

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED  
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



13 February 2023

To Members of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee

Cllr M Helme (Vice-Chair)	Cllr H Ladhams (Chair)
Cllr C Russell	Cllr K Simpson
Cllr R Sutton	Cllr P Thornton

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Kendal Town Council Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee on Monday, 20 February 2023, at 7.00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

**Distributed to other members of the Council for information only.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chris Bagshaw  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

### Public Participation

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should apply to do so before the commencement of the meeting. Information on how to make the application is available on the Council's Website - <http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/kendal-town-council/statutory-information/guidance-on-public-participation-at-kendal-town-council-meetings/> or by contacting the Town Clerk on 01539 793490.

#### 1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the council under the terms of local government act 1972, s85.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

#### 3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

**4. Minutes from the Last Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting on 21 November 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record (see attached).

**5. Minute Action Sheet**

To consider a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings (see attached).

**6. Budget Monitoring 2022-23**

To consider the current year budget and make any necessary recommendations (see attached).

**7. Christmas 2023**

To receive a brief report on the Christmas Lights switch-on event due to take place on Thursday, 16 November 2023 (see attached).

**8. Grants Criteria**

To review the current grants criteria (attached).

**9. Festival Grant Applications**

To consider the following applications for grant funding (see attached):-

- Kendal Walking Festival - £1,200
- Kendal Unity Festival - £2,000

**10. Active Kendal**

To receive a verbal update on the proposal to develop the Active Kendal programme.

**11. Community Resilience**

To consider a report on community resilience (see attached).

## Kendal Town Council

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### Minutes of a meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee held on Monday, 21 November 2022, at 7.09 p.m., in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr M Helme (Vice-Chair)	Present *	Cllr H Ladhams (Chair)	Present
Cllr C Russell	Present	Cllr K Simpson	Present
Cllr R Sutton	Present	Cllr P Thornton	Absent

\* Arrived at 7.11 p.m. during consideration of Agenda Item No.3 (Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)).

**In attendance:** Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Council Services Officer (Janine Holt) and Democratic Services Assistant (Inge Booth).

#### CLF27/2022 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence, however, it was noted that Cllr M Helme would be late for the meeting.

#### CLF28/2022 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Russell reminded Members that, as a Trustee on the Organisation, he had an interest in matters relating to Stricklandgate House, should issues concerning community engagement stray into matters concerning that organisation..

#### CLF29/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

#### CLF30/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Resolved:** To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee held on 26 September 2022 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

#### CLF31/2022 Budget Monitoring 2022-23

The Committee considered a budget monitoring report for 2022/23.

In response to a query, the Council Services Officer undertook to look into the reason for the cancellation of the Firework Display for which Kendal Rugby Club had been granted £2,500.

A further query having been raised as to the nature of Kendal Micro Fest, the Town Clerk explained that this one-day, accessible, mini music festival had been organised by Music Links in response to concerns raised by carers that some groups were not able to attend a

full-scale festival. The Council Services Officer, in response to a request, undertook to invite a representative from Kendal Micro Fest to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide feedback on the festival and plans for the future.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To receive the report.
- (2) The Council Services Officer to look into the reason for the cancellation of Kendal Rugby Club's Firework Display.
- (3) The Council Services Officer to invite a representative from Kendal Micro Fest to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide feedback on that festival and plans for the future.

**CLF32/2022 Christmas 2022 and Future Years**

The Council Services Officer provided a brief verbal report on the Christmas Lights Switch On event which had taken place on Thursday, 17 November 2022. Members were being asked to make any necessary decisions or recommendations for future years. Whilst she had not yet had an opportunity to speak to the Events Officer about the event, the Council Services Officer informed Members that she had herself received positive feedback and that this year's event could be built on in coming years. She pointed out, however, that the feedback with regard to refreshments had been that more could have been done, through the provision of a tea and food kiosk. In addition, it had been raised that the Mountain Festival village had only been open to suppliers and exhibitors on that evening. Also drawn to the Committee's attention was the need for more to be done at Abbot Hall where the parade had commenced.

Some discussion took place as regards the day on which the event had been held. It was suggested that some people had indicated disappointment that this had taken place on a Thursday evening. Attention had been drawn to the fact that some people worked in the evening and to children having to attend clubs which had already been paid for. It was suggested that Outside In could open and run its own mini switch-on for people who could not make the main event.

The Town Clerk noted that Andrei Burton's performance had been very popular with local young people, and that he had still been signing posters when the event closed. He also felt that a lot of other or additional things could be done, for example, moving the stage further back into the Market Place in order to draw people forward. The Town Clerk pointed out that festivals were vital for the town and indicated that he was keen for partnership options to be examined for all events, with the Town Council taking a proactive role. He further drew attention to the opportunity in 2024 to change the style of the Christmas lights. He suggested that the Town Council's branding had not been visible enough at this year's event.

The Council Services Officers stressed the importance for planning to commence much sooner in 2023 and for the need for officer time to be taken into consideration. She informed the Committee that both Wainwright's Yard and the Westmorland Shopping Centre were keen to become involved. The Council Services Officer suggested, therefore, that the January meeting should include a small, focussed group of representatives from Kendal BID, the Mountain Festival, the Town Council, Kendal Futures, the Shopping Centre and the Yards. The Council Services Officer undertook to seek a date during w/c 23 January 2023 for a first meeting, details of which she would circulate. She further reported that a number of lights were not currently working and that she had taken this up with the contractor. In

addition, she had spoken with Kendal BID about the Christmas tree and the potential to purchase commercial grade decorations. Attention having been drawn to the fact that a light nearby to Boyes and Scope was not working, she also undertook to report this.

Members were asked to consider a day and date for the Switch On in 2023, and the Town Clerk suggested that this should, if possible, be carried out with the Mountain Festival again, but also ensuring that everyone felt included, potentially taking the Lions' Santa to Outside In on the Sunday.

Further raised was the potential for an ice rink, although not paid for by the Town Council. It was suggested that the Lakeland Arts Trust should come on board as a partner and that they may be interested in having a rink outside their building space, with the potential also for a German style market in that location, at the same time as the Mountain Festival. Some concern was raised with regard to the potential for people to be drawn to the wrong end of the Town and the need for good linkages along the riverside path between the Town and the Market. Further raised was the potential for local artists to display works within unused shops in Kendal.

Members expressed gratitude to those officers who had been involved in the event. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the work involved was not to be underestimated.

#### **Resolved:**

- (1) To receive the verbal report.
- (2) The Council Services to arrange a suitable date w/c 23 January 2023 for an initial meetings of a small group of focussed representatives from Kendal BID, the Mountain Festival, the Town Council, Kendal Futures, the Shopping Centre and the Yards, to commence consideration on the Christmas Light Switch On event for 2023.

#### **CLF33/2022 Festival Grant Applications**

The Committee was asked to consider three applications for grant funding.

Lengthy discussion took place with regard to the application for a grant for £5,000 for Kendal Cycling Festival. Concerns were raised about the structure and timing of the festival, its proposed location and the relative chances of it succeeding against some ambitious targets. Cllr Russell had met the organisers and was sharing the benefits of his experience from Torchlight.

Members gave consideration to the actual application, and expressed strong support, also keen to make cycling an every day part of the Town. The Town Clerk suggested that the Town Council could provide complimentary details on cycle routes across the town and hints on how to cycle within and around Kendal. Some Members felt that £5,000 was a large amount for a festival in its first year. Others stressed the importance of ensuring that this festival succeeded and the need to empower the organisers to move forward. It was suggested that the festival had the potential to be massive, and a figure of £4,000 was therefore proposed. It was further suggested that an additional £1,000 was set aside for the Town Council to develop complimentary promotional ideas around the event.

