

Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group
24 March 2025 at 1.00pm
Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendance: Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council (Chair);
Daniel StQuintin, Cumbria Constabulary;
Emma Brass, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Laura McLellan, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr Adrian Waite Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr Lorna Baker, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Cllr Ian Mitchell, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Rob Melloy, RSPCA;
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA;
Owen McCarney, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service;
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary;
Katie Jones, Cumbria Constabulary;
Nicolas Griggs, North West Ambulance Service;
Rebecca Anderson, North Cumbria Integrated Care;
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council;
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy & Traveller Representative;
Richard Batham, National Highways;
Marie Gerrard, National Highways;
Helen Nolan, National Highways;
Sam Turner, National Highways;
Alec Swatton, Westmorland & Furness Council.

1. Apologies

John Everingham, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Sue Warner, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Jessica Sarjeant, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Richard Scoffham, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary;
Martina Rodrigues, National Highways;
Neil Aitken, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service;
Dave Love, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service;
Peter Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue;
Eleanor Chiverton, Environment Agency;
Jan Wharton, North Cumbria Integrated Care;
Caroline Stuart, North West Ambulance Service;

Pete Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue;

2. Minutes of MASCG held on 24 February 2025

These were agreed as a true record of proceedings of the MASCG meeting held on 24 February 2025.

3. RSPCA – Partner Agencies

Rob Melloy provided an update from the RSPCA, and explained that the animal welfare operation at the Fair had significantly expanded and incorporated into the Appleby Horse Project. Volunteers from the following organisations were represented on the Appleby Horse Project:

- RSPCA;
- Redwings Horse Sanctuary;
- Blue Cross;
- World Horse Welfare;
- Bransby Horse and Rescue.

4. Works at A66 – Bowes, County Durham

Laura McClellan provided an overview of the planned works on the A66 at Bowes, County Durham, by National Highways. Representatives from National Highways (Marie Gerrard, Helen Nolan and Sam Turner), attended to the meeting to answer any questions. Notable points included:

- There would be major Traffic Management on the A66 around Bowes, County Durham as a result of the works.
- No other works would occur during the National Highways Appleby Horse Embargo, which ran from the 9 May – 15 June.

5. Operational Working Group Update

Nick Wright provided an update from the Operational Working Group, which last met on the 10 March 2025. The following items of significance were noted:

- **Highways – Traffic Management Plan** – There were no new measures in place for the 2025 Fair. MASCG subsequently agreed to approve the 2025 Traffic Management Plan.
- **Parish Engagement** – It was noted that engagements with Town and Parish Councils were increasing, as the Fair grew nearer.

6. Agency Updates

Steph Cordon asked for an update from the agencies represented on MASCG. There were the following significant updates:

Cumbria Police – An update was provided which pertained to operational and planning matters related to the Fair.

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service – An update was provided which pertained to operational and planning matters related to the Fair, including confirming the availability of fire equipment during the event.

Appleby Town Council – An update was provided which relayed concerns from the Town Council with regards to tolerated encampments, both within and outside of the 1.5-mile radius, concerns from residents with regards to parking enforcement, and with regards to the recently published ORS Consultants Report.

There was no further significant updates from any other organisation represented on MASCG.

7. Communications and Engagement Update

An update was provided regarding Communications and Engagement. A new format for the public Pre & Post Fair Meetings was proposed. The new format would include:

- A 3-hour drop in session (increased from 1.5 hours).
- Opening presentations from Council and Police.
- A discussion format thereafter open for the public to drop in.

A discussion ensued around the positives and negatives of the proposal, and at the end of the discussion, MASCG endorsed these recommendations and agreed to change the format of the Pre & Post Fair Public Meetings.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further significant business discussed.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Monday 28 April 2025 (1.00pm – 3.00pm) – Microsoft Teams.