

Gargrave Parish Council

Stop-over Plan for Annual Appleby Fair Visitors to Gargrave



Amended 14th May 2026

Appleby Horse Fair - Background

Initially established in 1775 to sell sheep, cattle and horses - by the 1900s Appleby Horse Fair had evolved into a major Traveller Gypsy Roma (TGR) event. Appleby is some 66 miles north of Gargrave.

Appleby Horse Fair is the largest fair of its kind in Europe and is attended by 10,000 members of the TGR community.

Appleby Horse Fair - Impact on Gargrave

For many years the TGR community has used Gargrave as a stop-over, to rest and water their horses, on the way to and from Appleby Horse Fair. The main concentration of TGR on the way to Appleby is over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend (for 2026 Fri 22 - Mon 25 May). While some groups also return from the fair via Gargrave, the historic trend shows those numbers to be significantly less.

However, there is an upwards trend in TGR numbers passing through and stopping over in Gargrave on the way to Appleby and increasing numbers arrive in pickup trucks and cars with touring caravans. The 2024 migration to Appleby saw a rapid increase, which impacted residents particularly through noise and the loss of amenity. This caused some friction including several incidents of anti-social behaviour and one arrest for threatening behaviour. 2024 also saw damage to the infrastructure in and around the village greens.

Implementation of the plan in 2025

In 2025 this TGR plan was implemented with positive results:

21 Bow tops split into six separate groups, visited Gargrave across eight days during the outbound passage of TGR through Gargrave to Appleby.

While this represents just the outbound journey the results indicate that the TGR Plan is working:

- The birds' mouth fencing and lego-style blocks protected the village greens which helped reduced numbers to manageable levels.
- TGR groups communicated with each other - as one group left another group arrived. As a result, the impact on residents and the fabric of the village was significantly less than in 2024.
- There has been little disruption to village life with only minor issues – some of which were perpetrated by local youths but unfortunately blamed, through social media, on TGR.
- Except for the one incursion on Damside, all TGR groups set up along Mill Lane.
- The vast majority of TGR groups arrived by Bow top with very few mechanised vehicles and no road caravans.
- Each TGR group was met, welcomed and briefed. The overwhelming majority of individuals was receptive, and it was heartening to hear some say that they appreciated our help and that they thought our measures fair.
- The PC efforts have also been positively remarked on by residents through feedback to members of the TGR WG.

• Police support was good with some officers fully engaging with TGR and others providing a reassuring presence for residents. The only slight issue was that NYP support was not exactly as promised.

This latest, updated Plan for Gargrave will address the issues that have had the greatest impact on Gargrave. It will be resourced by Gargrave Parish Council (PC), North Yorkshire Police (NY Police) and North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and will be supported by residents of Gargrave.

Appleby Horse Fair 2026

Key Dates:

- Early May Bank Holiday: 4 May (weekend Fri 1 - Mon 4 May)
- **Spring Bank Holiday: 25 May (weekend Fri 22 - Mon 25 May).**
- Appleby Horse Fair: 4 - 10 Jun (main days Thu 4, Fri 5, Sat 6 & Sun 7 Jun).

Aim

The aim of the Plan for Gargrave is to limit areas available for TGR to camp within Gargrave thereby reducing numbers to manageable levels and restricted to their traditional corridor along Mill Lane.

The Plan

This Plan for Gargrave has been constructed solely by Gargrave Parish Council.

With the firm support of NY Police, NYC and the backing of residents, the plan will be realised by using permanent fencing augmented by temporary concrete Lego-style blocks that will seal the South Street Triangle, Middle Green and High Green from incursion from wheeled vehicles. The Plan will also be facilitated by:

- Creating a Conflict Free Environment.
- NY Police Presence.
- Clear Communications.
- Logistical Plan & Support.