***Note - During consideration of the application, the fact that one of the festival directors was a Town Council employee was raised, and a potential conflict of interest acknowledged.***

With regard to the application from the Anti-Racist Summit 2022 for a grant towards event running costs, it was noted that this event had already taken place and that the Council did not make retrospective grants. It was pointed out, however, that the application had been missed and that no further communication had been received, which raised the need for an appropriate procedure and deadlines for processing of applications to be put in place. Members wished to ensure that the applicant was informed that the Town Council was supportive of the anti-racism agenda, that this very professionally run event had put Kendal on the map and that the Town Council would be in favour of any further grant applications going forward.

**Resolved:**

- (1) To make the following grants:-
  - (a) £500 to Charities Christmas Tree Festival towards advertising costs which will enable the group to reach a wider audience; and
  - (b) subject to sight of the Programme Vision, £4,000 to Kendal Cycling Festival An additional £1,000 to be held by the Council for promotional material to complement the event.
- (2) With regard to the application from the Anti-Racist Summit 2022, to write to the applicant to inform them that the Town Council is supportive of the anti-racism agenda, that this very professionally run event has put Kendal on the map and that the Town Council would be in favour of any further grant applications going forward.
- (3) The Council Services Officer to establish an appropriate procedure and deadlines for the processing of grant applications.

**CLF34/2022 Active Kendal**

Cllr M Helme presented a report on a proposal to develop the Active Kendal programme, explaining that the paper had been presented to Management Committee on 7 November 2022, that Committee having assented to the proposal being considered by the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee under the governance proposals outlined below.

In response to a query, Cllr Helme explained that the Committee was today simply being asked to establish a Working Group to give consideration to Active Kendal. The Town Clerk further explained that the Management Committee had expressed support for the Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee to create a budget line for Active Kendal, with a figure of £25,000, and that this was included within the Budget 2023/24 item to be considered later in the agenda, although the full Budget was not due to be approved by Full Council until 6 February 2023. Whilst support was expressed for the scheme, some concern was raised with regard to the mechanism for the proposal. A suggestion was raised for the £25,000 instead to be divided between the 509 Pupil Premium children, it being pointed out that this would avoid administrative costs and that the families were best placed to make choices on what was right for their children. The Town Clerk advised that this would have legal implications and pointed out the potential for risk. Supporters of the substantive approach questioned whether the Town Council should take on board and become too heavily involved in external projects and so stressed the need for involvement by partner organisations. Cllr Helme, however, felt strongly that this should remain the Town Council's outreach project and that it would demonstrate that the Town Council cared. Reference was made to the report which indicated that there could be other options and the fact that Members needed to be clear on the matter.

The Town Clerk suggested that three people from the Committee be chosen to form a Working Group to look into appropriate partnerships and to come back to Committee to report on plans to move forward. He would provide suitable Terms of Reference for that Group which would also allow the Group to bring in other individuals, as necessary.

**Resolved:** To establish a Working Group to look into plans with regard to Active Kendal, to be made up of the following Members:-

- Cllr M Helme;
- Cllr H Ladhams; and
- Cllr C Russell.

### **CLF35/2022 Christmas Dinner**

Cllr C Russell provided a verbal report on a proposal to support a Warm Hub Christmas Dinner in Kendal Town Hall on 21 December 2022.

The Town Clerk pointed out that there were a number of prior stages required for the Council to support such a project, and it seemed unlikely that Christmas Lights and Festivals was the appropriate committee to take them forward. He suggested that Cllr Russell discuss this matter with the Chair of the Management Committee, the Mayor and the Chair of Audit, Grants and Charities to identify a suitable way forward.

**Resolved:** To note the verbal report.

### **CLF36/2022 Budget 2023-24**

The Town Clerk presented a report asking Members to consider the budget recommendations for the Committee's planned expenditure in the next financial year (2023-24). The Council's final budget would be considered by the Management Committee in January 2023, before a recommendation was made to the Full Council in February 2023 for a precept to be set. The Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee had been proposing that the Committee assumed a wider brief than its current narrow Terms of Reference would imply. This approach had been sanctioned by the Council's Management Committee on a case by case basis so far, but for budgeting terms, the Town Clerk suggested that the Committee may wish to divide up its proposed expenditure between the 'traditional items' and those it was proposing under a new, enhanced role.

A proposal was made to raise the proposed budget for the Switch on event from £3,500 to £4,500.

The Town Clerk explained that the Infrastructure development and Maintenance budget had decreased from £10,000 to £3,000 and pointed out that the current contract would expire next year. He suggested that should there be an underspend in this area, then this could be used to fund new decorations for the Christmas Tree together with Kendal BID.

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no indication with regard to any price increase in bunting.

Members were asked whether this was the type of budget envisaged by the Committee for next year.

In response to a query as to how the increase in the total budget from £68,000 to £107,600 was to be funded, the Town Clerk explained that if the overall budget of the Council showed an increase of this nature, the Council may decide that the precept would have to be

increased, but a variety of factors meant that this did not necessarily mean that there would have to be an increase in the Council Tax.

The Committee considered a proposal relating to Community Engagement which included a budget allocation of £10,000 in 2023/24. It was suggested that this would enable the Committee to fulfil a wider brief, so that it could do for Culture and Community, what Environment and Highways was doing for Climate Change. Cllr Russell had prepared a report on this matter which he had circulated to Members. He asked that it be appended to the minutes in some way.

The Town Clerk suggested that the Management Committee would take a strategic view on whether such proposals were appropriate when it considered its report for the whole budget.

**Resolved:** To approve the proposals as attached to the agenda, with the inclusion of the amendment raised at the meeting and outlined above.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

<b>Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 13 February 23</b>							
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Action (Resolution)</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline, if any</b>	<b>Date Actioned</b>	<b>Comments</b>
21/11/2022	CLF31/2022	Budget Monitoring 2022-23	Look into reason for cancellation of Kendal Rugby Club's Firework Display	JH		23.11.22	Emailed lead Officer. No response received, FU on 8.2.23, awaiting call back from rugby Club.
21/11/2022	CLF31/2022	Budget Monitoring 2022-23	Invite representative from Kendal Micro Fest to future meeting to provide feedback on festival and plans for the future	JH		24.11.22	CEO agreed to attend. FU email sent 8.2.23 to check on attendance but he is too poorly to attend.
21/11/2022	CLF32/2022	Christmas 2022 and Future Years	Arrange suitable date w/c 23 Jan 23 for initial meeting of group of focussed reps to commence consideration of Christmas Light Switch On event for 2023	FMcM		23.11.22	After discussing with Town Clerk, it was suggested that this was to be handed over to Events Officer to progress.
21/11/2022	CLF33/2022	Festival Grant Applications	Make grants as per decision	JH		23.11.22	
21/11/2022	CLF33/2022	Festival Grant Applications	Write to applicant re Anti-Racist Summit 2022 as outlined	CB			
21/11/2022	CLF33/2022	Festival Grant Applications	Establish appropriate procedure and deadlines for processing of grant applications	JH		17.1.23	Working group met and developed me streamlined system. TC has approved, awaiting feedback from relevant Chairs.
21/11/2022	CLF34/2022	Active Kendal	Establish working group re Active Kendal as outlined	Clr Helme			
21/11/2022	CLF36/2022	Budget 2023/24	Advise Full Council	CB		06/02/2023	

12/02/2023

## Kendal Town Council

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## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/02/2023

