

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Committee

**Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.00 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** Councillors Tom Clare (Chair), Giles Archibald, Andy Blackman, Keith Bracey, Jonathan Owen, Jon Robinson and John Veevers.
- Also present was Councillor David Evans in the absence of Councillor Shirley Evans.
- APOLOGIES** None.
- OFFICERS** Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Helen Moriarty (Project Manager), Nicky King (Council Secretary) and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary)
- 780/16/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 781/16/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- There were no declarations of interest made at this point.
- 782/16/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2016**
- The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2016, which had been approved by full Council on 7th November 2016.
- Councillor Archibald proposed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Veevers and carried unanimously.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th October 2016 be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 783/16/17 Replacement of the Shakespeare Oak at Kendal Green** (Minute 451/16/17)
- The Town Clerk queried whether the oak sapling donated by Horticare had been planted. Councillor Veevers said he would endeavour to find out.
- 784/16/17 Gully Cleaning/Leaf Removal** (Minute 465/16/17)
- Councillor Archibald proposed a vote of thanks to SLDC/CCC for the gully cleaning/leaf removal works. He asked Members whether they considered the exercise to be successful in their respective Wards. It was agreed that a heavy downpour of rain would be needed to fully judge the success of the gully cleaning/leaf removal. Councillor Clare

commented that Members needed to be aware of the works and asked to monitor the situation within their Wards.

785/16/17

Parkside Road Resurfacing Work (Minute 463/16/17)

Councillor Clare queried whether resurfacing work at Parkside Road had been fully completed. The Town Clerk had sought clarification on the situation after the last meeting and been informed that the work was in hand.

786/16/17

PARKS UPDATE AND JOINT PROJECTS WITH KIB COMMITTEE

PARKS UPDATE

The Town Clerk presented an update received from Deborah Clarke, Principal Community Spaces Officer, SLDC on Parks and Open Spaces. The following projects were highlighted:

Nobles Rest

A change to the original drainage contractor had delayed matters. This would impact on the programme to deliver the full project, with work now scheduled to commence on site in July. The Town Clerk drew attention to activity regarding grant applications which stated "KTC have confirmed £12,000 funding towards monument planting". She remarked that she was not aware of this and Members would need to consider what funding they wished to commit in this respect. She advised that £12,000 was the total sum remaining in the Environment Reserve, therefore committing this amount would leave a zero balance.

Abbot Hall

Completion of the improvement works will involve some reinstatement of grass, with shrub beds removed and bulbs planted in the grass.

Perennial Planting

Looking at options to plant with perennials at various beds.

Playgrounds

Project underway to review four playgrounds at Murley Moss, Hayclose Crescent, Kendal Parks and Hayclose Road (Howe Bank). All of which are either of an age showing wear or a very small size.

Pollinators Project

A meeting had been held to discuss the project and 7 sites had been established.

With regard to the works at Nobles Rest, Members discussed the matter of funding. There was some uncertainty as to where the quoted figure of £12,000 had come from. Councillor Archibald said that clarification was needed. Councillor Veevers expressed his opinion that the £12,000 remaining in the Environment Reserve should be spread out amongst various projects, not allocated in full for Nobles Rest.

Councillor Clare pointed out that part of the agenda item also called for Members to consider joint projects with the Kendal in Bloom Committee. He suggested that work at Nobles Rest fell into this category and recommended that it be discussed as part of that wider programme of works.

JOINT PROJECTS WITH KIB COMMITTEE

Members considered a paper circulated prior to the meeting which addressed the issue of overlap between the Environment & Highways and Kendal in Bloom Committees. The proposal was that the two Committees developed a joint programme of planting, biodiversity and parks improvements. Beyond the joint programme, Kendal in Bloom Committee would continue to be responsible for running the KIB competition and entering other competitions. The Environment & Highways Committee would continue to concern itself with other environmental issues such as the street scene and highway matters.

