

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 20 OCTOBER 2021 7PM THE PUBLIC HALL APPLEBY

The following is a statement from ATC responding to a question posed by The People's Fair at the Full Council meeting 22 September 2021

“Will Appleby Town Council take control of Fair Hill and take ownership of the Horse Fair?”

The Council considered this request at a meeting of its Planning and General-Purpose Committee meeting on 11th October 2021

The Committee decided to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the proposal be declined, for the following reasons.

A major issue for the Council is that “the Fair” is not a legally defined event, nor is it run by any recognised body. There is therefore no legal mechanism for the Council to take on the running of the Fair and the issues involved are much more complex than the question anticipates.

Furthermore, Appleby Town Council is a parish council and does not have the resources or expertise to “run” Appleby Horse Fair, which is a gathering involving an influx of thousands of people into the town, over multiple sites and over a period of weeks. This requires operational and planning expertise and financial resources that are significantly beyond the capacity and limited means of Appleby Town Council.

In the circumstances, it would be both highly inadvisable (legally) and financially imprudent for the Council to commit to “running” the Fair, as suggested.

This is why the Committee declined to make the recommendation proposed.

Nevertheless, the Council wishes to engage proactively with those community groups who have expressed an interest in improving the Fair and its impact on the town, in particular by listening to ideas as to how the Fair Hill might be placed on a more commercial footing. To this end, the Council has suggested that its current ‘Fair Hill Committee’ be expanded to 5 members (4 councillors and the Town Clerk), with the immediate remit of meeting with representatives of the Peoples Fair Group at the earliest opportunity to discuss their ideas.

Dr Gareth Hayes

Mayor of Appleby

12 October 2021

Approved 20 October 2021