Month No: 11

## Cost Centre Report

	Actual Current	Actual Year To	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>430 Christmas Lights &amp; Festivals</u>							
4800 Christmas Lights	0	8,051	17,500	9,449		9,449	46.0%
4805 CL&F nrastructure Dev & Maint	0	2,540	10,000	7,460		7,460	25.4%
4810 Christmas Electricity	0	0	750	750		750	0.0%
4815 Christmas Switch On	45	3,580	3,500	(80)		(80)	102.3%
4820 CL&F Bunting	(133)	1,004	1,250	246		246	80.4%
4825 CL&F Jubilee Platinum	0	3,273	5,000	1,727		1,727	65.5%
4830 CL&F Festival Grants	4,000	23,000	30,000	7,000		7,000	76.7%
Christmas Lights & Festivals :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>3,912</u>	<u>41,448</u>	<u>68,000</u>	<u>26,552</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,552</u>	<u>61.0%</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(3,912)</u>	<u>(41,448)</u>	<u>(68,000)</u>	<u>(26,552)</u>			
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%
Expenditure	3,912	41,448	68,000	26,552	0	26,552	61.0%
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(3,912)</u>	<u>(41,448)</u>	<u>(68,000)</u>	<u>(26,552)</u>			
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(3,912)</u>	<u>(41,448)</u>					

## Agenda Report

Committee: Christmas Lights and Festivals	Meeting Date: 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
From: Events Officer & Development Manager	Agenda No.: 7
Description: Planning for 'Mountain and Sky Christmas Lights Switch On 2023' on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	

### Summary:

*The Committee are asked to consider the elements to include in the 2023 Light Switch On Event and to approve a guideline budget and proposed event plan.*

### Background

The Christmas Switch On event 2022 was a great success. Many Committee members kindly volunteered at the event last year and therefore experienced it.

To summarise, the main aspects of the event took place in two locations:

1. Market Place with installations of a merry-go-round, Santa on his sleigh, a Gluhwein tent, and stage. A large area was sectioned off for Andrei Burton's stunt bike performance.
2. KMF's Base Camp in Abbot Park where people gathered for the opening of the festival and then paraded on to Market Place via the Riverside route, to join in the celebration of the lights switching on.

It was a fantastic turn out with an estimated 2000 people in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy the spectacle of the Dark Skies element, hearing the choir, seeing the magic of Stilt Walkers and were delighted by Andrei Burtons very engaging show. The Merry-Go-Round, Santa and the Gluhwein tent were all busy. Aside from a temporarily missing child, everything went smoothly and to plan and a safe event was delivered. In order to improve, various aspects have been discussed and are outlined below.

### Proposal

KMF are keen to continue our partnership to re-create last year's event in a similar way on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.

KMF and KTC Officers agreed the following improvements/changes:

1. To provide a larger centralised stage with improved sound quality that extends to most of Market Place and therefore ensure all audience members can hear stage activity.
2. To change the parade route to Highgate to benefit from a more direct route with good lighting. It will also accommodate the parade size of around 500 people or more.
3. To include another high spectacle act via a Tightrope Walker provided by Kendal Mountain Festival.
4. To have a marquee or sectioned off area specifically for an Event Management base and designated lost child space that is separate from the stage area.



5. To improve our communications with Radio Walkie Talkies and visibility with high visibility jackets.
6. Involving additional stakeholders such as Kendal Bid to who may wish to run and manage a street food market on Finkle Street.
7. To create a flag element whereby flag bearers would be part of the parade and flags would be installed and displayed throughout the KMF festival.
8. To create a fun positive atmosphere in the parade by retaining the stilt walkers and band and incorporating free cow bells.

**Draft Event Delivery Timetable:**

- February: Consultation with Event Partners and feedback from Committee
- March: Draft Road Closure and Event Plan and Applications (to be updated for new Council paperwork). Book participants/event elements.
- April: Submit applications to W&F Council. Review Budget/Event Plan at next CL&F meeting
- June: Approach Marshal volunteers
- July: Marshal engagement/meeting and event promotion preparation
- September: Launch event on social media and press (again, suggest promotion on a smaller scale as around 2000 attendees is ideal)
- October: Participant/Volunteer refresher meeting.
- November: Event preparations to be completed as early in the month as possible.

**Recommendation**

That Committee members provide feedback and give suggestions to cover the additional costs to create the improved event.

**Estimated Switch On Event Budget Proposal 2023**

Item	Cost	Detail
Poster Design	£150.00	
Parade Stilt Walkers	£600.00	
Parade band	£275.00	
Staging and PA	£1,684.00	Await Feedback from KMF re contribution. Large Stage - no roof (8 m x 7m) with more speakers MJW Quote £2236. Same box as last year with roof (5m x 4m) plus extended stage and more speakers £1684. Another quote cost from 'Loud and Bright' was around £4100 for 7.5 x 6m covered stage and full sound in Market Place.
Merry-Go-Round	£500.00	
Santa Sleigh PLI	£30.00	
Lions Donation	£100.00	
Tightrope Walker	Covered by KMF	Await Feedback from KMF
Road Closure fee (may increase as application will be with W&F)	£275.00	
Traffic Marshals (x 8)	£500.00	
T.E.N. Fee	£21.00	
Barrier Hire	£45.00	
Ambulance (increased cost)	£350.00	
<b>Additional Costs this year:</b>		
Flags (est x 20)	Covered by KMF	Await Feedback from KMF
MC/Host	Covered by KMF	Await Feedback from KMF
Flags - Xmas Plus installation/dismantling x 20 flags.	£835.00	Should we need a replacement/additional bracket (flag holder) they would cost £47.50 each.
Road Closure Signage (cost TBC)	£100.00	
Additional Design	£120.00	To create to scale maps for event applications/plans
Hire of Radio Walkie Talkies x 12	£170.00	
Cowbells (estimate based on average cost of 100)	£400.00	Number dependant - cost range from £3-£5 each
SLDC/CCC land hire and admin fee	£145.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,300.00</b>	
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>£4,500.00</b>	

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Grants Criteria: General and Festival Grants

### Notes for Organisations applying for Grant Funding

#### 1. Introduction

Every year, Kendal Town Council aims to make funding available to organisations which support its work for the benefit of the residents of Kendal. General grants are administered through the Audit, Grants & Charities Committee and festival grants through the Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

#### 2. Statutory Framework

Although Town Councils have a wide range of powers and duties, they are only able to make grants within these statutory restrictions. The Cumbria Associations of Local Councils maintains a useful summary of these limits - see the document "Powers and Duties of Local Councils" on its website.

#### 3. Funding priorities

Within this Framework, the Council makes grants available for both *core funding* and for *project work* (see 5. *Funding Provision* for how the Council defines these terms).

Grants are awarded within two priority areas:

**3.1 Festivals** - The Council believes that festivals - particularly those recurring annually - play an important part in the social life of the Town, help create a positive image of the Town, and attract tourism income for local businesses and the economic benefit that naturally follows.

Within this category, priority will be given to festivals which involve significant numbers of local residents, particularly young people, in their preparation and delivery, and which attract large numbers of local residents to their events.

Requests under this category may be either for core funding or for project work, and will be considered by the Council's Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

**3.2 Community Development** - The Council wishes to encourage community activities in the town, and recognises the role that arts, cultural, sports, and voluntary charitable activities play in developing community spirit and a sense of place.

Priority will be given to locally based organisations which serve marginalised, disadvantaged or isolated people in Kendal, and which demonstrate an effective use of local volunteers, especially young people.

Requests under this heading will normally be for project work.

