

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Management Committee : 16th February 2009 at 7.30 p.m. In The Mayor's Parlour, The Town Hall, Kendal

PRESENT Councillors T. Clare (in the Chair), C. Feeney-Johnson (Town Mayor), J. Bateson (Deputy Mayor), P. Beavan, R. Boden, C. Hogg, K. Thompkins and J. Veevers.

APOLOGIES Councillor A. Robinson (Chairman)

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk) and Margaret Graham (Secretary)

Also in attendance were Peter Hensman (Chairman, Kendal Futures Board), Mandy Dixon (member of the Board) and Joanne Golton (Kendal Regeneration Manager, SLDC)

### 569/08/09 KENDAL FUTURES BOARD

The Committee received a presentation on the Kendal Futures Board which had arisen out of a query from Mandy Dixon as to whether the Council were interested in leading, or participating, in partnership working.

Mr Hensman explained that the Board had been established by Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council to deliver an Economic Regeneration Action Plan; it was the role of the Board to make sure that this happens. The Board consists of representatives from both the public and private sectors, including the CBI, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and the National Farmers Union.

The role of the Board is to plan long-term; there are short-term issues, but long term the aims include:

- Infrastructure (e.g. car parking, employment land)
- Improving the town centre (e.g. signage, public realm, Kirkland)
- Boosting enterprise (managed workspace, website)
- Support for existing businesses

The Board would also like to help with other organisations' plans and projects, e.g. Cumbria University, the Brewery, Canal Head, Sports Village.

It was felt that there was scope for building better communications with the Town Council. Joanne Golton said the KFB provided a monthly update to its representatives, which could be found on the Future Board page on the SLDC Website. Town Councillors, as "champions" in Kendal, had a role to play in lots of projects which cross-cut the KFB themes.

Members asked how the Council could become more involved with KFB to advance the reputation of the Town. Mintfest was mentioned, and how it had put Kendal on the map. Kendal Civic Pride was felt to be a theme in which the Council could play a role, e.g. improving the yards (with the help of the Civic Society) through better lighting and refuse collection.

Joanne Golton reported that an application had been made to the North West Development Agency for £500,000 – some of this was for Yard improvements and public realm projects (e.g. signage). SLDC had a Environmental Partnership Fund (£20,000 annually) for Yard improvements. SLDC'S next project is Angel Yard.

It was suggested that Parishes could be asked to include public realm aspirations in their Parish Plans.

Mrs Dixon suggested there were a number of “small wins” which were achievable. A package of such small projects (e.g. community toilets, planting, the Wainwright Statue) could contribute improvements to the Town and the community. Mr Hensman stressed that the Board existed to deliver and support the aspirations and plans of other groups.

Councillor Clare made it clear that the Town Council would not be taking on services delivered by the District Council, as it was not a delivery body and did not have the capacity. However, it was willing to be involved in partnership working to support projects and contribute to costs. Joanne Golton felt that the Town Council did have the ability to deliver projects, with help and support from partners.

Councillor Boden mentioned the “powers” that the Town Council has and how these could be quantified. Its general powers were limited but he felt that it could help KFB with identified projects within its statutory powers (e.g. lighting). In respect of Torchlight, he felt that most of the people who do work for the Torchlight event do not generally contribute to other projects – which presents a bit of a dilemma for individuals. Mrs Dixon mentioned the issues of safety and crowd control/stewards, and said that there was a potential to offer training for stewards through the Learning Skills Council. It was also felt important that both older and younger people should be involved (e.g. Age Concern, Schools).

It was agreed that, in order to work more constructively with the Board, the Town Council should come up with a “shopping list” of (potential) projects in which it is/could become involved. This would also avoid duplication of effort. Members asked if there was any evidence that the Christmas Lights display helped economic regeneration. It was felt that this should be included in the “shopping list”, and Councillor Clare stressed that this annual project – specifically for the town – needed help from traders to be more successful.

It was felt that two or three Committee Members, including the Chairman, should discuss the need to give feedback to the Kendal Futures Board, before the next meeting of the Management Committee.

Although it was recognised that the Town Council had a representative on the Board, it was felt that perhaps the role of that representative should be expanded; possibly another Town Council representative, such as the Mayor or the Chairman of the Management Committee, should also sit on the Board. It was agreed to raise the issue of representation to KFB at full Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hensman, Mrs Dixon and Ms Golton for the useful and informative presentation, and asked them to stay for the following item on the Local Development Framework.

**RESOLVED** that a meeting be arranged to discuss the need to give feedback to the Kendal Futures Board.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council considers the status of representation to the Kendal Futures Board, including whether the current representative should become a member of the Management Committee, or the Mayor or Chair of the Management Committee becomes the representative to the Kendal Futures Board.

#### **570/08/09 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Relating to the Local Development Framework consultation on Land Allocation, the Committee was advised that a formal response on the document was to be submitted to SLDC Comments would include the possibility of building over car parks and roofs over yards (to reduce carbon footprint), and questions on the Sports Village and Canal Head developments. Members mentioned the lack of land allocation for a Gateway Centre at Junction 36. Councillor Boden felt that he would prefer an economically viable town centre.

Joanne Golton confirmed that the KFB was trying to bring in some employment land on the town boundary. Mrs Dixon felt that there was no reason why a suitable "sensitive" employment development site could not be found.

