

Appleby Horse Fair Pre-Fair Drop-In Event

Appleby Town Public Hall

23 June 2025 5pm-8pm

Continued format change for the drop in

The Post-Fair Event was organised by Westmorland & Furness Council of behalf of the Multi Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCG), and followed the new format initially trialled at the Pre-Fair meeting. The opening remarks were followed by a flexible layout, where members of the public in attendance were free to move around the hall to talk to representatives from a range of agencies and council departments relevant to Appleby Horse Fair.

Cllr Graham Simpkins (Westmorland and Furness Council Member for Appleby & Brough) introduced Steph Cordon (Chair of MASCG and Director of Thriving Communities, Westmorland & Furness Council) and Detective Superintendent Dan St Quintin (Appleby Fair Gold Commander) who gave opening remarks describing this year's Fair.

Most feedback with regards to structure of the Post-Fair Event, that mirrored that of the pre-fair event, was positive. Attendees described how the format enabled more focused, constructive conversations, along with personal and prompt responses. Additionally it included those members of the community that may not feel comfortable raising their comments in an open public setting.

Agencies in attendance

- Cumbria Constabulary
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue
- RSPCA
- Highways (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Environmental Protection including Licensing and Trading Standards (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Street Cleaning and Waste Management (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Safe & Strong Communities (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Appleby Town Council
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Representatives
- Elected Members from Westmorland and Furness Council representing Appleby & Brough, Kirkby Stephen & Tebay and Eden & Lyvevnet Vale

Number of attendees

Attendance at the post-fair event was **approximately 40 people**.

Issues raised and actions taken

1. Positive Responses

There were attendees to the post fair meeting, who attended to communicate that they were happy with the response provided and had no issues to raise, only attending to say "thank you". Of particular note was the praise given to the clean-up crew.

2. Clean-Up

Some attendees raised areas which could benefit from additional cleaning, such as areas around Dufton. Some of these areas were identified as private land. Westmorland and Furness Council, who primarily lead on the clean-up following the fair, are unable to provide cleaning for areas of private land, but will be working with partners and local charities to look at some additional options to support these area.

An additional post fair cleanse was requested on the footway from The Grapes to the Station Road junction was requested. This was something Westmorland and Furness Council was able to action during the 2025 fair and will continue to action annually.

3. Planning permission for licensed sites

Some of the local licensed caravan sites discussed how they would go about applying for a variation for some of these conditions. Information was provide on this process, any costs involved and the offer for further advice, if required.

4. Dates of opening for licensed premises within Appleby

The dates of opening for some of the licensed premises within Appleby was discussed, with some useful conversations taking place and a response provided to any questions on that evening.

5. Burrells and Ormside

MASCG and it's members were made aware of the impact felt by residents in the Burrells and Ormside area during the periods both before and during the fair. This will be raised as a key issue for MASCG and there will be numerous agencies exploring the powers and legislation available to improve the situation for next years fair.

6. Policing

Several people approached Cumbria Police to raise issues around Croft Ends, Dufton, Burrells and Powis Lane, all of which are being considered within the policing plan for next years Horse Fair.

7. Horse Tethering

The new Horse tethering area sited in from of Appleby Library gained mixed feedback. This horse tethering area was made available in the days before the fair commenced and the restrictions on horses crossing the bridge came into effect.

This site was successfully used for the tethering of horses, with some agreeing that there needs to be somewhere for horses to be tethered, describing how it had reduced horse tethering problems at the cloisters and market square. Some however voiced annoyance at being unable to park their vehicles within the library parking area during this time and raised that this temporarily reduced the amount of disables parking available. This feedback will be considered for next years fair period.