Councillor Veevers referred to the list of projects for consideration and felt that one item in particular was a matter of top priority. This related to perennial/shrub planting of the SLDC bed by the junction of Highgate and Dowker Lane. Councillor J Robinson supported this opinion commenting that the area looked scruffy and was very visible to visitors to the town. Councillor Veevers added that he would like to see some type of fencing to the perimeter of the wall if money was to be spent on the area to deter people sitting around the planting.

Councillor Archibald raised the issue of playgrounds and whether it should be on the list of potential projects for consideration. The Town Clerk advised that playgrounds themselves did not form part of KTC remit and any funding for them came from the Development Fund

Councillor Clare remarked that the two Committees should be working together to deliver the very best for the Britain in Bloom competition. He referred to a report which had been prepared by Councillor Blackman and presented at the Kendal in Bloom Committee meeting. The report considered feedback from judges of the Britain in Bloom competition and highlighted areas which overlapped both Committees such as street furniture, heritage of the town and litter picking. He added that KTC had an opportunity to try and win the Britain in Bloom competition and might not have that chance again for some time. He raised two questions for consideration by Members; (1) Does the Environment & Highways Committee want to work together with the Kendal in Bloom Committee? (2) If so, how is that to be managed? Councillor Veevers commented that it made sense to have a joint strategy. After a general discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Chair and Councillor Bracey of the Environment & Highways Committee should work with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Kendal in Bloom Committee to consider joint projects further.

Councillor J Robinson suggested a further project to be added to the list for consideration. This related to a new seat at Dowker Lane. Councillor Clare asked that any ideas be submitted by email to the four Members nominated.

Councillor Veevers raised the issue of damage to plants at the Bird Cage by youths. It was noted that there had been a spate of vandalism such as pulling out plants from planters etc. Councillor Clare informed Members that the matter had been discussed by the Kendal in Bloom Committee and how the problem would be best publicised. It was felt that all that could be done at the current time was to note any such incidences.

It was also mentioned that Britain in Bloom judges had noted graffiti, although nobody had been able to identify where this had been seen. Similarly, litter had been mentioned despite a pre-inspection of the route prior to judging. Councillor Veevers pointed out that judges carried out a secret tour prior to judging and the graffiti/litter might have been noticed in an area away from the official route. It was agreed that it would be useful for Ward Councillors to report any graffiti/litter that they were aware of.

RESOLVED

1. That the Environment & Highways Committee were supportive of a joint programme of working with the Kendal in Bloom Committee.
2. That the Chair and Councillor Bracey of the Environment & Highways Committee work with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Kendal in Bloom Committee to develop a joint programme.

787/16/17

PROJECTS UPDATE AND LIVING GREEN WALL ON SHAP ROAD – HELEN MORIARTY, PROJECT MANAGER

Project Manager, Helen Moriarty, reported a total spend this financial year of £12,291, with an underspend of £2,709. She highlighted the following projects:

Signage – phase 2 of the redundant signage removal was complete. Phase 3 in development.

Posters at Oxenholme – would be in place in the next couple of weeks. Similar design to the leaflets and website.

Kendal Futures –request may be received from Kendal Futures for financial support (less than £500) for the New Shambles signage project.

Kendal trails – the £3,500 allocated has been spent. Date of launch for the leaflets/website is 16th February at the Town Hall.

Kendal Castle – funding comprises £8,000 from Local Important Project Fund (LIP), £10,000 from SLDC plus an amount to be confirmed from CCC. CCC have identified additional funds and will use this for works on the lower path which would open up access for wheelchair users etc. A site visit was scheduled for 25th January with the contractors. Works expected to be completed by 31st March. An Interpretation Workshop was to be held on Wednesday 18th January. Kendal College, Councillors, the Civic Society and various other interested parties had been invited. It was expected that all interpretation would be complete by the end of June.

Potential Green Wall Project – Helen Moriarty presented a paper outlining the proposal for a green wall in Kendal. A potential site had been identified on Longpool. The project came about when SLDC met with KTC to investigate collaboration between KTC's Kendal in Bloom Committee and Action Plan projects to meet the objectives of Kendal's Air Quality Action Plan. A quotation of £33,203 had been received from ANS Global to supply, deliver and install a 48m² Living Wall System. Funding options included:

- £8,000 from KTC
- £8,000 from Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership (tbc)
- £10,000 from SLDC Locally Important Project Fund (LIP). Application deadline 13th February 2017.
- £6,000 from other sources e.g. SLDC Environmental Partnership Fund, South Lakeland Local Committee and/or Network Rail.

