

Kendal Town Council

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



18 March 2024

To Members of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee

Cllr J Brook	Cllr J Cornthwaite (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Dunlop (Chair)	Cllr L Hendry
Cllr M Severn	Cllr D Rathbone
Cllr C Russell	Cllr G Tirvengadam
One vacancy	

You are summoned to a meeting of Kendal Town Council Mayoralty and Heritage Committee on **Monday, 25 March 2024, 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

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 the Local Government Act 1972, s85.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation

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

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 (pages 3 to 7)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on 22 January 2024 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a true record (see attached).

5. Minute Action Sheet (page 8)

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

6. Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24 (page 9)

To consider a report on budget spending (see attached).

7. Reimagining the Wildlife Collection at Kendal Museum (pages 10 to 12)

To receive a report from Cllr Russell on the contact he has had through Natural Kendal with Kendal Museum on reimagining the presentation of the historic wildlife collection at Kendal Museum, and to consider any subsequent actions (see attached).

Background

Cllr Russell, through his role with Natural Kendal, has been involved in a group working at Kendal Museum to 'reimagine' the way that the world wildlife collection is presented. Some of this is inspired by the academic work of Joe Rigby, who has shown that many of the core items of the collection were donated by a local English Colonialist, who acquired them in East Africa, often in circumstances which would not be considered acceptable by modern ethical standards. The group is exploring ways that this collection can be given context, and that links can be made with some of the local East African communities from whom they were taken.

8. Slavery and Kendal Exhibition

To receive a brief verbal report on progress of plans for the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition.

9. Museum Provision

To consider the next steps in the development of a Museum for Kendal.

Background

This is a standing item for the Mayor and officers to report back on progress made towards the development of a Museum for Kendal and to initiate consideration of any concerns members may have relating to this issue.

10. K-Shoes Collection (page 13)

To receive an update on the current provision in Kendal for the K-Shoes heritage collection, and to make any necessary decisions relating to its ongoing support (see attached).

11. Twinning

To receive a brief verbal report on the other activities and affairs of the Town's two twinning relationships.

12. Newsletter and Publicity

To consider which items will be included in a press release and items for the next edition of the Council's Newsletter.

Kendal Town Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee held on Monday, 22 January 2024, at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr J Brook	Present	Cllr J Cornthwaite (Vice-Chair)	Present
Cllr J Dunlop (Chair)	Present	Cllr D Rathbone	Apologies
Cllr M Severn	Absent	Cllr G Tirvengadum	Present
Cllr C Russell	Present		
Two Vacancies			

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) and Simon Unsworth (Heritage Officer)

MH14/2023 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Rathbone.

MH15/2023 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

MH16/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

MH17/2023 Minutes from the Last Meeting

It was noted that the new Discard Policy referred to the Mayoralty and Arts Committee, but this should now be the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee.

Resolved: To receive the minutes of the meeting of the former Mayoralty and Arts Committee held on 9 October 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

MH18/2023 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

Emails had been sent to the appropriate officer at W&FC concerning the brass signage plaques in the Town Hall. To date, no response had been received, and these were being chased up. Cllr Brook asked that he may be copied in to future correspondence, in his role as Leader of W&FC, so as to ensure appropriate notice is taken. A suggestion was also made that the sign on the Parlour door includes the date at which it was created.

Resolved: To note the report.

MH19/2023 Review of Spend against Budget 2023/24

The Committee considered its budget monitoring report.

The Clerk drew the Committee's attention to the relatively low spend against Torchlight, this year, because no grandstand or marquee had been required.

Resolved: To note the budget monitoring report as at 8 January 2024.

MH20/2023 Slavery and Kendal Exhibition

The Heritage Officer provided a brief verbal report on progress of plans for the Slavery and Kendal Exhibition. A meeting had been held with Anti Racism Cumbria and others, and it had been suggested that they may be able to supply volunteers to staff the exhibition, which may allow a different style of exhibit to be used. He was expecting to finish the text for the display boards in the next month and would circulate them to members for feedback, prior to design. He was due to meet with Cllr Rathbone later in the week to discuss what lessons could be learned from the Lancaster City exhibition on a similar topic.

He confirmed that the Exhibition was on track to be delivered the week before the Unity Festival in July. It was suggested that the Heritage Officer make links with staff at Kendal Museum who were working on a re-imagining of the Wildlife exhibition in the light of current knowledge about its creation.

