

KIRKBY STEPHEN TOWN COUNCIL

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Statement regarding 'Appleby Fair Communities Facebook Group' Call for a Referendum.

27 June 2022.

Kirkby Stephen Town Council has to date received sixteen emails based on a template email addressed to Kirkby Stephen Town Council which was published on the Appleby Fair Communities Group Facebook page (posted on the 17 June at 9.07). Of the sixteen emails received to date six senders have identified themselves as Kirkby Stephen electors, two do not use their address and the remainder are from outside the Parish. Kirkby Stephen has an electorate of 1,460. Correspondents writing to the council using this template seek a 'referendum' or Parish Poll with three questions on the management and organisation of the Appleby Fair to be demanded at a 'Parish Meeting' in Kirkby Stephenⁱ.

Correspondents should be aware that Kirkby Stephen Town Council (together with a number of other local councils and Parish Meetings who have also received letters based on this template) has sought advice regarding the legal basis for a referendum or poll proposed by the author of the letter template and will respond to parishioners who have written to the council in due course. The expense of the Polls if they can be lawfully called according to the legislation quoted in the template and are accepted by the Returning Officer will be funded by each Parish in which they are held. The sum involved could be considerable for local communities across the Upper Eden area. The outcome of the polls would not be binding. Kirkby Stephen Parish Council convened the Annual 'Parish Meeting' for Kirkby Stephen on the 10 May this year.

The Town Council will next meet on Tuesday the 5th July at 6.45pm at the Upper Eden Rugby Club. In addition to the opportunity for parishioners' participation the Chairman wishes to include a debriefing of the impact of the Appleby Fair on Kirkby Stephen in 2022 on the agenda that night.

Kirkby Stephen Town Council is a Local or Parish Council. Parishioners with concerns on this issue are welcome to exercise their right to attend council meetings in person and to make their views known on this or any other matter of concern to the Parish. After public participation has been completed, participants may remain to observe the council's meeting and to speak if invited to do so by the council. Town Council meetings are not closed and one of the council's most significant duties is the wider representation of parish concerns.

If you are intending to come to the Town Council meeting on the 5th July it would be appreciated if you would let the council know by emailing the Town Clerk in order that sufficient seating can be provided.

A public meeting has been called to discuss the Appleby Horse Fair 2022 on Thursday 7th July 2022. 7pm to 8:30pm in the Public Hall, Appleby. Speakers include: Les Clark (Eden District Council), Chairman of the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group for Appleby Horse Fair and Superintendent Matthew Kennerley (Cumbria Police), Appleby Horse Fair Gold Command. For further information about this meeting contact: Eden Community Development Office 01768 812660.

ⁱ A 'Parish Meeting' is a specially called meeting that could include all the electors of a parish and is not the same as a meeting of the Town Council.