Assuming Committee were in favour of developing the proposal, it was proposed to use £8,000 currently allocated in KTC budget to kick start the project.

Councillor Archibald considered the proposal to be a fantastic idea. He remarked that Longpool was an area of poor air quality and thought the project would be appreciated by the public. With regard to the Kendal Castle project and work to the lower footpath, he raised the question of publicity and asked whether there was a communications plan around the work. He commented that KTC deserved some credit for the initiative and suggested some outreach to the Westmorland Gazette. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would follow this up. Councillor Clare informed Members that it would be covered in the summer KTC newsletter.

A general discussion regarding the proposal for a green wall and the required maintenance then ensued and possible alternative locations were considered. Councillor Owen was supportive of the project, although he considered it to be a large amount of money. Councillor Blackman commented that the project would fit nicely into the RHS's theme for the year which was "Turning Grey Britain Green".

It was proposed by Councillor Veevers that Committee supported the project and applied for funding through LIP. The preferred site being at Longpool. The maximum funding from the Environment & Highways Committee to be £8,000. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

Councillor Clare requested the Project Manager investigate a similar project on the BT building on Blackhall Road. Councillor Veevers proposed that the Project Manager also look into the possibility of using trailing ivy on the wall of the BT building. This would be much cheaper and require no maintenance. This was seconded by Councillor Owen and carried unanimously.

Councillor D Evans referred to a previous meeting with Network Rail during the Longpool Bridge works when the possibility of some

funding had been indicated. As far as he was aware this had not been forthcoming and it was agreed that the Project Manager would investigate further.

Woolpack Yard – the Project Manager had spoken to SLDC Enforcement Officers to enquire whether they could offer KTC some support. She had been advised that they could serve a Section 215 Notice but this would have to detail the improvements required. SLDC could then seek prosecution in the case of non-compliance with the Notice. This course of action would require a team effort with KTC and Members were asked whether they considered it an appropriate route to take. Councillor Clare suggested that the Civic Society should also be involved. Members agreed unanimously to support the serving of a Section 215 Notice.

Tree at the bottom of Lowther Street – there are three trees at the bottom of Lowther Street, one of which is in poor health. Its removal would open up the view from the river. The Project Manager had contacted Graham Nicholson, SLDC to obtain a potential cost to remove the tree and ask whether he was aware of its health. The tree in question was diseased but not bad enough to be felled in the current felling plan. Should KTC wish to remove the tree, they would have to bear the cost. Removing one tree would cost approximately £1,200-£1,500. Removing all three would be £4-5,000 and involve a road closure. Councillor Clare suggested that the Project Manager roll the matter into the joint programme of working between the Environment & Highways and Kendal in Bloom Committees as part of a wider programme surrounding the removal of trees. He added that trees should be re-planted where possible to address air pollution issues. All Members were in agreement with this suggestion.

RESOLVED

1. That Committee support the proposal for a green wall in Kendal and apply for funding through LIP. The preferred site being at Longpool. Maximum funding from the Environment & Highways Committee to be £8,000.
2. That the Project Manager investigate a similar project on the BT building on Blackhall Road and also look into the possibility of using trailing ivy on the wall.
3. That the Project Manager contact Network Rail to investigate the potential for funding.
4. That Committee support the service of a Section 215 Notice by SLDC in respect of Woolpack Yard.
5. That the potential removal of the tree at the bottom of Lowther Street be rolled into the joint programme of working between the Environment & Highways and Kendal in Bloom Committees.