Resolved: To note the verbal report. Cllr Russell will provide appropriate contacts at the Museum.

MH21/2023 Kendal Town Crier/Bellman

The Town Clerk provided a brief verbal report on the return of the Town Crier/Bellman. Richard Mathews has returned to the post after a period in which the post was briefly held by a former Mayor of Kendal, and then was vacant. The Heritage Officer reported that new Risk assessments had been drawn up, new terms of reference agreed, and new procedures for the Crier's booking, remuneration and reporting put in place. Booking the Crier can be direct through him, or through the office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk address.

Resolved: To note the verbal report.

MH22/2023 Collection Management

(a) The Heritage Officer presented a report asking Members to consider the acquisition of a medallion commemorating the re-building of the Town Hall in 1897 at a cost of £30 from the Art Reserve.

According to the Council's Acquisition Policy, items were to be considered for acquisition if they met one of criteria stated. To this end, the badge being ranked as No.1, an item which has a direct link to the Mayoralty and/or Kendal Town Council, it was clearly linked to the Council and the development of its based in the Town Hall, and acquisition should be strongly considered. As such, it was being recommended that the Council purchase the item due to its ranking and the fact that the cost was not high.

Resolved: To purchase the medallion for £30, from the Arts Reserve.

(b) The Committee was asked to note the continued loan of 'King Lear in the Tempest' by George Romney to Lakeland Arts for display in the Abbot Hall Gallery. A copy of the loan agreement form was attached to the agenda for information.

Resolved: to note the report.

(c) The Heritage Officer provided an update on the progress made towards developing a priority list for acquisition, retention and discard in the collection. As part of the ongoing work to most effectively manage the Collection, all of the existing Heritage items had been assessed against the following criteria:

1. Item has a direct link to the Mayoralty and/or Kendal Town Council. Not to be disposed of unless under point 6.
2. Item has a direct link to the town of Kendal's history and development. Not to be disposed of unless under point 6.
3. Item has a direct link to key individuals or groups associated with the town **and** also has a direct link to the Mayoralty and/or Town Council. Not to be disposed of unless under point 6.
4. Item has a direct link to key individuals or groups associated with the town **but** has no direct link to the Mayoralty and/or Town Council. Disposal can be considered.
5. Item has no obvious link to town, Mayoralty and/or Town Council. Disposal can be considered.
6. Item is irretrievably damaged. Disposal should be considered.

Once a better understanding of the makeup of the collection as understood, further discussion could take place about those items placed into categories 4, 5 and 6. The assessment and categorisation had been carried out in the first instance by the Heritage Officer, and could be changed following discussion if required.

The assessment showed that the Heritage collection broke down as follows:-

Category 1: 231 items (38%)
Category 2: 73 items (12%)
Category 3: 56 items (9%)
Category 4: 156 items (26%)
Category 5: 65 items (10%)
Category 6: 0 items (0%)
Unsure: 27 items (5%)

This meant that almost 60% of the Heritage Collection was Categorised 1-3 and so could be considered to be in the correct hands, with only a small amount listed as 'Unsure' until further research could be undertaken. The items that could be considered for disposal should now be the subject of further discussion to make any decisions needed about their retention. It was important to clarify that an item falling into the categories 4 or 5 did not mean that they should be discarded, only that it was something that could be considered if the need arose (where 'need' should be assessed not merely on financial grounds but for reasons of (for example) space, storage requirements or other factors as laid out in the original policy).

Members were now being asked how to progress this work. Following a discussion of a number of examples, where specific experts had expressed interests in specific works, it was suggested that this process next would require the services of both an art historian, and a valuer, so that the current care, value and context of relevant items in the collection could be considered.

Resolved: To progress this issue with relevant experts and report back to the committee.

MH23/2023 Museum Provision

The Town Clerk presented a report summarising progress made so far towards creating a new “Museum for Kendal”. The report explained how museum provision telling the story of Kendal was currently split over a number of collections held by a range of providers: Kendal Museum; Lakeland Arts; Kendal Town Council; the former Cumbria County Archive; Kendal Library; The Quaker Tapestry; K Shoes Collection; and other local archives and a number of other local collections.

