

Appleby Fair Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group
23rd January 2026, 13:00
Microsoft Teams
Minutes

Attendance:

Daniel St Quintin, Cumbria Constabulary (Chair)
Neil Buck, Westmorland & Furness Council
Cllr Adrian Waite, Westmorland & Furness Council
Lee Skelton, Cumbria Constabulary
Neil Graham, Cumbria Constabulary
Kate Oliver, Cumbria Constabulary
Katie Jones, Cumbria Constabulary
Philip Hall, Cumbria Constabulary
Mo Bibby, Cumbria Constabulary
Jan Wharton, North Cumbria Integrated Care
Eleanor Chiverton, Environment Agency
Bill Lloyd, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Peter Kavanagh, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Emma Brass, Westmorland and Furness Council
John Everingham, Westmorland and Furness Council
Cllr Lorna Baker, Westmorland and Furness Council
Ruth Coates, Cumbria Constabulary
Ross Woods, Cumbria Constabulary
Jessica Sargeant, Westmorland and Furness Council;
Laura McClellan, Westmorland & Furness Council;
Dave Love, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service;
Caroline Stuart, North West Ambulance Service;
Nicholas Griggs, North West Ambulance Service;
Martina Rodrigues, National Highways;
Rob Melloy, RSPCA.
Nick Wright, Westmorland & Furness Council
Cllr Graham Simpkins, Westmorland & Furness Council
Sue Warner, Westmorland and Furness Council
Catherine Hornby, Westmorland and Furness Council
Leanne Plumtree, RSPCA
Sue Gilbertson, Appleby Town Council.
Jan Wharton, NCIC
Sharon Jordan, Westmorland & Furness Council (Minutes)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from:

Steph Cordon, Westmorland & Furness Council
Fiona Stewart, Environment Agency
Kellie Bradburn-Sims, Westmorland and Furness Council
Owen McCarney, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Neil Aitkin, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service;
Lindsey Taylor, RSPCA
Shelley Wilkinson, Westmorland and Furness Council
Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller Representative
Richard Scoffham, Westmorland & Furness Council

2. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Dan St Quintin in Steph Cordon's absence. Representatives from local authorities, police, emergency services, National Highways, health partners, the RSPCA, and Gypsy and Traveller communities were welcomed and introductions made.

3. Minutes of MASCG held on 4th December 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2025 were agreed as an accurate record. A follow-up meeting with the landowner at Croft End Farm regarding temporary transit arrangements has been completed.

4. Operational Working Group Update

Positive engagement continues with parish councils and residents, including recent meetings and drop-in sessions. Work is progressing on licensing enforcement planning, traffic restrictions, and preparations along key routes.

A revised Traffic Management Plan is expected in early February. Early arrivals for the Fair are currently planned to be supported from 18 May 2026, subject to ongoing review as more information becomes available.

5. Agency Updates

The following significant updates from agencies represented on MASCG:

- Cumbria Police
Cumbria Police confirmed that planning for the 2026 operation is well underway. Kim Brown has been appointed Silver Commander. Additional traffic management support will be in place, and

accommodation planning for officers is progressing. HMIC will be reviewing how police support Safety Advisory Groups, including those linked to Appleby Horse Fair.

- **RSPCA**
The RSPCA confirmed that Lindsey Taylor will take over area responsibilities in April. The group thanked outgoing representative Rob Melloy for his long-standing contribution.
- **North West Ambulance Service**
NWAS confirmed that plans are consistent with previous years and no issues are currently anticipated.
- **Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service**
Fire and Rescue confirmed onsite cover will be provided Thursday–Saturday during the Fair, as in previous years.
- **Westmorland & Furness Council**
Planning continues across council services following the recent multi-agency scenario exercise. No major issues have been identified at this stage.
- **National Highways**
National Highways reported no major impacts expected from roadworks during the 2026 event. Speed restrictions on the A66 will remain as a safety measure. Planning continues for works scheduled for 2027, which may affect the Fair that year.
- **Appleby Town Council**
Town Council representatives are continuing to work with the Council on town centre and parking arrangements. Harness racing is expected to take place on its usual dates.

6. Feedback from Scenario Planning Exercise – Verbal Update

A recent multi-agency scenario planning workshop was well received and helped partners test a range of realistic event-related situations. Learning from the exercise will feed into the multi-agency risk assessment and response plan.

7. Communications and Engagement Update

Updates to the Appleby Horse Fair website are ongoing, including improved accessibility and clearer information for the public. A drop-in event at Appleby Library was well attended and further engagement work is planned. Social media activity will increase ahead of the 2026 Fair.

8. Any Other Business

Discussions were held around the arrangements for tethering areas, safety measures near the Royal Oak, and the need for clear planning of horse parking and car parking. A joint plan will be developed and reported back to the group. Additional toilet provision was raised, with further information to be confirmed.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday 27 February 2026 (13:00–15:00) via Microsoft Teams.