

# Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group

22 April 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;  
Jessica Sarjeant, Westmorland & Furness Council;  
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council Highways;  
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland & Furness Council;  
Sue Warner, Westmorland and Furness Council;  
John Banks, Westmorland and Furness Council;  
Cllr Phil Dew, Westmorland & Furness Council;  
Cllr John Murray, Westmorland & Furness Council;  
Cllr Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council;  
Katie Callon, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Katie Jones, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Rob Melloy, RSPCA;  
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council;  
Eleanor Chiverton, Environment Agency;  
Jeff Nowell, Environment Agency;  
Richard Batham, Highways England;  
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;  
Billy Welch, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;  
Peter Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue;  
Caroline Stuart, North West Ambulance Service;  
Paul Goddard, North West Ambulance Service;  
Alec Swatton, Westmorland & Furness Council.

#### 1. Apologies

Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA;  
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire & Rescue.  
Steve Hunter, Cumbria Constabulary;  
Ross Woods, Cumbria Constabulary.

#### 2. Minutes of MASCG Meeting held on 19 March 2024

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings held on the 19 March 2024.

#### 3. Agency Updates

This agenda item was not covered due to the volume of items on the agenda.

#### **4. Update on Gold Strategy Report**

Daniel StQuintin from presented an overview of the Police Gold Strategy. Highlights of this presentation included:

- The Police structure in relation to Appleby Far;
- Code of Ethics that Police Officers will follow during the fair.
- The role of the Police in the Fair.
- National guidance on events that the Police will follow.
- Information and Intelligence.
- Threats and risks faced at the fair, for example road safety, confined area, the safeguarding of vulnerable people, etc.
- Outlined 16 Strategic objectives for the Police to take reasonable steps to ensure public safety during all phases of the Fair.
- Policing style, powers and policies that officers will follow during the fair, including the use of force.
- Outcomes for the Fair, from a policing point of view, including preferred, acceptable, and unacceptable outcomes
- Relevant legislation and commitment to police within a Human Rights context.

After a brief presentation, Daniel StQuintin invited comments or queries. He also noted that he would only share the Gold Strategy Report only to the Chair of MASCG, and not widely to MASCG, due to report containing sensitive information.

Cllr Phil Dew had the following questions:

- (1) Would it be possible for MASCG members, or the wider public, to see a redacted version without sensitive information included? Daniel StQuintin said he would seek legal advice on what can be published in the plan. Steph Cordon noted that all Gold documents tend stay internal to organisations. Cllr Dew explained his belief, that if the public knew the plan/objectives of the plan, this would help to alleviate some concerns.
- (2) Does the Strategy cover the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and associated guidance on that Act? Daniel StQuintin explained that the plan did not specifically cover this legislation, due to the fact that this this legislation is yet to be tested in Court.
- (3) How does the strategy relate to the risk plan/strategic plan mentioned in Learning Lessons report and communications strategy? Daniel StQuintin explained that that there would be a multi-agency site visit on the 3 May that will link into the Risk Assessment/Emergency Plan.
- (4) How does the plan link in with the Communications strategy, which is all about communicating the facts alluded to in the Gold Strategy. Daniel

StQuintin explained that the Communications Plan would be guided by the Police Gold strategy.

Bill Lloyd asked if there would be any significant change to policing this year, bearing in mind the provision of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. Daniel St Quintin explained that because the 2022 legislation is yet to be properly tested in court, advice has been given to the police to use it with caution. It was explained that the legislation, whilst would be available, would not be at the forefront of police actions.

Steph Cordon noted that, on the same day as Appleby Fair, a celebration of Dave Myers Life, Dave Day, would be taking place in Barrow-in-Furness, with thousands expected to attend, therefore there would be significant resource challenges faced on the day, and that this should be factored into existing plans. Kate Callon noted that the Police had contact with a group from the North East, and directed them to travel via the M6, due to the A66 at Appleby potentially being hazardous due to the number of people attending the fair. Steph Cordon stated that MASCG would be kept updated around any pressure to resources.

## **5. Draft Traffic Management Plan – Including Flashing Lane Barriers/Pavement**

Laura McClellan presented an overview of the Draft Traffic Management Plan, which largely consisted of new measures introduced this year, including the following additions:

- 30 mph restriction around Appleby under temporary powers;
- Bunding along the A685 from Kirkby Stephen to Winton;
- New Footway and Pedestrian Guard Rail along the road known as 'Flashing Lane'
- Temporary Traffic Calming Measures, for example, chicanes, speed tables. Laura noted that she would welcome the police and RSPCA comments in relation to those proposals.
- One-way restriction on Boroughgate Side Road, arising from the public meeting following last year's Fair.
- Murton Parking Restrictions, as the Parish Council had raised concerns surrounding inappropriate parking during Phase 1 of the 2023 Fair, on the village green.
- Leisure centre car park and high restriction measure to prevent illegal overnight parking.
- Proposed changes to posting on Burrels Road.
- Slow Moving Vehicles Warning Signage.
- Flood recovery works and the closure of Broadclose Car Park, with a temporary car park in operation to replace the closed Car Park.
- Improvement to on-street enforcement following a reassessment of Civil Enforcement Patrols.