At recent meetings, and those held prior to the sale of the Old Kendal Grammar School by Lakeland Arts in November 2023, it had been agreed that the Town Council would like to support an initiative to develop a public museum offer which specifically told Kendal’s story. Because of the diversity of the town’s historic collections, and the physical range of its historic sites, it had been suggested that a single physical site was unrealistic, and that attention should be given to developing innovative alternative ways of telling the town’s story.

At a meeting with stakeholders and Westmorland and Furness Council (W&FC) staff and councillors in November 2023, it had been suggested that W&FC staff may be available to assist in developing the idea of an innovative Museum for Kendal. To date there had been little further movement in this regard. Assuming that W&FC staff time became available in due course, the Committee was asked for its consideration of what the Town Council’s role in a future initiative might be, and whether in due course, it would be an issue to which the Council was prepared to allocate funding.

The Committee agreed that the Town Council should take a leading role in ensuring the story of Kendal is told. There was considerable sympathy for the roles of W&FC officers who were working across the wider unitary district with very different corporate cultures and experience in Museums. It was noted that one of the part-time, long serving Curators at Kendal Museum had retired after Christmas, and this presented a considerable potential loss of local expertise. New curatorial staff were being trained, and the Town Council could have a role in shaping Kendal Museum’s future directions. However it was reiterated that the Kendal story wasn’t just about a fixed-site Museum, but included many aspects of the town’s heritage, and the Mayor and Council officers could take a role in leading this issue forward.

Resolved: To note the report.

Resolved: The Mayor and the Town Clerk to liaise over developing a plan of action for developing a wider project with stakeholders.

MH24/2023 Twinning

(a) It was reported that the Mayor had been invited to the St Patrick’s Day celebrations in Kendal’s twin town Killarney. The trip might require a small virement from the underspent Mayoral events budget to the Mayoral Travel budget. The Committee suggested it might also come from the Twinning budget line. It was noted that the Killarney Mountain Festival was still a great opportunity for making further linkages.

Resolved: To support the Mayor’s re-engagement with Killarney, and to utilise the Twinning budget to support the trip.

(b) Members of the Kendal Rinteln Association provided a brief verbal report on the activities of the Association. It was meeting for its agm on Wednesday at 7pm, and all councillors had been invited.

Resolved: To note the report.

MH25/2023 Newsletter and Publicity

The Committee was asked to consider which items discussed at the meeting, if any, would be included in a press release and, in addition, items for the next edition of the Council's Newsletter.

Resolved: The return of the Town Crier, and new dates for public tours of the Mayor's Parlour were suggested as suitable articles.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Mayoralty and Heritage Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 18-03-24							
Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
24/10/2022	MA18/2022	Town Council Collection	Town Clerk to consider a suitable lease agreement regarding what is displayed by SLDC, together with an audit of what works are currently displayed by SLDC.	CB			Awaiting review now LGR is complete
23/01/2023	MA35/2022/	Twinning	Subject to reinvigoration of the twinning arrangement with Killarney proving to be impossible, a paper to be brought to Committee on options for twinning arrangements to be made with a town in Eastern Europe.	CB/SU			No action further taken to date
27/03/2023	MA41/2022	Minute Action Sheet	The Heritage Officer to meet with the relevant Officer at Westmorland & Furness to discuss appropriate signage for directions to the "Mayor's Parlour" at Town Hall ground floor level, in keeping with house style.	SU			W&F Officers now engaged in process after prompting
27/03/2023	MA48/2022	Twinning	To make arrangements for reports to be submitted to the Council from its twin towns.	CB		Not yet actioned	
19/06/2023	MA5/2023	Minute Action Sheet	To correspond with Westmorland and Furness in relation to use of the Town Hall building, copying in the relevant Portfolio Holder.	CB			In progress with W&F officers
09/10/2023	MH5/2023	Minute Action Sheet	That the Town Clerk approach W&FC for a contribution to the door plaque and direction sign.	CB		16-Nov-23	Awaiting outcome of correspondence with officer
09/10/2023	MH11/2023	Museum Provision	The Town Clerk to follow up actions with W&FC.	CB			In progress
22/01/2023	MH22/2023	Collection Management	To progress this issue (services of both an art historian, and a valuer) with relevant experts and report back to the committee.	SKU/CB			In progress
22/01/2023	MH23/2023	Museum Provision	The Mayor and the Town Clerk to liaise over developing a plan of action for developing a wider project with stakeholders.	CB			In progress
22/01/2023	MH24/2023	Twinning	To support the Mayor's re-engagement with Killarney, and to utilise the Twinning budget to support the trip.	CB			Completed