The Plan in Detail:

Creating a Conflict Free Environment:

- **There is no capacity for motorised vehicles or road caravans as these will deprive space for TGR travelling by horse and Bow Top.**
- Gargrave Parish Council will continue to support TGR groups who seek rest for horses. The management of this support is outlined in the Flow Diagram at **Appendix 1**. This support is dependent on:
 - Duration of stop-over. Horse drawn Bow Tops will be permitted **one full day of rest**, as follows:
 - Day 1 – arrive
 - Day 2 – full day of rest
 - Day 3 – depart
 - Code of Conduct for TGR groups

- Each TGR group that arrives will be visited and briefed by a PC team. In addition, each group will be given a Code of Conduct (**Appendix 2**), a notice to vacate (**Appendix 3**) and waste bags (including dog poop bags).
- The PC team will maintain contact with each group during their transit through Gargrave.

NY Police Presence:

- **NY Police to provide a presence of police officers on site between 19th May and 4th June, daily from 12noon.**

Clear Communications:

The Communications Plan is outlined at **Appendix 5**, it incorporates:

- Establishment of a clear point of contact between the PC and NY Police.
- Highlighting the process for residents to contact and report incidents to NY Police. This is outlined at **Appendix 4**.
- Establishment of lines of communications from the PC to residents and local businesses.
- Community Facebook posts.

Logistical Plan & Support:

- Provision of a sacrificial strip of grass for horses along Mill Lane.
- Provision of waste bags and 3 additional refuse bins with regular emptying.
- Public lavatories to remain open and resourced during the day
- Portable toilets to be provided and serviced by NY Council from 19th May to 19th June

