

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Environment Committee

**12th January 2009 at 7.15 p.m.
in The Mayor's Parlour, The Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT Councillors T. Clare (Chairman), M. Simpson, G. Cook, T. Rothwell, K. Thompkins and J. Veevers.

APOLOGIES Councillors C. Feeney-Johnson and E. Farrell.

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

Also in attendance were Councillors Austen Robinson and Paul Beavan.

452/08/09 MINUTES – 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 September 2008 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

453/08/09 SLDC DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor Paul Beavan, Chairman of the Planning Committee, provided a brief background introduction to the SLDC Local Development Framework.

The requirement to produce a Local Development Framework (LDF) was established by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which came into force in September 2004. The LDF is not a single document, but will be a portfolio of documents consisting of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). One of these documents is the Allocation of Land DPD.

Key points to note were that -

- SLDC has to provide a housing target of 400 dwellings per annum until 2025
- Allocation of land will concentrate on identifying specific sites for development and non-strategic issues
- The SLDC Development Plan Team is currently gathering information on sites that potentially may be suitable for accommodating the District's housing, employment and other development requirements
- No decisions have been made yet, and not all suggested sites will be developed (or are capable of development)
- The Canal Head Development is not included in the DPD

South Lakeland District Council is holding briefings for Town/Parish Councillors on 21st January 2009. The Town Council had been asked to send up to three Councillors, but it was understood that more than three could attend. The Town Council representatives nominated to the briefing are Councillors Paul Beavan, Austen Robinson and Tom Clare. South Lakeland District Council will make a presentation to Kendal Town Council's meeting on 2nd February 2009. The Town Council needs to make a written response to SLDC by the end of February 2009.

Councillor Beavan raised the particular issues of traffic, flood plains, sustainable growth, children's playgrounds and schools' capacity; also public transport, local shops and Post Offices, health care provision and, last but not least, maintaining a pleasant environment in which to live.

Whilst sympathising with the dilemma faced by SLDC (in meeting its housing targets), Kendal is only one town within the District. While we cannot say NO to growth, this should be spread evenly. Councillor Beavan felt that the Town Council should speak as one voice stating what is, and what is not, considered to be acceptable.

Councillor Tom Clare had also prepared a list of questions that he intended to raise at the SLDC briefing and at full Council. These included

- The criteria used in assessment – the need to ensure that these were applied consistently
- Demand – to reflect changing circumstances of economy – whether short-term or strategic
- Other schemes (e.g. the Canal Restoration, Sports Village). Are their special requirements included in the Framework Document?
- How valuable is the landscape setting/rural fringe of the town?
- Out of town development and its impact on town centre businesses, land conservation, and increased carbon footprint
- Housing/office accommodation to be built over existing car parks, to conserve land

Areas of concern to other Committee Members included

- The "green belt" at the Oxenholme Road triangle
- The area opposite the Beck Community Centre
- "important open spaces" at Vicarage Park
- Castle Road – proposals to build on "prominent" land
- notable omissions appeared to include the green field opposite the Castle Green Hotel

Residents should be encouraged to submit objections NOW.

Members also felt that the Town Council should comment on some proposals for development outside Kendal, e.g. Junction 36, the Gateway Project / park and ride / Boundary Bank, and the Race Course.

It was felt that Council needed to provide a full and constructive response to the consultation. It was agreed that the Councillors attending the SLDC session would prepare a briefing paper for Members for the presentation at full Council on 2nd February 2009. It was also felt that Members should be invited to respond individually by providing the Town Clerk with comments. (The Town Clerk had provided each Councillor with a map indicating proposed development sites within their Wards).

RESOLVED that Councillors Robinson, Beavan and Clare be requested to prepare a briefing paper for the full Council meeting on 2nd February 2009.

454/08/09 SOMERVELL GARDEN

The Town Clerk reported that work had been delayed because of freezing conditions.

It was suggested that a sign should be provided at the site, publicising the Town Council's involvement in the project.

RESOLVED that the situation on progress be noted, and the Town Clerk be requested to produce a sign for the site.

455/08/09 NEW ROAD AREA

The Chairman reported that elements of the Cycle Plan project were proceeding, quoting the closure of Miller Bridge to heavy traffic and the overnight closure of Stramongate Bridge to allow work to be carried out. Proposals from South Lakeland District Council on the New Road Car Park were still awaited.

RESOLVED that the situation be noted.

456/08/09 PARKS AND BODIVERSITY

The Chairman reported that Tony Naylor (SLDC) had arranged for bulbs to be planted alongside Aynam Road. Also, each School had been given £100 worth of daffodil bulbs to plant. SLDC had agreed to manage the removal of the concrete and iron railings between Miller Bridge and the footbridge, with the Town Council providing the funding.

