police.

RSPCA – Rob Melloy explained that the RSCPA had formalised an agreement with other welfare organisations in regards to the fair, and would bring this to the next MASCG meeting. It was also explained that the RSCPA works closely with the World Horse Welfare Organisation already and that the planning stage for Appleby Fair was now well underway and going according to plan.

Cllr Dew had received representation from his local vet, who was asking why the World Horse Welfare Organisation was not involved in the fair, but would pass on reassurances that they were involved. Rob Melloy explained that six field officers attended the fair and provided crucial support throughout each phase of the fair.

Westmorland and Furness Council – Steph explained that she had had secured additional funding for Appleby Fair that would accommodate the following measures:

- New footways/barriers along Flashing Lane to remove safety issues flagged;
- Money to improve Appleby Leisure Centre Car Park, with the installation of physical barriers to prevent overnight parking and to enforce a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order;
- Funds to secure additional stopping places, improve infrastructure facilities at existing transit sites, install temporary signs and to enforce temporary horse traffic calming measures;
- A residents guide and inform residents about MASCG's powers and structure;
- Funds to improve facilities at Appleby Library, which was to be used as a command hub for the Council during the Fair.

From a Highways perspective, John Banks noted that the Campsite at Flashing Lane would be connected to Rising Sun, and that everything was on track from a highways point of view.

Daniel St Quintin enquired if there was any update on the Travelling Man Safety Advisory group going to be held. Emma Brass noted that the Travelling Man Festival would be going ahead as planned, and that the first Safety Advisory Group would occur on the 2 April.

4. Draft Learning Lessons Report

In advance of the meeting, the Draft Learning Lessons Report, regarding the 2023 Fair, had been circulated. Steph noted that she had received several comments back, and asked for further comments by mid-march at the absolute latest. Steph highlighted a few sections that MASCG subsequently discussed:

1) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commitment

Daniel St Quintin believed that an explicitly recognising MASGC's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion would undoubtedly be a positive step forward, and noted that the statistics included in the report were eye opening.

Cllr Dew expressed support for that view.

Sue Gilbertson noted that some aspects of the report could be perceived as being one-sided, in favour of Gypsy and Travellers, rather than the Community. Steph explained that the section about EDI should be an inclusive approach that, whilst recognising the rights of the local community, focuses on Gypsy and Travellers who are an incredibly marginalised community.

Bill Lloyd supported Sue Gilbertson's point, and advised that this section needed looking at again. It was agreed that Bill would go and construct more appropriate wording for this section and would share this with Steph as the report author.

2) MASCG stance on Appleby Fair as an Event

Cllr Dew commented on the issue of ticketing, that had been included in the draft report. He advised that he would feel more comfortable if this section had been run past legal. Steph noted that if that was the consensus of MASCG, she would take this section back for legal advice, but would seek financial contributions towards any counsel advice.

3) Datasets

Cllr Dew advised that the datasets, included in previous reports, such as appendix 1 (named Interventions and Outcomes) of the 2022 Evaluation Report, should also be included in this year's reports. It was agreed that the data would be collected from each agency and added into the report, although it was explained that financial figures would not be accurate, due to the recent Local Government Reorganisation. It was therefore agreed that this data would not be included in the report with an explanation of why it was omitted.

4) Draft ORS Report

Steph provided a verbal update on the ORS External Consultants report, the final version of which still had not been received. The latest update from ORS advised that they were trying to get in contact with festival organisers to see if there is any interest in running Appleby Fair of this scale and size. Continue to chase it, and have not paid them yet.

5. Operational Working Group Update

In Nick Wright's absence, Kellie Bradburn-Sims provided update regarding the Operational Working Group, with the report from the latest meeting being circulated beforehand.

Highways: Laura McClellan provided an update on the Flashing Lane post, with work due to start to improve safety in April and advised that the Traffic Management plan was still being worked on and would be available soon.

Community/Parish Engagement and Encampment: Emma Brass explained that she had attended Long Marton Parish Council to discuss matters, with the Council interested in having Long Marton included in feedback from the Traffic Regulation Order relating to transit sites.

Cllr Dew noted the need to be proactive about the need for additional transit sites along the A685, especially given concerns regarding safety along the road, and advised of the need to put a financial package together to compensate individuals for the inconvenience of using their land as stopping places. Emma Brass noted that officers were engaging with the Ministry of Defence about the field at Brough Hill, and were actively looking at other fields and working to improve facilities at existing fields.

Licensing: It was advised that 12/38 Licensed premises had been engaged with regarding Appleby Fair and that invites for the Safety Advisory Group meeting for the Travelling Man Festival would be released in March.

South Lakeland Issues: It was noted that the Planning Application for Scrogg's bank field had been submitted for early March.

Communications: John Everingham advised that the Communications plan would be ready by the end of this week. The website was progressing nicely, with content being added onto the site over the coming days. Work on a residents leaflet will start soon, and there had been some localised promotion of the local member drop in at Appleby Library.

6. Any Other Business

a) Closure of Broad Close Car Park

Sue Gilbertson advised that Appleby Town Council had received a new scheduled for works from the Environment Agency for flood prevention works at Broad Close Car Park. The main works were programmed to start in May, and the Car Park would be closed around then. Concerns were raised surrounding the temporary car park, which would not be managed pay and display, and may be used by campers overnight.

Bill Lloyd underlined the fact that this was a significant cause of friction with local residents due to breaches of parking regulations and an increasing tendency for people to park up on residential streets overnight.

It was agreed that Laura McClellan would liaise with the civil enforcement team and the Operational Working Group and would bring the issue back to MASCG with solutions to alleviate concerns raised.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 9.30am via Teams