788/16/17

QUOTATION FOR PAINTING RAILINGS ON PARKSIDE ROAD

The Town Clerk had previously been requested to obtain a quotation for painting railings on Parkside Road. She advised that the railings were owned by CCC who were happy for KTC to organise the painting subject to method statements etc. Their final agreement would have to be obtained. The cost was confirmed as just over £2,000. Councillor Veevers asked whether the quotation included primer. The Town Clerk advised that it did although it would be

necessary to obtain technical advice to confirm that it was the correct primer. All Members voted in favour.

Councillor Archibald queried whether the railings at Benson Green (Victoria Bridge to County Offices) had been painted. The Town Clerk advised that the railings were under SLDC ownership and part of a 2 year painting programme. She was not sure when these particular railings were scheduled to be painted. Councillor Archibald said that he would follow this up.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk arrange for the painting of railings at Parkside Road at a cost of just over £2,000. Technical advice regarding primer to be sought.

789/16/17**SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**

It had been resolved at the last meeting that the Town Clerk would seek the opinion of the police and Cumbria Highways as to the effectiveness of speed indicator devices. She informed Members that Cumbria Road Safety Partnership policy did not recommend the permanent siting of SID's since their effectiveness was believed to be related to the "novelty" effect which was found to last for only a matter of weeks. Paul Latham of Cumbria Constabulary was in agreement with this advice. Members noted that this backed up KTC's programme of rotating SID's.

Councillor Owen referred to the speed watch project on Aynam Road which Councillor Feeney-Johnson had been involved with last year which involved volunteers using a speed gun. He commented that it would be useful to obtain the data from that exercise. Councillor Clare suggested that a report regarding the effectiveness of the project be requested rather than specific data. Councillor Owen to liaise with the Town Clerk and report back at the next meeting.

The possibility of purchasing a further device was discussed. The Town Clerk advised that this would be a Development Fund item rather than Environment & Highways budget. Councillor Owen to prepare a background note for presentation to Council.

RESOLVED

1. Councillor Owen to liaise with the Town Clerk regarding obtaining a report on the effectiveness of the speed watch project on Aynam Road and report back at the next meeting.
2. Councillor Owen to prepare a background note in respect of the purchase of a speed gun for presentation to Council as a Development Fund item.

790/16/17**HERON HILL NATURE RESERVE UPDATE**

Councillor Blackman pointed out that the correct title should be 'Heron Hill School Woodland Trail'.

He confirmed that he had spoken to Heron Hill School who had spent £650 to date on the project. He had suggested that they submit copies of invoices to the Town Clerk for reimbursement.

791/16/17 ALTERATIONS TO PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT CARUS GREEN

The Town Clerk referred to correspondence received from CCC regarding proposed alterations to a public footpath at Carus Green. Councillor Veevers proposed acceptance of the proposals. All Members were in favour.

792/16/17 ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Councillor Clare requested that any items for the next Newsletter be submitted to him as soon as possible.

793/16/17 FINANCE STATEMENT

The Town Clerk presented the budgetary control statement for six months ended 31st December 2016. The following items were highlighted:

Somervell Garden Maintenance – no money has been spent. Councillor Veevers mentioned some damage to the grass and said it would be worth considering re-seeding.

Maintenance Infrastructure – some maintenance costs on seat repairs to follow.

Market Place enhancement – holding monies only (will be going back to SLDC in April).

New Infrastructure – the Town Clerk advised that she had received no requests. A general discussion ensued regarding the need for new seats, railings etc. Councillor Archibald commented that the new seat at Rosemary Hill looked extremely good. Councillor J Robinson referred to a request for railings on Beast Banks and asked whether it would be possible to carry out these works before the end of the financial year. The Town Clerk advised that it would be unlikely due to the permissions required. Councillor J Robinson proposed a recycled black plastic seat be purchased in anticipation for installation at Dowkers Lane. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED That a recycled black plastic seat be purchased in anticipation for installation at Dowkers Lane.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**794/16/17 Otters in River Kent**

Councillor Veevers reported an otter and 3 cubs in the River Kent. Councillor Blackman commented that this would be good evidence for the wildlife element of the RHS's theme of "Turning Grey Britain Green".

