

Appleby Horse Fair Pre-Fair Drop-In Event

Appleby Town Public Hall

17th June 2026 5pm-8pm

The Post-Fair Event was organised by Westmorland & Furness Council on behalf of the Multi Agency Strategic Coordination Group (MASCG). 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 Lorna Baker (Westmorland & Furness Council Member for Eden and Lyvennet Vale and Chair of Eden Locality Board) introduced Claire Notman (Chair of MASCG and Senior Manager Communities, Westmorland & Furness Council) and Detective Superintendent Dan St Quintin (Appleby Fair Gold Commander for the police operation).

While a small number of attendees preferred the previous format, the majority of feedback was positive on the structure of the Post-Fair Event; which mirrored that of the pre-fair event. 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
- 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 & Lyvennet Vale

Number of attendees

Attendance at the post-fair event was **approximately 67 people**.

Positive Responses

Several residents attended to communicate they were happy with the management of the Fair and had no issues to raise, only attending to say “thank you”. Of note was the success of pre-fair engagement and the work done at Powis Lane / Roman Road and Croft Ends.

1. Parking

This year building and improvement works affected several town centre car parks limiting on street parking. The resident car parking scheme worked well. A suggestion was made that Garth Heads Road is resident parking at nighttime. WCF Highways to work with Police improving understanding of TRO and blue badge exemption moving forward.



Concerns raised that Settle – Carlisle railway users couldn't access the station car park; requests that station car park is accessible for train users throughout the 2027 Fair.

2. Horse Tethering / Welfare

Several people asked that consideration is given to whether greater enforcement, traffic management or intervention is required to prevent an avoidable incident from occurring; re horses tethered boundary walls, driving of sulkies at speed outside the flashing lane.

Requests that RSPCA and Partners are on hand two weeks before the Fair to monitor and deal with situations if necessary. Requested that RSPCA increase their promotion of how to report and communicate concerns during this time.

3. Policing

Cumbria Police received feedback on the chicanes at Battlebarrow, the policing of pubs before and during the Fair, carrying horse whips, New Bridge Picnic Site- Sedbergh, banning orders and trees being used for firewood. Several positive comments were made about the use of Live Facial Recognition vans. All will be considered within the policing plan for next year's Fair.

4. Clean up post Fair

Gully on The Sands to be cleaned out.

5. Opening of licensed premises within Appleby and Kirkby Stephen

Licensing of premises was discussed. Licensing informed that all licensed premises show their opening hours / operating conditions on:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/licensing/licensing-register>

6. Access

Residents of Ormside, Burrells, Brampton and Winton made MASCG members aware of the impact of 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 year's Fair.

The Sands pavements being accessible for people with mobility issues during the Fair was raised.

7. Fair Hill

Discussions were had with several MASCG agencies regarding the leasing; insurance, ticket prices for pitches and other finances.

8. Costs

Discussions were had on the costs of the Fair on the MASCG website. Points were noted.