Tony Naylor had been asked to come up with a programme of new designs for Parks displays. The designs would hopefully be in place for Kendal/Britain in Bloom judging.

A new trust (South Cumbria Rivers Trust) and English Nature were putting £2,000 into interpretation panels alongside the river. They had talked to a local artist about designs for the panels, and she had been asked to provide mock-ups. We would be liaising over the Interpretation Boards which the Council is commissioning, with a grant from the Environment Agency.

Members were also keen to involve other local “partners” wherever possible, e.g. the Civic Society, Friends of Serpentine Woods and the Fellside Forum. Councillor Katy Thompkins raised concerns about the materials to be used for improvements at Serpentine Woods, in view of the vandalism issues at that location.

It had been suggested previously that new/replacement seats for parks and open spaces should be of mock wood plastic planking (because of maintenance issues with timber). It was felt that the benches in Abbot Hall in particular should have iron seat ends, as should any memorial seats, to provide a quality finish.

RESOLVED that the situation be noted.

457/08/09 CHERRY TREES AT MILNTHORPE ROAD

Further to Minute 25108/09 (30.9.2008), the Town Clerk confirmed that the dead cherry tree had been removed by Cumbria County Council and the Town Council had been asked to meet the cost of two replacement Japanese Cherry Trees to fill the gaps. SLDC had quoted a figure of £240 to provide and plant two trees, which was well within the budget set aside for this project. She was asked to ensure that the trees provided were fungus-free. Members were asked about other planting areas for trees on the approaches to town. It was agreed to discuss this with Cumbria County Council and seek their advice.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to progress the issue of the replacement cherry trees, and to contact Cumbria County Council about other potential areas for tree planting on the approaches to the Town.

458/08/09 GREENSIDE LIME KILN

Members considered a report from the South Lakeland District Council Conservation Officer, Graham Darlington, in respect of the Greenside Lime Kiln. It had been discovered that the kiln was in a much worse condition than was anticipated, as a result of which additional works were required, including work to consolidate the structure and prevent its possible collapse. The probable additional cost of this work was in the region of £40,000. The Conservation Officer had been asked to investigate the possibility of securing funding from sources other than the District Council.

Members asked what was so special about the Kendal Lime Kiln, in relation to others in Cumbria and South Lakeland in particular. The Chairman explained that, while not architecturally significant as a “rural shape” lime kiln, it reflected an element of the former industrial and employment history of the town. It was pointed out that the lime kiln was a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

It was felt that, in addition to supporting the principle of the refurbishment of the lime kiln, the matter should be referred to Council with a recommendation that the Town Council make a financial contribution to the additional costs.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to consider making a financial contribution towards the additional costs of the lime kiln project.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**459/08/09 Recycling – Booths Supermarket**

Councillor Feeney-Johnson had requested that the issue of recycling bins at Booths Supermarket be raised. It was reported that the cost of supplying two recycling bins – one for glass and one for cans – would be in the region of £420. Booths had asked if the Town Council would be willing to meet the cost of supplying the bins, which they would empty and maintain. The bins would have a Town Council logo and suitable wording (e.g. Kendal Town Council in partnership with Booths)

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to approve the cost of supplying recycling bins outside Booths Supermarket

460/08/09 Nether Bridge - Coping Stones

Arising out of the discussion on the Lime Kiln, it was asked if the coping stones for Nether Bridge had been recovered from the river after the recent damage. It was thought that damage had been incurred to some of the stones. Councillor Rothwell pointed out that lime mortar should be used for the repairs and setting of the coping stones, although he suspected that Portland Cement had been used.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to write to the Cumbria County Council Director of Highways, Mr Charles Green, to clarify the matter.

461/08/09 Transition South Lakes

The Committee considered a letter from Chris Rowley introducing the Transition South Lakes Local Government Group. The Group wished to encourage the Town Council and Members to become involved with the Transition initiative “*to significantly increase community resilience (to mitigate the effects of Peak Oil) and drastically reduce carbon emissions (to mitigate the effects of Climate Change)*”.

Members were minded to recommend that Council support the initiative. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to offer that a Councillor representative sit on the Group, and that Council be asked to nominate a representative if the offer is taken up.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended to support the initiative, and invited to nominate a representative to the Group (if requested by Transition South Lakes).

462/08/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Committee be held on Tuesday, 28 April 2009 at 7.15 p.m. in the Mayor’s Parlour.

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.