In all cases, *organisations must be able to prove that the primary beneficiaries of the funding will be the residents of Kendal.*

Additionally, the Town Council is the sole trustee of the Schools of Science & Art Charity, which awards grants for the promotion of education in Kendal – further details are on the Town Council's web-site.

#### 4. Types of organisations

The Council is especially interested in helping smaller organisations based in Kendal that offer direct services to Kendal residents.

**4.1 Structure** - Organisations should have, or should be in the process of acquiring, registered charity or similar not-for-profit status (small bona-fide community groups are exempt from this requirement). Organisations must work directly with beneficiaries (i.e. excluding grant-giving charities, endowment funds, etc).

The Council will not fund commercial organisations, such as registered companies, partnerships, or sole traders. Not-for-profit limited by guarantee and community interest companies are eligible to apply.

**4.2 Size of organisation** - Grants are relatively modest; to make sure grants of this size have an impact, the Council will prioritise the funding of smaller organisations. For organisations based exclusively in Kendal, this means having an income of less than about £100,000, or those working across the UK, an income of not more than about £250,000.

**4.3 Capability** - Applicants must demonstrate they are able to deliver the activities supported by funding.

**4.4 Sustainability** - Applicants must show that they have investigated other sources of funding and made plans for the future, which should include replacement funding if appropriate.

#### 5. Funding Provision

**5.1 Funding Limit** - Grants are usually up to £5,000. Organisations are expected to raise a significant proportion of funding from their own activities.

**5.2 Duration of funding** - Grants are awarded on an annual basis. *Organisations receiving a grant will not normally be eligible for a further grant in the same financial year.*

**5.3 Core funding** - The majority of the grants awarded by the Council relate to core funding, to cover running costs such as general administration, premises costs and services. Usually the Council will have an ongoing partnership with the requesting organisation, whose success is judged to be essential to the life and reputation of the town. Organisations should not anticipate or rely on

ongoing support from the Council and are expected to raise an increasing proportion of its income; the Council will monitor this as appropriate.

**5.4 Project funding** - The Council welcomes applications for projects where the grant will be used for an identified purpose. Applications for project funding should make sure they can fund the cost of any overheads associated with the work, such as office/secretarial support, so that the project is not under-funded. It is in the organisation's best interest to ensure that they have realistically assessed the total cost of the project.

- a) **Innovative or pioneering work.** The Council likes to encourage new ideas and to fund projects that could inspire similar work in other areas, and so enhance the reputation of the town.
- b) **Pump-priming.** The Council particularly welcome applications for pump-priming grants from small community-based organisations.
- c) **Continuation funding.** The Council does appreciate the importance of providing ongoing funding for successful projects which have proved their worth; however, the Council will look for evidence that the organisation is generating an increasing proportion of its income from its own fundraising activities.

**5.5 Emergency or deficit funding** - *in exceptional circumstances*, the Council may provide emergency or deficit funding for an established organisation. Applicants most likely to be granted emergency funding are organisations which the Council knows or has previously supported.

## 6. What will the Committee not recommend?

**6.1 General appeals** - sponsorship, marketing or other fundraising activities.

**6.2 Retrospective funding** - grants for work that has been completed, or will be completed while the application is being considered.

**6.3 Personal appeals** - grants or sponsorship etc. to individuals either directly or indirectly.

**6.4 Organisations**

- with available surplus reserves well above the cost of the project or funding requested.
- whose membership is closed and not open to residents as a whole
- with sectarian, political, or purely lobbying objectives.

## 7. Applying for Funding

7.1 The Council receives many appeals each year, and the most common reasons for it not being able to make a grant are:

- applications not falling within the guidelines;
- organisations considered to have excessive financial reserves; or
- application forms not being filled in correctly and/or completely, or arriving after the deadline for submission.

Applications received usually exceed the funds available, so even if your application meets the Council's criteria, it may not be possible to award a grant in full, or at all.

7.2 Read these guidelines carefully and only apply if your work falls within the Council's priorities. You are recommended to seek the support of a Town Councillor (eg your Ward Member, or the Council's representative on your governing body, if you have one). Organisations seeking funding for festivals should discuss their requests with the Council's Christmas Lights & Festivals Committee.

7.3 Download the application form from the Council's website. It is also available by post or on request at the Town Hall.

7.4 Other sources of funding may be available through the Dowker Bindloss Charity via the Cumbria Community Foundation and the Cumbria County Council's Neighbourhood Forum.

7.5 Read these guidelines carefully before completing the form. It helps to have your application supported by one or more Councillors, who can answer questions about the application if the need arises. The Town Treasurer will be glad to answer specific questions on process, but *the Council cannot accept draft applications*.

7.6 Once the Council has received your application form the process is as follows:

- a) Town Council staff will acknowledge receipt of your application and will contact you to deal with any queries, if necessary. **Your application cannot go to the relevant Committee if there are any outstanding issues.**
- b) Town Council staff will contact you within two weeks of the final Council decision, to let you know the outcome of your application.
- c) If your application has been successful, Town Council staff will arrange payment via a bank transfer; annual grants are normally paid during July
- d) Organisations receiving project funding must submit a project completion report for review by the Audit, Grants, & Charities or Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee.

**7.7 When to Apply.** The two Committees meet according to a published timetable (available on the Council's website). The Committees conduct their main review of funding applications at their October meetings. Your application is most likely to be successful if it is received in time for this meeting. **Applications can only go on the Committee agenda if they have been received - and have had any issues resolved - fourteen days before the Committee meeting.**

The Committee will do its best to process your application as quickly as possible. If the Committee needs further information about your application, it may have to postpone a decision until the next Committee meeting.

Any applications that arrive too late for consideration at one meeting are automatically carried forward to the next. Once the Committee has exhausted its annual budget, no further grants will be available until the next financial year.

The decisions of the Committee go forward as recommendations to the next full Council meeting for a final decision. The Council may accept or reject the Committee's recommendations, approve a different amount of funding, or refer an application back for further consideration by the Committee.

**7.8 Emergency procedure.** In exceptional circumstances, and only with the support of the Mayor, a funding request may be heard by full Council without going through the relevant Committee. The applicant must be able to show why this is a genuine emergency, with a significant impact on Kendal residents. The criteria in Sections 5 and 6 still apply and the organisation must complete the standard paperwork for audit purposes and meet the timetable for the Council Agenda.

## **8. Grant Conditions**

**8.1 The Council will apply certain conditions to the grants it awards:**

**a) The grant must be used for the purpose state in the organisation's application; the Council reserves the right to require a refund of any grant which is not used appropriately.**

**b) Organisations must acknowledge the assistance granted by the Town Council, eg by displaying its crest in documentation, webpages or project signage.**

**c) The Council may require the organisation to achieve specified outcome or output measures connected with the grant funding.**

**d) For awards over £2,000, the Council requires the organisation to submit a brief report on the use of the grant and the organisation's activities. In the case of core funding, this will relate to a full financial year and, for regularly funded organisations, can accompany the following year's grant application. For project funding, the report is required on completion of the project.**

## 9. Further advice and information

For further advice and information about the Council's Audit, Grants, & Charities or Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee, please contact any Town Councillor. Town Council staff will be happy to answer any technical queries.

**Contact details:** Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal, LA9 4DL  
<http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk>



Total cost of festival	£1,500	Amount requested	£1,200
Funds received to date	£326 (2022-c/fwd)	Funds pledged to date	£0.

3. Why do you need this grant and how will the people of Kendal benefit.

Please see attached sheet for breakdown of KWF income and expenditure over the last two years. This indicates the anticipated costs for KWF 2023.