16:54

Kendal Town Council
Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 12)
Note: Full Budget Statement

		<u>22/23</u>		<u>23/24</u>					<u>24/25</u>			
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
270	<u>Mayoralty & Arts</u>											
4700	Mayoral Allowance	5,250	5,524	0	0	5,524	0	5,524	5,000	5,000	0	0
4705	Mayoral Travel	800	281	0	0	800	0	800	557	800	0	0
4720	Mayor Making	0	1,838	0	0	2,200	0	2,200	2,273	2,500	0	0
4725	Torchlight	0	1,730	0	0	1,730	0	1,730	308	2,000	0	0
4730	Remembrance Sunday	0	279	0	0	300	0	300	97	350	0	0
4735	Pictures & Others	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	50	250	0	0
4745	Misc. Mayoral Functions & Exp	7,500	5,492	0	0	3,170	0	3,170	2,776	4,000	0	0
4746	Mayor's Charit Exp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0
4750	Twinning	2,500	930	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	70	1,500	0	0
4755	Exhibitions	2,000	2,000	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
4760	Museum	2,000	2,000	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	20,050	20,075	0	0	18,324	0	18,324	13,181	19,400	0	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,309	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(20,050)	(15,766)			(18,324)		(18,324)	(13,181)	(19,400)		
	Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	20,050	20,075	0	0	18,324	0	18,324	13,181	19,400	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	-20,050	-20,075	0	0	-18,324	0	-18,324	-13,181	-19,400	0	0
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,309	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(20,050)	(15,766)			(18,324)		(18,324)	(13,181)	(19,400)		

Kendal Town Council**Mayoralty and Heritage Committee****25 March 2024****Item 7 Reimagining the World Wildlife Collection**

The following notes are from a meeting held at Kendal Museum on 15 March 2024, and are reproduced here to support Cllr Russell's report on this and other meetings on this issue.

Meeting minutes 15/03/24Purpose:

To discuss the research of Dr Joe Rigby and its relation to the museum, collection owners, Kendal Town Council, subject communities and relevant arts/heritage projects

Attending:

Michael Bult (Kendal Museum Development Manager), Morag Clement (Kendal Museum Archaeology and Social History Curator), Dr Joe Rigby (Kendal Museum Reimagining project Research Partner), Ila Colley (Kendal Museum Reimagining Project Manager), Craig Russell (Kendal Town Councillor), Andy Blackman (Kendal Town Councillor and Former Mayor of Kendal)

Introductions made to the attending.

Overview of the Reimagining project given by Ila.

Overview of Dr Rigby's research given by himself. Both the specific tangible research objectives regarding the identification of the instruments, as well as contextual narratives e.g. the Uganda railway, Nandi resistance, and the assassination of Koitalel Arap Samoei by Meinertzhagen and the story of his decapitation. Some key parts of this include the 2006 return of Koitalel Arap Samoei's club and staff by Meinertzhagen's grandson, as well as the active call to return his head.

Sharing findings from Morag and Joe's meeting:

- Evidence to suggest that the instruments were originally classified as Nat Hist collection, later moved to Social History, with possible information lost in the process. This need to be followed up with Carol.
- Other finds relating to Harrison donated by a Miss Harrison, including medals and truncheon. Refer to Joe's paper for detail.

Issues needing address:

- Museum policy on restitution.
 - o Morag is currently writing. Once complete, needs approving by the governing body, Kendal College, and implementing in the museum.
- Contacts and communications beyond the Museum and the Reimagining group: how to manage and who to contact.
 - o Joe shares the publication from the IIP (International Inventories Project) and their exhibition in Nairobi, he is interested in connecting with Nest Collective (artists and academics) and Morag considers The National Museums of Kenya: could we contribute to the archive – or have a parallel exhibition? Joe hasn't had a response from Nelson.
- How to better manage key stakeholder communications.

- There is discussion about the possibility of reinstating the Advisory Group consisting of representatives from the museum, W&F Council (collection owners), Kendal Town Council (building owners). The question of how to trigger its reconvening is posed.

