

Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group

20 May 2024 at 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendance: Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council (Chair);
Daniel StQuintin, Cumbria Constabulary;
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council;
John Everingham, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways;
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland & Furness Council;
John Banks, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Cllr Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr John Murray, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr Ian Mitchell, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary;
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary;
Sophie Tinnon-Davies, Cumbria Constabulary;
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary;
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA;
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council;
Amanda Cruddas, Environment Agency;
Richard Batham, Highways England;
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;
Peter Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue;
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue.
Caroline Stuart, North West Ambulance Service;
Nicolas Griggs, North West Ambulance Service;
Alec Swatton, Westmorland & Furness Council.

1. Apologies

Rob Melloy, RSPCA;
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary;
Steve Hunter, Cumbria Constabulary;
Ross Woods, Cumbria Constabulary;
Katie Jones, Cumbria Constabulary;
Eleanor Chiverton, Environment Agency;
Trevor Marsh, Environment Agency;
Paul Goddard, North West Ambulance Service;
Cllr Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council
Sue Warner, Westmorland and Furness Council;

2. Minutes of MASCG Meeting held on 22 March 2024

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings of the MASCG meeting held on the 22 April 2024.

3. Matters arising from last meeting.

Dan St Quintin confirmed that following legal advice the contents of the Police Gold Strategy could not be publicised. However, the detail in the MASCG minutes of 22 April 2024, provided a strategic overview of the approach.

Cllr Dew informed MASCG that a temporary height restrictor had been installed at the car park in Kirkby Stephen, and that the CCTV had been connected too. He thanked all involved.

4. Agency Updates

Steph Cordon asked for an update from all the agencies represented on MASCG

Cumbria Police – Request for additional safety measures

Further information had been requested by the Coroner from the police as part of information for the forthcoming Inquest on 21 May 2024 into the death of Denis Ward. The police had put forward the following suggestions for formal consideration by MASCG. But due to the short timeframe, they had also been shared direct with W&F Council Highways Team and communications to enable to share with MASCG any possible deliverable actions for 2024 Fair.

Dan StQuintin provided the suggestions and proposed solutions:

- Consideration of bespoke road signage warning of the risk in key locations to discourage people from jumping onto vehicles.- Action- Highways have produced signs in consultation with partners which highlight the risks and at key locations agreed with the police.
- Consideration of traffic calming measures on Battlebarrow. Action – Highways have consulted with RSPCA and police about traffic and horse slowing measures and a 30 mph speed limit will be in operation across the area.
- Consideration by MASCG to highlight risks of practice of jumping on back of vehicles to get lift up the hill in the communications strategy. Action- all road safety messages to include the dangers of jumping on vehicles.
- Provision of additional police resources along the stretch of road at peak times. Cumbria Constabulary to provide specific briefing to officers deployed to prevent people from jumping onto vehicles wherever possible and also stopping traffic to avoid vehicles leaving Appleby onto major roads with people on the back of them. Action agreed.

MASCG agreed all of the above actions and proposed solutions that were or have been put into place.

A further update was provided regarding operational planning for this years Fair, from a policing perspective, with it being noted that everything was on track to be ready for the Fair. As a result of the site visit on 3 May 2024, risk assessments would be produced in relation to specific locations or operations.

RSPCA – Leanne Plumtree provided an update from the RSCPA, who were all ready to go from an operations point of view. Leanne stated that the education team, will attend Wickham Horse Fair in advance, with a view to prepare for Appleby Fair. The Best of Appleby awards, which were awards given to happy/healthiest horses at the fair, will celebrate its 10th Anniversary this year.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue – Peter Kavanagh provided a short update from Cumbria Fire and Rescue, with preparations on track to be completed in time for the Fair.

North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) – Nicolas Griggs provided an update on behalf of NWAS, with the service having completed their staffing and operational command arrangements.

Caroline Stuart, NWAS –Duty NILO for 8 June, would be on site in Appleby
NWAS would attend daily MASCG on a business need only on the run up to the Fair. Agencies who needed partner support should contact them direct or request attendance.

Environment Agency – Amanda Cruddas provided an update from the Environment Agency, with the main update surrounding that it had been confirmed that United Utilities confirmed that diversions should be finished by the end of May and that no more work would be started until after the Fair.

For the benefit of MASCG, Steph Cordon explained that a question had been raised about whether a net should be raised across the River Eden. The Environment Agency had come to the conclusion that this would be more harmful then helpful, but that there would be a specific clean-up operation focused around the river.

Westmorland and Furness Council - The majority of Council activity was covered under the Operational Working Group agenda item.

5. **Update on Pre-Appleby Fair Public Meeting 15 May 2024**

An update was provided regarding the Pre-Fair public meeting, held on 15 May, which was well attended with positive engagement. Consideration and thought was being given to how to further improve the format of the meetings.

Action agreed for Nick Wright to come back to a future MASCG in advance of the post Fair meeting around how to achieve that. Major Incident Plan

Steph Cordon noted that several Risk Assessments had been completed by the Council regarding specific sites, and that these had been shared with partners. Steph explained that she would write a draft high level major

incident plan to pick up key themes at Appleby Fair that would sit under the Cumbria Emergency Plan and be available on Resilience Direct. .

6. Operational Working Group Update

Nick Wright provided an update from the Operational Working Group, which last met on 15 May. Notable points included:

Learning Lessons Report Action Plan Update (By exception) – No exceptions to report. .

Risk Assessments and Site Visit 3 May 2024 – Arising from the 3 May site visit to Appleby, the Council had compiled a draft Risk Register for all of the activities that the Council undertakes relating to the Fair. The Risk Register considers both general issues and specific hazards. Nick Wright asked for feedback to the Risk Register and asked if any comments could be circulated back to himself.

Travelling Man Festival (TMF) – The TMF was now back in operation and the second Safety Advisory Group had met. There were still some outstanding issues and it was highlighted that the Heras Fencing should be provided and the top gate only used for emergency egress for safety and public disorder offences. Further details of Event Safety Management Plan would be provided if appropriate to MASCG. But at this stage no significant concerns to report.

Highways – Laura McLellan provided an update regarding highways, including; traffic-calming measures introduced in response to the coroner's inquest; an update surrounding Flashing Lane; and the 40pmh signs along the A685 to assist the police with their patrols.

Community/Parish Engagement and Encampment – Emma Brass provided an update relating to Parish engagement, with everything going according to plan. Cllr Dew noted that there was currently an encampment on A685. Daniel St Quintin explained that the dedicated Police patrols start on Thursday morning.

Licensing – A list of licensed premises and their opening hours and restrictions were on the Appleby Fair website.

South Lakeland Issues – There were no significant updates.

Communications – John Everingham provided an update regarding Communications. Various press organisations had run two stories relating to the cost of the fair, with a media enquiry also being received about the same issue. Other communications updates included the distribution of the public information leaflet, and a request from the UKHS for communications to increase awareness around the MMR vaccination.

7. Any Other Business

Steph reminded MASCG to provide emergency contacts to Alec Swatton to allow an emergency contact list to be compiled before the Fair.

8. Confirm Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 28 May 2024, 9-10am via Microsoft Teams.