During 2021 we offered walks for free in an effort to encourage people as they came out of lockdown. For the 2022 KWF we asked for donations from walk participants which raised £311. This is our only means of raising funds. We currently have a balance of £339. In order to reduce expenditure we intend to cut out elements which do not represent value for money. Eg Town Hall events and Newsquest advertisement.

We need this grant to support the 2023 festival as administration of KWF transitions to being part of Wellbeing Westmorland.

Its benefit to the people of Kendal is self evident in terms of its contribution to....

- a) Physical and Mental Health
- b) Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- c) Enjoyment and appreciation of environment

A successful KWF contributes to the community and economic wellbeing of Kendal.

4. Please provide any other information in support of your application.

KWF continues to attract visitors to Kendal from as far as Kent, Bournemouth, Cambridge as well as from places nearer to home such as Yorkshire and Lancashire.

KWF 2023 is a vital stepping stone to a sustainable future following its coalescence with Wellbeing Westmorland.

Two examples of feedback received for KWF.....

***Just like to say a big Thankyou to nig markham and sue who were completely lovely and Margaret and Alan who were also on the walk . Really enjoyed myself absolutely shattered but loved it. I will be signing up again. Thankyou so much for showing the beautiful surroundings of Kendal. Xx***

***I'm emailing to say a huge thank you to you and all your team for the time and effort that's been given for the Walking festival. I really enjoyed the Scars walk yesterday - I found some of the uphill sections challenging but the amazing views compensated for that!! A special thank you from me to Brian and Jill for their commitment to the events. I hope the whole programme has been a great success -a well deserved outcome!!***

5. What other sources of funding have already been raised or promised?

Source	Total
Balance from previous festivals	£326
	£
	£
	£
	£
<b>Total Funds Raised</b>	<b>£326</b>

6. How do you propose to evaluate that the festival has been a success?

Feedback from participants - verbal, written, social media.  
 Amount raised through walkers donations.  
 Booking numbers,

7. Please provide a copy of your latest audited accounts with your application.

Wellbeing Westmorland is a newly formed Community Interest Company – no audited accounts.  
 Please see attached sheet indicating running costs of KWF.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Grants are paid, net of VAT, directly to organisations' bank accounts, so we will need the following details from you:

Organisation's Account Name. 

Completed applications should be sent to:

[janine@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:janine@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)

Janine Holt  
 Kendal Town Council  
 Town Hall  
 KENDAL  
 Cumbria LA9 4DL



and foster unity at a county level.

This year's theme will be 'The Power of Unity.'

As a consequence of events occurring in the last few years, people are more polarised and divided than ever.

The radicalisation of extreme opinions and positions can only be counteracted by an active and passionate promotion of unity. Bringing people together, fostering acts of solidarity, mutual support and community cohesion can remind us of our true nature, that of a social species whose survival depends on the unity of the group.

Fear, confusion, and the feeling of having no control over our lives, have pulled us apart and made many of us feel isolated; we need to start coming towards each other instead of running in opposite directions.

Actively fostering unity is the key to strong communities.

How much funding do you require in total? £14,000

How much funding are you requesting from £2,000 the Town Council (maximum £5,000)

Have you approached other funding sources? If so, please list them and the amount you have applied for. We have received none so far as we have just started applying.

Applying to BAE Systems & Sellafield to support Barrow and W Cumbria Unity Festival

We also plan to apply to Cumbria Community Foundation -  
Cumbria County Council-

We are also exploring other funding resources and have produced a brochure for potential sponsorship, a copy of which is attached to this application.

We are also planning supermarket bag packing days to raise some funds and awareness of the Festival.

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Tell us what you will do with funding from Kendal Town Council. Please include a breakdown of how it will be spent.

We are hoping to use the funding from Kendal Town Council to cover the expenses for a banner, feather banners and filming/editing costs.

Escape to safety exhibition £650.00

Feather banners (Design & printing) x2 £300.00

Video (Filming & Editing) £750.00

Bystander Training £300.00


How will your proposal benefit the people of Kendal?

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Specific benefits to the target audience and the community:

- Increase awareness, build community cohesion and foster good relations by tackling prejudice, promoting mutual understanding and celebrating the diversity of the people and cultures of Cumbria;
- Encourage active citizenship and facilitate greater participation and inclusion through community action and engagement in a wide range of activities;
- Empower marginalised groups and communities living in Cumbria by highlighting their issues as well as contributions to the local economy and culture;
- Welcome newcomers, refugees and migrant workers and introduce these people and families to wider community networks in Cumbria and support them in their social integration locally and
- Provide space for information stalls, food demos, workshops and performances.

How will your proposal address the challenges of Climate Change and help Kendal reduce its carbon footprint?

Part of the project of fostering unity involves the concept of Unity with Nature; the festival aims to emphasise how climate change is a consequence of our disconnection from nature and how rebuilding that connection can help our common goal of reducing carbon emissions. In addition, the festival will include specific activities/workshops with environmental awareness elements.

How does your proposal address the needs for diversity and equality?

Unity without diversity is not stable; it lacks the strength of harmony, which is an arrangement of different voices or instruments, singing or the playing of different notes. Diversity enriches human interactions and creates a more complex concept of “unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation.” \*

Furthermore, unity cannot be reached without equality; nobody can be truly free, safe or happy until we all are.

The Cumbria Unity Festival actively promotes unity and aims to tackle prejudice, to promote mutual understanding, to empower marginalised groups and communities, and to welcome newcomers into the fabric of the community.

\*Green Stories. Stories About Mother Earth and Her Children-Editorial, 3rd December 2020.

How will you evaluate the success of your proposal?

We will use questionnaires, completed on the day  
 Website traffic  
 Social media engagement  
 Evaluation report

<p>Bank Details – How does the name of your organisation appear on your bank account?  This is who we will transfer funds to, should your application be successful. You'll need to state the name, sort code and account number. Please note the Council cannot make payments to personal accounts.</p> <p>(note: bank details have been removed from public document)</p>					
Please include the following documents with your application					
<p>Constitution of your organisation  Last accounts and most recent bank statements</p>					
Declaration					
<p>I/we understand that grant money from Kendal Town Council must be used for the agreed purpose.  I/we will abide</p>					
Signatures - have been removed for confidentiality.					
		Name			
		Name			
		Name			

Please return completed forms by e-mail or post: Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal, LA9 4ED. Email: [office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Form ref KTC CFP1/22

**WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

**A DRAFT CONSULTATION REPORT ABOUT**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY HUBS**

**Supporting Individuals and Community Wellbeing across**

**Westmorland and Furness**

**1. Introduction**

As the restructuring of Local Government comes to fruition and the communities of South Cumbria prepare to be Westmorland and Furness on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, there are several initiatives coming together to help support the voluntary, community and faith sectors of Furness, Eden and South Lakeland. This report attempts to capture some of the developments and discussions with key partners.

The report will not be able to cover all that is happening across the new unitary authority area, as the picture is currently very fluid, multi-layered and fine grained in very different ways across the wide range of communities that are represented across Westmorland and Furness.

The focus of the report is on sustainable community hubs, as this term can be applied across the range of different settings that exist between Barrow and Alston and beyond.

A sustainable community hub is a community asset, such as: a parish or village hall, converted shop, widely used council building or community centre, that can be used by a

range of groups to help develop partnerships to address social, health, economic, environmental and neighbourhood needs.

The report does focus on the experience of South Lakeland and in particular Kendal. A great deal more work is needed to ensure that the differences as well as the similarities across Westmorland and Furness are better understood.