Introduction to Andy Blackman

- Joe hopes that making contacts on the ground in Kenya and Uganda will greatly inform his research.
- Andy is introduced by Craig and gives some background to his connection with Kenya through the school in the Open Arms Village and his work on twinning with the TC.
- Andy describes that the charity Open Arms International has become Stand By Me but that the village and project still exist with active links, especially with local tribal leaders who hold a great deal of authority in the region.
- Contact could be made with the NW Development Officer for the charity. Andy also describes the mechanism by which teachers from Kendal primary schools are involved in the project (Heron Hill and St Thomas'?)
- A visit by several Kenyan partners to the project will occur in the next few weeks. A meeting is suggested and the museum hosting is discussed. Email contact with Andy is suggested for further details.
- Following this conversation, Andy makes his apologies to leave early.

Supporting Joe's research

- Regarding the musical instruments, determining origin through animal material is difficult due to vast habitat area. It seems more likely to verify origin through direct/expert knowledge of cultural objects.
- Harrison may have taken the horns from anywhere along the Uganda railway.
- Craig suggests there is possible overlap between Reimagining, Joe's research and the exhibition (now a trail?) that the TC Heritage Officer is creating for launch in June of this year. However it is observed that the focus on Transatlantic Slave Trade is different to the dynamics of colonialism that Reimagining has been concerned with. There seems scope for collaboration on the scale of 1-3 years in future. The first meeting with Simon was productive so we will keep in touch.
- "Who was Miss Harrison?" Potential avenue – determining Harrison's relations, sale of house, will etc. Morag suggests findmypast and Kendal archives for the sale.

Actions

- Permission to contact people for context-building research: given by Morag. Any additions to email in relation to collections please check with her, otherwise OK.
- Permission to contact organisations that deal with formal collections, archives, databases: given and actively supported by Morag who prefers contact goes through her using Joe's template.
- Research trips within the UK and other research-related costs – a plan is made to explore options for smaller sums of money. One option is the TC.
- The museum will explore a potential voluntary position for a museum-based research assistant for Joe's ongoing project.
- The museum will explore options to incorporate research funding for Joe into a larger bid for the next phase of the Reimagining project. Joe and Craig are enthusiastic that an education component for school children would be good, and Gisela from Global

Link has already voiced support to be a partner. Cumbria Development Education Centre?

Final comments

- Ila will make contact with Andy re possible meeting.
- Any potential future invitees to be shared with museum before meetings set to enable preparations and information permissions.
- Any new collections related information to be run by Morag before sharing.
- A productive meeting, thanks to everybody for attending, and their individual input and ambition!
- Follow-up meeting tbc.

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Mayoralty and Heritage	Meeting Date 18 March 2024
From: Town Clerk	Agenda No: 10
Description: K-Shoes Collection	

Summary

To consider a proposal to retain the remaining items from the K-Shoe Heritage Centre in Kendal for appraisal.

Background

The K-Shoes Heritage Collection was mostly removed to Street, Somerset when the K-Village Heritage centre closed c2018/19. In Street it is in the care of the Alfred Gillett Trust, which acquired the heritage collections of Clarks when the firm was restructured. The Gillett Trust has given assurances that the Collection is in good hands, though obviously it is now 300 or so miles from its original home. Still in the K-Village building is a number of additional files and boxes which were not taken to Street, either because they were not on site when the items were collected or they were not considered directly valuable to the Gillett Trust. Also remaining on site are the glass display cabinets, and a Waring and Gillow shop front, which was a feature of the heritage centre. The centre's large graphic displays are also stored on site.

The long-serving manager of the K-Village site retired on 13 March, leaving custody of the remaining items in the hands of the sites managing agents Savills. The agent has a tenant lined up to occupy the space currently used to store the remaining items, and has suggested that they could and should be removed from the site as soon as possible to ensure they do not end up in a skip.

Following discussions with officers, it is apparent that Kendal Futures currently have a remaining restricted fund for the Collection (approx. £2,300). Additionally the Town Council currently has revenue funding for its exhibition, which will not be rolled over in to the next financial year.

Proposal

That the Town Council removes the remaining items to a safe store, where it can be appraised by curatorial and archive experts and preserved, retained or disposed of appropriately. An appeal for storage space has been put to W&FC, but in the meantime, inside safe storage for items can be found at several places in Kendal, with prices around £120 per month. The Town Council has appropriate curatorial contacts for an initial assessment to be made (approx. £30 per hour).