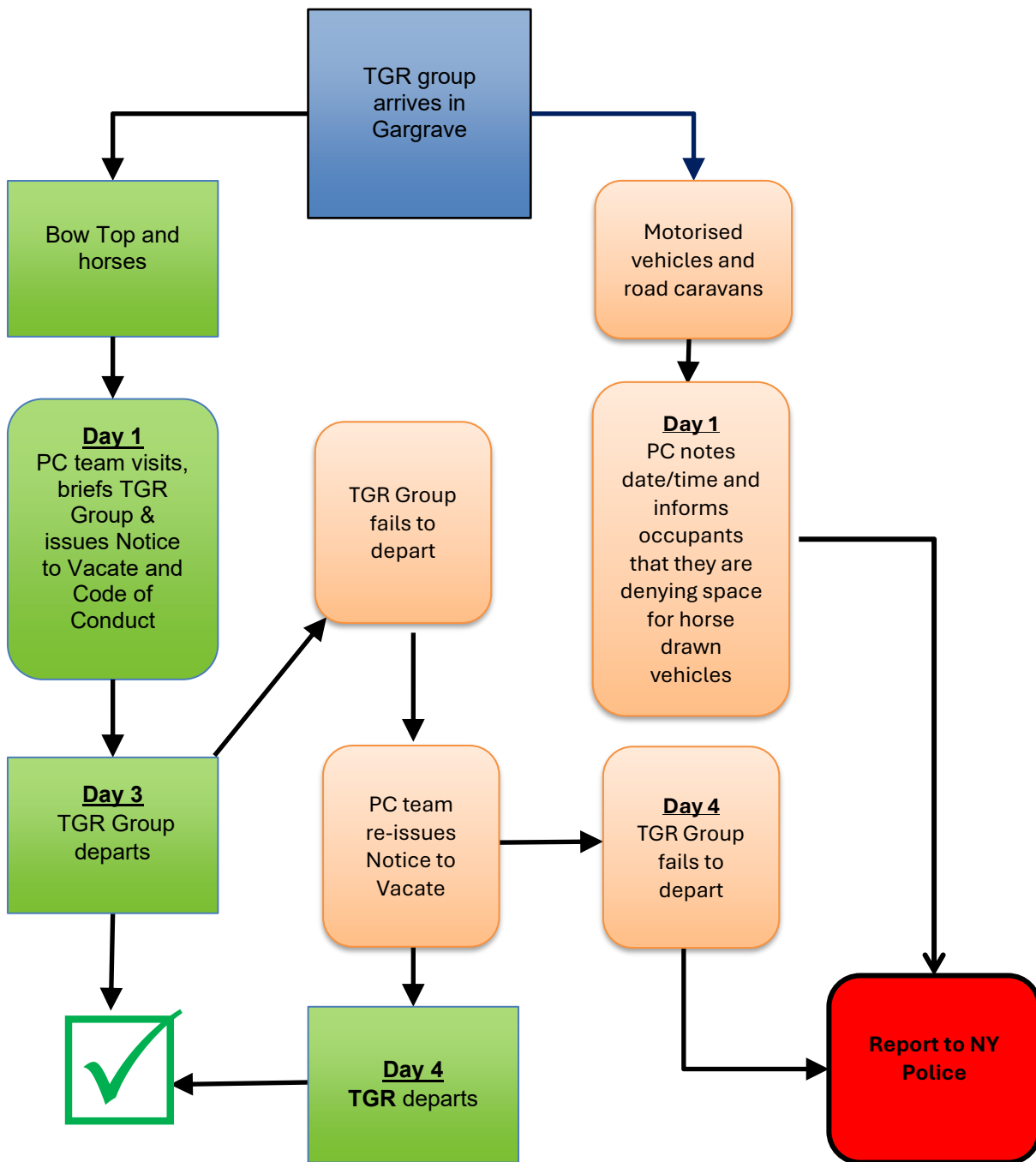
Clerk

Gargrave Parish Council

List of Appendices:




1. Management of Support to TGR Groups Flow Diagram
2. Code of Conduct for visitors
3. Notice to Vacate
4. Reporting an Incident to NY Police
5. Communication Plan
6. Using the TGR Plan

Management and Support to TGR Groups: Flow Diagram





Code of Conduct for visitors

Vehicles Permitted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't	What the Parish Council will do
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bow tops are welcome.</p>  <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motorised vehicles with road caravans deny space to horse drawn vehicles</p> 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please respect residents and their homes.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please keep horses secure at all times and dogs under control.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please ensure that all rubbish is placed in bins provided or in rubbish bags at all times.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please use the portable toilets provided.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Note, the public toilets in the village are open during the day 8am-8.30pm</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behave in an antisocial manner or damage private property.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Make fires on the village greens. (This is criminal damage).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park any vehicle on the public highway that will cause obstruction or restrict access for others.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fly tip.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race ponies and traps around the village.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We will provide rubbish bins and bags which are to be used at all times.</p>  <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We will visit daily to ensure that there are no issues for you and residents.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organise twice weekly cleaning of the portable toilets.</p>



NOTICE TO VACATE

To persons occupying caravans and/or all other vehicles, and any animals being kept on land known as Gargrave village greens.

Please take notice that you are occupying land owned by Gargrave Parish Council without consent.

Today's date is:

You are required to VACATE by:

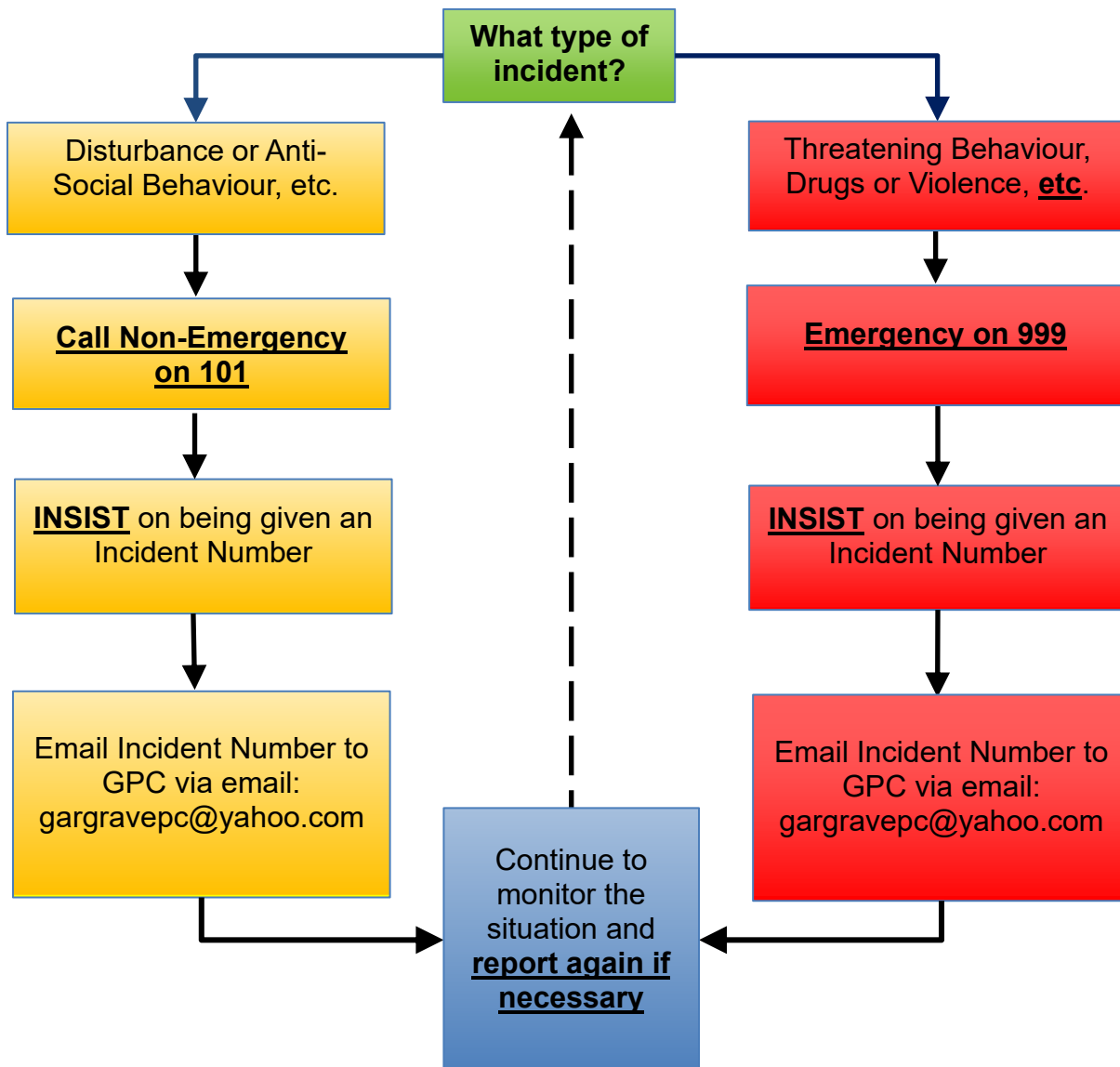
If you do not vacate by the date stipulated further proceedings may be taken to obtain possession.

Signature:

Councillor's Name:

On behalf of
Gargrave Parish Council

Reporting an incident to NY Police



Please note:

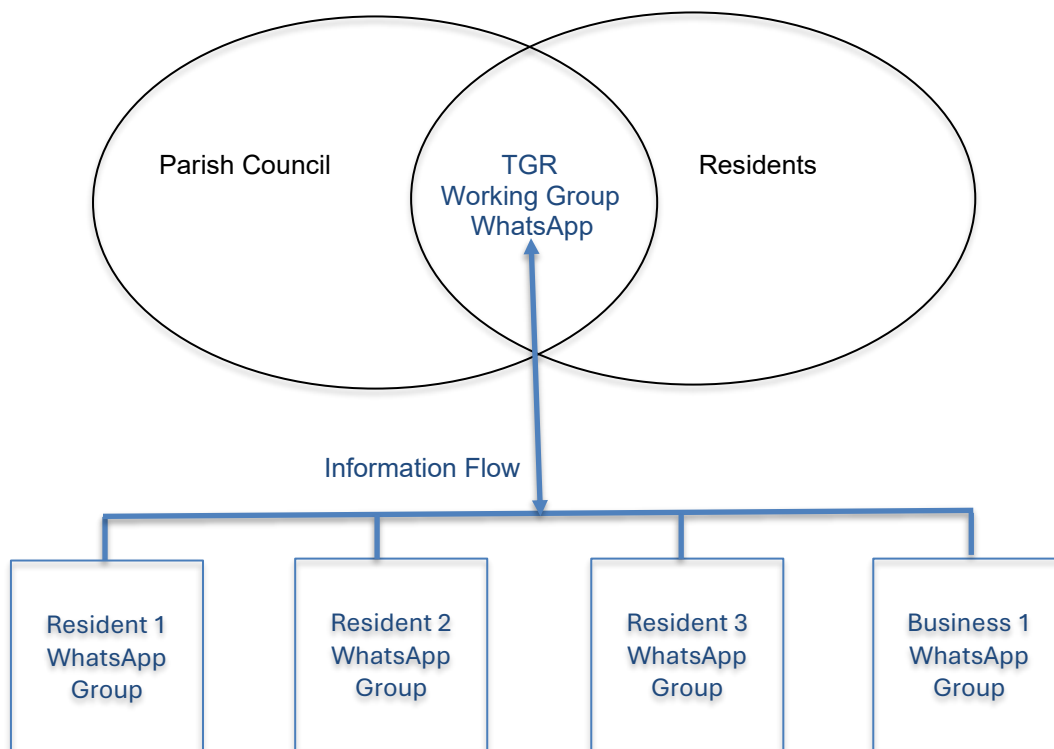
- The level of response provided by NY Police is influenced by the number and nature of the reports it receives. If all incidents are properly reported and logged then NY Police will be able to prioritise resources more effectively.
- Report all incidents to NY Police using the appropriate telephone number above – this may take some time but don't give up!
- If more than one person witnesses the same incident everyone that witnesses the incident should report it to NY Police.

Communications Plan

The Communications Plan calls for:

- A clear point of contact between the PC and NY Police via Police Sergeant Sohail Tariq and the Chair/Vice Chair of Gargrave PC.
- The process for residents to contact and report incidents to NY Police, which is outlined at **Appendix 4**.
- The establishment of lines of communications from the PC to residents and local businesses:

Each of the non-councillor members of the TGR Working Group will establish separate WhatsApp groups with their immediate neighbours and act as a cascading conduit for information to flow from the TGR Working Group to residents and vice versa:



- Community Facebook posts. When appropriate, notices will be posted from Gargrave PC to the Gargrave Community Facebook Group.

Code of conduct for those using the TGR plan

Those who operate the TGR Plan

- Act as a point of contact between Gargrave Parish Council and visiting Traveller, Gypsy and Roma communities;
- Support respectful, lawful and proportionate engagement in line with the Council's adopted policies and statutory duties;
- Promote good relations between the local community and visiting TGR groups.

Persons meeting and greeting will:

- Meet and greet visiting Traveller, Gypsy and Roma groups in a courteous and non-confrontational manner;
- Act respectfully, impartially and in accordance with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct;
- Provide council-approved information, including the notice to vacate, the Code of Conduct for Visitors and appropriate waste disposal materials;
- Act as a liaison channel, signposting concerns or issues to the Parish Clerk or relevant authorities where appropriate;
- Observe and report relevant matters factually and objectively in accordance with the TGR Plan;
- Provide feedback to Parish Council, through the TGR working group, on lessons learned to inform future planning and responses.

They will not:

- Seek to enforce departure from land or take action beyond the agreed liaison role;
- Enter into disputes or negotiations on behalf of the Parish Council;
- Act independently of the policies and instructions of Gargrave Parish Council.

For safety reasons, those greeting travellers should

- Work collaboratively and in pairs when undertaking meet-and-greet activities.

Accountability and reporting

- Those undertaking meet-and-greet activities will report feedback, issues or observations through the TGR working group to the Parish Clerk;
- Reports may be verbal or written, as appropriate, and should be factual and objective;
- Any significant concerns, incidents or risks must be reported to the relevant authorities.