### **1. Consultation Process**

The core ideas of this report were introduced to the final SLDC Building Financial Resilience Partnership meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. It is anticipated that the work of the Building Financial Resilience (BFR) Partnership will be ongoing within the Westmorland and Furness Authority. The BFR Partnership and the SLDC Equalities and Diversity Partnership, will be well positioned to find the most effective and efficient ways to continue to be working with communities for Westmorland and Furness Council, the Bay Health and Care Partners, North Cumbria Health and Care Partnership and other statutory bodies. Other partnership and infrastructure organisations such as Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service and Action with Communities in Cumbria will also have a great deal to contribute to this process.

A number of organisations are already well established with the structures they have put in place. It is hoped that this report and similar ones can help signpost communities and individuals to what is already in place.

Clarity, patience, and dedication will be required to manage the process of transition, to ensure that the restructuring best supports the strengths of the community infrastructure, the voluntary, community and faith sector, the communities they serve and especially the most vulnerable, excluded and in need in Eden, Furness and South Lakeland.

This is a second draft of a Consultation Report that will seek to identify the best options for the partnership that local government and statutory agencies may want to form with the voluntary, community and faith sector, regarding local government reorganisation across Westmorland and Furness.

It is a draft to encourage responses that could be drawn together to produce one report for wider consultation across the diverse communities of Westmorland and Furness and the statutory bodies that serve this area.

The main focus for the consultation will be with the voluntary, community and faith sector. Before this is undertaken in detail, it is vital to ensure that local government and statutory bodies have outlined how they plan to work with the communities of the area.

Will the Building Financial Resilience Partnership (BFRP) and the Equalities and Diversity Partnership be the main ways that Westmorland and Furness Council will initially engage with the communities of Westmorland and Furness? How best with the 'districts' be defined? Is the Parish structure and the work of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils a useful structure for the voluntary, community and faith sector to link with?

Are the Integrated Care Communities the best ways by which the voluntary, community and faith sector can work to support the health and care of our communities?

## **2. Aim of the Report**

This is a consultation report that aims to assist the process of local government reorganisation, so that the formation of the Westmorland and Furness Council helps create a council that is close to the residents and communities that it serves, through good community engagement and partnerships that creates sustainable communities.

The report recognises that statutory agencies (Local Authorities, NHS, Police, Department of Work and Pensions, Education Bodies and other agencies) are working with local partners to enhance community engagement, fine tune service delivery and to find ways by which local communities can empower themselves.

The report also recognises the long history of local organising, volunteering and community service across the communities and neighbourhoods of Westmorland and Furness. It is estimated that there are around 3000 local neighbourhood and community groups across the new unitary authority area. Most of these groups are self-organising, locally managed and depend on a very wide base of local people to achieve their own objectives, be it relating to: sport, culture, young people, faith, tradition and heritage, mental and physical health, neighbourhood improvement, the environment, local events, social issues, equality, community empowerment or whatever local people choose to do. Some voluntary groups are also part of large national charities, networks or broader organisations.

The report will outline several initiatives that are already in place or in development to help enhance partnerships between statutory bodies and local communities to:

- Build strong links with parish and town Councils and other agencies;

- Devolve power, decision making and finances to local areas;
- Keep and enhance local government centres for services and partnerships with the voluntary, community and faith sector across the unitary authority area;
- Build, good neighbourhood networks and communication, local pride, community empowerment and social and cultural cohesion within and across our diverse communities.

### **3. Community Engagement**

Community engagement is involvement and participation in an organization for the welfare of the community. Community engagement increases the visibility and understanding of issues and empowers communities to have their say over decisions that affect their lives, their towns, villages and neighbourhoods

Additionally, community engagement can lead to improved outcomes for the underprivileged or underserved members of a community, and it's a driving factor in social transformation.

Through community engagement, citizens can build and sustain cohesive communities and help their local governments better serve their needs

### **4. Community Partnerships**

A community partnership is a collaborative relationship between willing entities, for example statutory bodies, local organisations or community networks, that have been formed to address shared objectives. Community partnerships are as diverse and varied as the communities in which they are located and the issues they are formed to tackle. Some

are ad hoc committees, formed to quickly respond to a discrete community issue and can then be disbanded as quickly as they form. Others form to take on larger projects, developing structures by which they operate and creating comprehensive strategies to advance their goals.

There are several Community Partnerships in Westmorland and Furness, including South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership, Emergency Resilience Partnerships formed after Storm Desmond and the South Lakeland Building Financial Resilience Partnership.

These partnerships create a means for our local authorities, the health and care agencies (NHS), other parts of the welfare state and other bodies to more effectively deliver and coordinate services with the voluntary, community and faith sector. They do this so as to support individuals, enhance community wellbeing, address social issues, improve our neighbourhoods and the wider built and natural environments.

## **5. Sustainable Community Hubs**

A 'sustainable community hub' is a coordinated group of agencies from the third sector (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) who are involved in strategic and development work with the communities of Westmorland and Furness to address social, health, neighbourhood and environmental issues.

A sustainable community hub could be a parish hall, a local shop, a council building, church hall or other faith centre. A venue for a sustainable community hub should be recognised as a building that is open and accessible on a regular basis for a wide range of organisations

and not one that is exclusive or dominated by one particular group. It should be easy to identify the venue as a shared public space for the whole community.

A sustainable community hub will encourage the participation of all members of a neighbourhood or community, have an effective way to engage all sectors of a community, especially minorities, disadvantaged people and will not have policies or practices that exclude people from being full active members in the sustainable community hub.

Sustainable community hubs will typically: support other local groups; provide space and resources; encourage broader community empowerment; share heritage and cultural events; address local inequalities, climate change, biodiversity loss, social issues; and particular needs in the neighbourhood or community.

Sustainable community hubs will work in partnership with local authorities and other statutory bodies in addressing the needs for the local area or community.

## **6. Principle Sustainable Community Hubs**

It is anticipated that there could be Principle Sustainable Community Hubs that would be a strategic and developmental partner with local parish councils, integrated care partnerships, the local authority or other statutory bodies. Principle Sustainable Community Hubs would have an accountable body that appropriately represented the voluntary, community and faith sector, in a way that was fully transparent and open to public scrutiny. Principle Sustainable Community Hubs would have a role to develop the voluntary, community and faith sector; encouraging volunteering and community service for the whole sector; support

existing groups with training, coordination and communication across the sector; provision of shared resources; advice and guided access to funding; development of partnerships and representation of the sector to local authorities and statutory bodies. A Principle Sustainable Community Hub would typically function as a local council for voluntary service.

It could be that there are three principle sustainable community hubs developed across Westmorland and Furness and work alongside Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service.

### **7. Working in Partnership with Sustainable Community Hubs**

There are a range of supporting bodies who are benefiting from having partnerships with the third sector. With the realignment of the local authorities there is potential for these partnerships to be enhanced and strengthened as they work with communities at an appropriate level with sustainable community hubs.

This could also help:

- ✓ Build strong links with Parish and Town Councils, local community groups and other organisations.
- ✓ Make community engagement more accessible and transparent.
- ✓ Strengthen the involvement of residents in matters that impact on their communities.
- ✓ Devolve power, decision making and finances to local areas
- ✓ Ensure that services are fit for purpose at a local community level

Further consultation needs to be undertaken with:

- Westmorland and Furness Council Shadow Authority

- Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service
- Action with Communities in Cumbria
- NHS Bay Trust
- North Cumbria Health and Social Care Trust
- Cumbria Arts and Culture Network
- South Lakeland Action on Climate Change
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability
- The wider voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector

#### **8. Ongoing Community Engagement and Development Work**

A number of community engagement initiatives and structures that relate to the communities of Eden, Furness and South Lakeland have been set up for various roles by: Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service, Action with Communities in Cumbria, the Gateway Group, the Integrated Care Communities, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Cumbria County Council, Barrow District Council Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council, as well as local town and parish councils.