Billy Welch asked if it would be possible to meet Laura or a member of her team in next week or so in regards to Flashing Lane. Laura welcomed this proposal and said that a member of her team would be available.

MASCG agreed to adopt the Traffic Management Plan subject to the discussions regarding the Temporary Traffic Calming Measures.

## **6. Communications and Engagement Strategy**

John Everingham outlined the Draft Communications and Engagement Strategy, including the following points:

- Communications objectives in relation to Appleby Fair.
- Key audiences of the plan.
- Communication tools that would be utilised.
- Communication challenges specific to the Fair.
- Key dates and deadlines.
- Branding and photography.
- An update regarding the Community Information Leaflet.
- Accessibility and languages.

Thereafter, John Everingham invited comments.

Kellie Bradburn-Sims noted that there was an additional Community Drop in-session that needed to be added to the Key Dates contained in the plan (Wednesday 17 April), in addition to the pre-and post-fair public meetings.

Cllr John Murray outlined his concerns that the plan was an Appleby headed strategy, and the Horse Fair starts well in advance of Appleby in Kirkby Stephen. Cllr Murray also noted his concerns regarding phrases such as perceived economic impacts. John Everingham noted that the Community Information Leaflet will go out early may, to the towns and villages around Appleby, and alleviated concerns that the plan was Appleby heavy.

Lee Skelton explained that the Police are aware of the significance of the powers contained in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and provided re-assurance that these powers would be used appropriately. It was noted that the Police would judge each encampment depending on its individual basis and specific circumstance. Encampments, it was explained, are continually assessed, given the larger number of considerations that go into re-locating an encampment, the powers granted by legislation would only be used where necessary.

MASCG agreed to adopt the Communications and Engagement Plan subject to the addition of the Community Drop in-session and the pre and post-fair public meeting dates.

## **7. Operational Working Group Update**

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

**Highways** – Laura McClellan explained that most of the Highways updated had been discussed earlier, as they related to the Traffic Management Plan. However, she noted that the Traffic Management Plan next year would include a section in relation to South Lakeland area, as it makes more sense to have one document post-Local Government Reorganisation now.

**Community/Parish Engagement and Encampment** – Emma Brass noted that contact was being made with local parishes to agree measures for this year's fair, additionally, elected member drop ins were getting busier in the run up to the Fair.

**Licensing** – Emma Brass explained that the main Licensing updated was in regards to the Temporary Event Notice has come in for mobile bar and Travelling Man Festival, which had caused some queries from residents. Emma noted that the only organisations that can actually object is the Police and the Environmental Protection Team at the Local Authority. Emma also noted that the new managers of the Pennine hotel still intended to open at present time.

Cllr Phil Dew enquired about the possibility of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) being put in place outside of the Pennine before the Fair. Laura McClellan noted that she had already arranged for this to be put in place and would install a temporary pedestrian barrier to avoid confusion for vehicles.

**South Lakeland Issues** – Sue Warner explained the new owner of Scroggs Bank fields had agreed that this would remain as a stopping place for travellers for years to come

**Communications** – John Everingham confirmed that the MASCG Appleby Horse Fair website had now been transferred into in-house ownership, and that there were no further significant updates from a Communications perspective. Steph asked if the FAQ's from the drop-in sessions could be updated on the website and social media channels.

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **a. Kirkby Stephen - Possibility of temporary height restrictor for car park at Kirkby Stephen and CCT provision during the Fair.**

Cllr Phil Dew enquired regarding the possibility of a temporary height restrictor for the Kirkby Stephen Car Park and noted that the issue regarding CCT provision had not yet been resolved.

Steph Cordon asked Cllr Phil Dew to have a separate conversation about the instillation of a temporary height restrictor, and the police had been in contact with the clerk of Kirkby Stephen in relation to the CCTV issue.

### **b. 2024 Encampment Protocol and Update on Transit sites**

Cllr Phil Dew noted that the 2024 Encampment Protocol needed to be reviewed and should be accessible to members of the public. Emma Brass noted that the document was jointly agreed with police involvement and was brought too, and agreed by, MASCG last year.

**9. Confirm Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 2pm via Microsoft Teams.