795/16/17**Swift Community Project**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Kendal in Bloom Committee had considered a request for funding from Kendal Swifts at their meeting on 16th January 2017. It had been resolved to refer the request to the Environment & Highways Committee for decision. The funding was required for two elements; (1) £110 towards costs of a public meeting to raise awareness of the project and (2) £610 to fund 20 swift nest boxes and 10 call amplifiers.

Councillor Veevers proposed that the funding be granted. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson and carried.

Councillor Archibald queried what benefit the project would have to the local community. The Town Clerk advised that Swifts are plummeting in number due to a lack of nesting sites and will potentially become endangered. Councillor Clare commented that Swifts are part of biodiversity, something the Committee should be supporting.

The public meeting would provide an opportunity to learn more about Swifts. This will be held on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7pm in the Georgian Room at Kendal Town Hall. Town Clerk to email all Councillors with the details.

796/16/17**Lakes Line User Group**

At the January Council meeting the Mayor had reported on the Lakes Line User Group AGM meeting. Following discussion three matters had arisen (1) delay to electrification (2) the introduction of old diesel trains by Northern Rail and (3) the increasing cost of car parking at Oxenholme Station. Council had resolved to refer the matter to the Environment & Highways Committee to consider how best to progress the issues.

A general discussion took place and various suggestions were put forward. Councillor Veevers suggested that the Committee supported Lakes Line User Group and write a letter of assistance. Councillor Archibald commented that the line had been relegated in importance. Councillor D Evans felt that the Committee could go a bit further and invite the Lakes Line User Group to give a presentation at a future meeting. Councillor Clare said that focusing on the length of line from Oxenholme to Windermere was not adequate. He considered the service from Manchester Airport to Oxenholme was poor.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write a letter of support to the Lakes Line User Group and invite them to give a presentation at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk write a letter of assistance to the Lakes Line User Group and invite them to give a presentation at a future meeting.

797/16/17**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 10TH APRIL 2017**

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
782/16/17	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2016	RES	That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 th October 2016 be accepted as a correct record.
786/16/17	PARKS UPDATE AND JOINT PROJECTS WITH KIB COMMITTEE	RES	<p>3. That the Environment & Highways Committee were supportive of a joint programme of working with the Kendal in Bloom Committee.</p> <p>4. That the Chair and Councillor Bracey of the Environment & Highways Committee work with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Kendal in Bloom Committee to develop a joint programme.</p>
787/16/17	PROJECTS UPDATE AND LIVING GREEN WALL ON SHAP ROAD – HELEN MORIARTY, PROJECT MANAGER	RES	<p>6. That Committee support the proposal for a green wall in Kendal and apply for funding through LIP. The preferred site being at Longpool. Maximum funding from the Environment & Highways Committee to be £8,000.</p> <p>7. That the Project Manager investigate a similar project on the BT building on Blackhall Road and also look into the possibility of using trailing ivy on the wall.</p> <p>8. That the Project Manager contact Network Rail to investigate the potential for funding.</p> <p>9. That Committee support the service of a Section 215 Notice by SLDC in respect of Woolpack Yard.</p> <p>10. That the potential removal of the tree at the bottom of Lowther Street be rolled into the joint programme of working between the Environment & Highways and Kendal in Bloom Committees.</p>
788/16/17	QUOTATION FOR PAINTING RAILINGS ON PARKSIDE ROAD	RES	That the Town Clerk arrange for the painting of railings at Parkside Road at a cost of just over £2,000. Technical advice regarding primer to be sought.
789/16/17	SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES	RES	3. Councillor Owen to liaise with the Town Clerk regarding obtaining a report on the effectiveness of the speed watch project on Aynam Road and report back at the next meeting.

			4. Councillor Owen to prepare a background note in respect of the purchase of a speed gun for presentation to Council as a Development Fund item.
793/16/17	FINANCE STATEMENT	RES	That a recycled black plastic seat be purchased in anticipation for installation at Dowkers Lane.
796/16/17	AOB	RES	That the Town Clerk write a letter of assistance to the Lakes Line User Group and invite them to give a presentation at a future meeting.