There has been excellent community development work done by these and other organisation's teams, especially in regard to social inclusion, supporting volunteer networks improving health and wellbeing and work with Parish Councils to enhance local decision making.

Careful consultation needs to be undertaken to safeguard and carry forward the partnerships and sustainable work, that is already in place and to root this in the new local government structures.

Several strands of work need to be valued within this transition process:

**a. Barrow Community Hubs and the Barrow Town Deal**

The wellbeing of Barrow residents is at the heart of the Community Hubs project, which will see a network of four centres created in key locations.

All four centres will bring residents together and encourage users to make positive lifestyle choices by providing an easily accessible home for a variety of activities and experiences which are in the process of being developed.

The hubs will be strategically located to ensure communities most in need of their services can access the services they want at any time throughout their lives.

Three hubs will be created across Barrow, with locations in Ormsgill, Barrow Island and Barrow town centre.

The Forum in Barrow will provide a central hub, where work will be undertaken to enhance the existing facilities. It is also hoped the investment will drive footfall to the town centre, boosting businesses and the wider economy.

On Barrow Island the Bram Longstaffe building is being reconfigured as a Community Hub. In addition to the nursery the Hub will provide wraparound support for families and individuals, working with partners to provide services that meet the needs of the Barrow Island community.

The community hub in Ormsgill builds up on the well-known community spirit and partnership approach in the neighbourhood. The hub is at the heart of the community and brings everyone together.

As well as the Community Hubs in Barrow there are other well develop facilities and networks across Furness.

**b. Eden is the most rural and widely dispersed population area within Westmorland and Furness.**

**Action with Communities in Cumbria** (ACT) has been rooted in this area with a brief for the whole of Cumbria. ACT is a member of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), that works together to evidence need, to inform, and to influence at a national level, speaking up as the voice for rural communities across England.

The objectives we share are to:

- Improve the lives of people living and working in rural communities
- Support and encourage community-led action and strong local governance
- Increase long-term sustainability of local community life
- Influence policies and services so as to help address market failures associated with rurality

The principles we share are that we will:

- Act as a champion and facilitator for sustainable rural communities
- Use community development principles to enable people to understand and address the issues that they and their communities face
-

c. **South Lakeland Building Financial Resilience and the Emergency Resilience**

**Networks, Warm Spots and Food Shares**, are continuing in new forms to help neighbours and small community groups to address poverty, many different needs and exclusion. The strengths and skills the people involved have developed through the crisis of the last few years, have been enhanced with training and support to continue volunteering with addressing need, cohesion and empowerment work.

d. **South Lakeland Sustainable Community Hub**

South Lakeland Action on Climate Change, Waste into Wellbeing, Kendal Peoples' Café, Kendal Town Council and Stricklandgate House have formed a collaboration, to help implement the recommendation from Kendal Citizen's Jury on Climate Change, to form a 'sustainability hub'.

Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service have been working with the Trustees of Stricklandgate House, to consult the VCFSE of South Lakeland about how they can best support the sector within the new local government structure.

It is planned that this consultation will continue across the rest of the new unitary area and also the different specialist networks within the VCFSE sector.

There are thousands of small, medium sized and large organisations in the sector across Westmorland and Furness. It is hoped that a new form of sustainable support will be possible to help develop the 'fine grained approach' to community development, creating stronger cohesion and empowerment.

- e. **South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership (SLEDP)**, who have championed many key initiatives with the VCFSE sector over recent years, including the Kendal and Cumbria Unity Festivals, has recently announced that they are planning to link out to equivalent organisations in Furness and Eden, to form a Partnership across the Westmorland and Furness area.
  
- f. SLEDP, Churches of Westmorland and Furness and South Lakeland Interfaith Forum are working together with the aim of forming a **Faith Covenant** with the new Unitary Authority.
  
- g. Several of the **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Networks** of the new unitary authority area are working with SLEDP, to help create a more sustainable form of support with local authorities, regarding service delivery for their networks.
  
- h. In 2020 South Lakeland District Council declared a Poverty Emergency, and asked Cumbria CVS to host the **South Lakeland Poverty Truth Commission**, that started their work in September 2022.
  
- i. **The Bay Health and Care Partners Integrated Care Communities (ICCs)** are made up of teams of health and care workers, voluntary organisations and wider partners who are working together to improve physical and mental health outcomes, promote wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and focus on wider determinants of health across the population in Morecambe Bay.

The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership has set up an Alliance and Assembly, to help represent the VCFSE across the new unitary authority area.

These initiatives are primarily in regard to delivery partnerships with the NHS. The VCFSE Assembly for Lancashire and South Cumbria is coordinated via [www.communityfutures.org.uk](http://www.communityfutures.org.uk) the Community Council of Lancashire.

Health and Social Care across Eden is under a different Health Authority.

- j. Cumbria CVS, whose headquarters are in Carlisle, are supporting most of the work in Furness, South Lakeland and Eden, with a range of commissioned projects.**
  
- k. A Development and Strategic Agency for the Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise Sector for Westmorland and Furness.**

Currently there is no single development and strategic body that is based in Westmorland and Furness for the VCFSE, that could help form partnerships with statutory (NHS, Local Authority and other agencies).

South Lakeland Equality and Diversity Partnership and the Building Financial Resilience Partnership, together with appropriate equivalent bodies in Eden and Furness, maybe best positioned to identify how to create an appropriate infrastructure partnership, network and strategic and development agency for the VCFSE sector of Westmorland and Furness.

- I. The Gateway Group South Lakeland also work as a partnership of voluntary organisations in South Lakeland. [Compass - Services \(compassehub.com\)](#)  
[\(20+\) Gateway Group SL | Facebook](#)

It is anticipated that within the discussions at the Westmorland and Furness Building Financial Resilience Partnership and Network, a commitment can be given to ensure that the primary democratic agencies of the Westmorland and Furness Area, will work together to ensure that the VCFSE sector is most effectively represented in strategic and development ways, in regard to the empowerment and service delivery partnerships with statutory bodies.

So that in working with communities, voluntary and faith groups, and local social enterprises, the new Council will give us all a fresh chance to make sure that our Local Council is close to the residents that it serves. So that those in the local VCFSE sector can themselves:

- Build strong links with parish and town Councils and other agencies;
- Devolve power, decision making and finances to local areas;
- Keep and enhance local government centres for services and partnerships with the VCFSE across the unitary authority area;
- Build, good neighbourhood networks and communication, local pride, community empowerment and social and cultural cohesion within and across our diverse communities.

## **9. Stricklandgate House as the venue for a Principle Sustainable Community Hub**

There is a proposal to help ensure that a principle sustainable community hub is developed at Stricklandgate House. This has developed from an aspiration of the Kendal Citizens Jury on Climate Change.

Stricklandgate House has been and remains the home of many key institutions and individuals that have helped the strategic and developmental role of Kendal and South Lakeland through the last 246 years.

Kendal Town Council, Stricklandgate House Trustees, Waste into Wellbeing, South Lakeland Action on Climate Change and the Peoples' Cafe are creating the 'heart' of the sustainable community hub, around a café and kitchen, to turn waste food into meals that can be shared across the community. It is intended that this hub will also have exemplar projects that will encourage us all to find ways to address social inequality and community needs, the climate emergency and the destruction of local and global biodiversity.

It is understood that actively shared heritage and culture, environmental sustainability, poverty and community empowerment are all related issues, that need to be addressed in a strategic and developmental way.