Councillor Veevers asked about the Northern Relief Road. Mr Hensman agreed that this was needed but, because of the costs involved, any such development was likely to be more than 10 years away.

#### **571/08/09 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19TH JANUARY 2009**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2009 be accepted as a correct record.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **572/08/09 Data Protection (Minute 483/08/09)**

The Town Clerk reported that, after checking with CALC, it was necessary for the Council to register for Data Protection. The fee of £35 would cover all 28 Members of the Council.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council signs up for Data Protection.

##### **573/08/09 CALC Conference, 28 February 2009 (Minute 492/08/09)**

The Town Clerk reported that CALC would like three representatives to attend the conference for South Lakes Parishes on Locality Working. This was to be held at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal, on Saturday 28th February 2009 between 9.30 a.m. and 12.45 p.m. Councillors A. Robinson and J. Bateson had expressed interest in attending. The Town Clerk was asked to write to other Members publicising the event and inviting attendance.

**574/08/09 ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY**

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had all but one of the Committee Chairman summaries – that of the Christmas Lights Committee. It was suggested that the Town Treasurer should be asked to update the latest report to the Christmas Lights Committee (in January 2009) and send it to Councillor Peter Graham to “personalise” it.

The Town Clerk presented a draft of the Annual Report. It was agreed to circulate this to all Councillors, asking them to comment on the document by e-mail.

The Committee discussed the format for the Annual Town Assembly, and how this should be publicised. There is a legal requirement to place a notice publicly - which would be done using the Town Hall Notice Board. It was suggested to also seek publicity through the Westmorland Gazette (via a formal press release) and local radio station(s), and to invite the public to ask questions on the report, which would be published beforehand.

The suggested format for the Assembly, on Monday, 23 March 2009 at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m., is:-

- (1) Mayor's presentation (as Chairman of the Town Council);
- (2) Questions on the report
- (3) Talk by the Fire Service

Refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits) are to be provided.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be asked to circulate the draft Annual Report to Councillors, seeking comments by e-mail; and

**RECOMMENDED** that Council endorse the suggested format for the Annual Town Assembly.

**575/08/09 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Town Clerk had provided copies of the Committee Membership list, and list of Outside Bodies and current representative(s). She confirmed that Council had approved the changes to Committee Structure recommended at Minute 484/08/09.

The Mayor pointed out that the Kendal Castle Consultative Group only meets when needed. There had been no meeting in 2008/09, but she felt that it should be retained on the list of Outside Bodies.

Councillor Clare suggested that Members should be reminded again that representatives to Outside Bodies are to report items of interest; and a basic requirement is that items which have implications for the town should be reported.

**RESOLVED** that Members be reminded of the need to report on Outside Bodies; and

- (2) a meeting be arranged to discuss the need to give feedback to the Kendal Futures Board.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****576/08/09 The late Councillor Charles Batterson**

Councillor Bateson reported that a photo-mosaic of the Town Hall was being prepared, in memory of the late Councillor Charles Batterson, for presentation to the Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council decide to whom the photo-mosaic should be presented, and where it should be exhibited.

**577/08/09 Kendal Library Centenary – 28th February 2009**

It was reported that the Mayor and Councillor Rob Boden would be attending the event, in Edwardian Dress.

**578/08/09 Stricklandgate House – Civic Society**

The Town Clerk reported a request from the Civic Society to use the Kendal Coat of Arms in its time-line planned for Stricklandgate House.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the request to use the Coat of Arms.

**579/08/09 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that members of the press and public should be excluded from the next item, which contains exempt information as described in Schedule 12A, Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**580/08/09 STAFFING ISSUES**

In accordance with Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following report is excluded from inspection by members of the public as it contains exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as follows:

- *Information relating to any individual [Paragraph 1]*

The Town Clerk handed out an options summary for consideration and comment by Councillors.

**RESOLVED** that Members be requested to respond to the Town Clerk on the options summary.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

**Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council**

Minute	Subject	Information / Resolution / Recommendation	
569	Kendal Futures Board	Res  <b>REC</b>	Committee to discuss the need to give feedback to the Kendal Futures Board in respect of "shopping list" (Page 2, Paragraph 6)  Council to consider the status of representation to the Kendal Futures Board - Options include:  (1) whether the current representative should become a Member of the Management Committee; or  (2) the Mayor or Chair of the Management Committee becomes the representative
571	Data Protection for Council Members	<b>REC</b>	That Council signs up for Data Protection at a fee of £35.00.
573	Annual Report and Annual Town Assembly	Res  <b>REC</b>	Town Clerk to circulate draft annual Report to all Councillors, seeking comments (by e-mail);  That Council endorse the suggested format for the Annual Town Assembly
574	Committee Structure / Outside Bodies	Res	Members to be reminded of the need to report on the activities of Outside Bodies, particularly items of interest and/or which have implications for the town.
575	The late Councillor Charles Batteson	<b>REC</b>	Council to decide to whom the photo-mosaic in memory of Councillor Batteson should be presented, and where it should be exhibited
577	Stricklandgate House – Civic Society	<b>REC</b>	Council to approve the request from the Civic Society to use the Kendal Coat of Arms in the time-line at Stricklandgate House