Stricklandgate House, will be home for the Peoples' Café, a training kitchen and waste food reprocessing facility and a wide range of voluntary sector organisations.

It is anticipated that facilities will be provided to create the strategic and developmental functions of a principle sustainable community hub. Stricklandgate House Trustees are in discussions with Cumbria CVS to consult with the voluntary, community and faith sector of South Lakeland to see if they would value a Principle Sustainable Community Hub being created at Stricklandgate House.

It is hoped that such a development in South Lakeland would be complimented by similar developments in Eden and Furness.

The sustainable community hub will be a project and tenant within the building. In due course the sustainable community hub will need its own constitution, management, and business plan.

Stricklandgate House Trustees are trustees of the building and do not have a responsibility for the actions of projects or tenants within the building.

#### **10. Kendal Town Council**

Kendal Town Council wants to support the development of an independent organisation at Stricklandgate House, that can support the community, voluntary, faith and social enterprise sector in South Lakeland. Such an organisation would strategically link with partner organisations in Furness and Eden, and with Cumbria CVS, Action with Communities in Cumbria and neighbouring bodies in Cumberland, Northumbria, Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire. Kendal Town Council will approach the Westmorland and Furness Council and

the North Cumbria Trust and the Bay Trust of the NHS to support and resource such an organisation.

Kendal Town Council is seeking to create a 'Communities Committee', to align its governance and decision making to better support, engage with and empower local communities on a range of subjects to be decided within the Kendal Town Council Plan.

### **11. Heritage and Background to Stricklandgate House**

South Lakeland has always been a place with great pride in our heritage and the progressive views of each generation. Being part of the borderlands, between centres of power, has created innovative and pragmatic solutions to the challenges the area has faced. It is the birthplace of the Quaker movement, home to Lady Anne Clifford, Joseph Maude, William Wordsworth, Robert Southey, John Dalton, Adam Sedgewick, John Ruskin and Mary Benson. The areas social and economic heritage provides a good foundation on which to build institutions to address current challenges.

The 1960s and 1970s in South Lakeland saw the creation of many key institutions to support local community empowerment, civic responsibility, heritage and culture: Abbot Hall 1962, Kendal Civic Society 1963, Kendal Gathering and Torchlight 1970, Brewery Arts 1972.

Through this time Stricklandgate House was used as the offices of South Westmorland Rural District Council. From 1974 South Lakeland District Council was created and continued to use the building for offices and the main room in the house (now used by the Scott Trusts) was the Council Chamber, until the extension at the back of Stricklandgate House was created to house the Chamber. The District Council remained there until new offices were

opened at South Lakeland House. Following the move, Stricklandgate House was bought from SLDC by an independent charity, Stricklandgate House Trustees, to establish a building to operate serviced office accommodation on behalf of local voluntary organisations at economic rents.

### **Third Sector Partnership (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise)**

Stricklandgate House is currently the office base and counselling rooms for several Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, including: The Lighthouse Community Mental Health Hub, South Cumbria Dyslexia Association, Youth Presence, Barnardo's, Cumbria Scouts, Francis C Scott Charitable Trust, Lake District Summer Music, Springfield Domestic Abuse Support in South Lakeland, South Lakeland Action on Climate Change (Waste into Wellbeing), Cumbria Community Transport, Birchall Trust, and Lakeland Massage amongst others.

### **A Sustainable Community Hub to be a Strategic and Developmental Body for the Third Sector**

As well as the organisations above there are a number of local VCFSE groups that are working in Kendal and South Lakeland, who would be invited to form a network and partnership to be based in Stricklandgate House, to help collaborate and cooperate in addressing local social and community issues, alongside the climate emergency and biodiversity loss of the area. The VCFSE partnership would relate to the other specialist networks across Cumbria for the third sector. Such bodies include:

### **South Lakes Poverty Truth Commission – (Cumbria CVS)**

The South Lakes Poverty Truth Commission is aiming to bring the voices of people who have direct experience of living in poverty into the local decision-making process.

The organisation is aiming to make a difference to the lives of people across the South Lakes.

South Lakeland District Council, local charities, Cumbria CVS and health services, are hosting the project and has just taken on two new members of staff, based in Kendal and Ulverston, to get the ball rolling.

### **Connecting Communities (Cumbria CVS)**

Connecting Communities is the South Area Community Engagement team for Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service.

### **Young People**

There are a number of organisations that are currently engaged with the concerns and interests of young people across South Lakeland, including; Youth Matters, Youth Presence, Youth Zone and the Youth Engagement Service

### **Active Kendal**

Kendal Town Council to develop a scheme to help create open access to sports, cultural and leisure activities to people in the town especially young people and those who may be financially excluded.

### **Westmorland and Furness Financial Resilience Partnership and Network**

### **Westmorland and Furness Equalities and Diversity Partnership and Network**

### **Warm Spot and Foodbank Network**

### **Churches Together in Kendal and South Lakeland**

### **South Lakeland Interfaith Forum**

### **Flood Resilience Volunteers Network**

### **Events and Festivals Forum/Partnership – (that may be created)**

### **South Lakeland Heritage and Culture (potential partnership)**

As Cumbria is restructured into two new unitary authorities a number of county-wide and local organisations may need to realign, so as to best serve their communities in regard to community engagement for service delivery and efficient decision making.

All the above bodies need to be consulted as the contributions they would like to make to the development of an effective sustainable community hub and third sector partnership.

## **12. Process to Create a network of Sustainable Community Hubs across Westmorland and Furness**

### **a. Peoples' Café and Waste into Wellbeing**

Stricklandgate House Trustees, Waste into Wellbeing, South Lakeland Action on Climate Change, the Peoples' Cafe and Kendal Town Council to create a Café and Kitchen to be the heart of the sustainable community hub of South Lakeland.

### **b. Supporting Individual's and Communities' Wellbeing - Kendal Town Council**

Kendal Town Council to form a Communities Committee to relate to the heritage, culture and social issues of Kendal, as set out in the forthcoming Kendal Town Plan.

### **c. Network and Partnership structure for the Third Sector (VCFSE) in Westmorland and Furness**

Kendal Town Council to work with Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumbria CVS, other town and parish councils, Cumbria Association of Local Authorities and other statutory agencies to form a network and partnership structure with the Third Sector in Westmorland and Furness.

Consultation across the various specific networks of the sector: young people; art and culture; environment and nature; community centres; sport and leisure; health and wellbeing; mental health and supporting individuals; and, faith communities.

**d. Principle Sustainable Community Hubs to be established in appropriate places to service the communities of Westmorland and Furness.**

Strategic and Development Body for the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector. It is anticipated that the sustainable community hub for South Lakeland will first comprise a shared office facility at Stricklandgate House for the long-term work that the South Lakeland Poverty Commission identifies from their findings. The hub may also host the work of the Flood Resilience and Financial Resilience Volunteers and connected communities.

**e. A Principle Sustainable Community Hub at Stricklandgate House**

Stricklandgate House Trustees, Kendal Town Council, South Lakeland Action on Climate Change and Westmorland and Furness Council to continue to pursue the vision of Stricklandgate House, being an exemplar of heritage conservation, sustainable development, community empowerment and cohesion.

Please copy any comments you have on the report to:

Helen Moriarty [helen@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)

Blyth, Simon [S.Blyth@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:S.Blyth@southlakeland.gov.uk)

David Beuzeval [david@ioncharityconsulting.co.uk](mailto:david@ioncharityconsulting.co.uk)

Cllr Craig Russell [craig@hylandshouse.co.uk](mailto:craig@hylandshouse.co.uk)