

Kendal Town Council

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



18 July 2023

To Members of the Kendal in Bloom Committee

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	J Cottam
Cllr D Brown	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)
Cllr L Hendry	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)
Cllr R Sutton	
Vacancy	

You are invited to a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on Tuesday, 25 July 2023, at **6.00 p.m.**, in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal. Details of the meeting can be found on the Town Council's website. www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk.

(Distributed to other Members of the Council for information only.)

Yours faithfully

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

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, S.85.
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 (pages 3 to 6)**
To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 11 April 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record (see attached).
5. **Minute Action Sheet (page 7)**
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 8)**
To note the Committee's spend against budget (see attached).
- 7. Location of Rotary Crocus Planting 2023 (page 9)**
To consider the Coronation Garden, or an alternative location, for the planting of bulbs purchased by the Rotary.
- 8. Development of Civic Planting Strategy (page 10)**
To consider the appointment of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the civic planting in Kendal.
- 9. Kendal, Cumbria and Britain Bloom 2023**
To receive an update report on the bloom initiatives 2023.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 11 April 2023, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	Cllr D Brown	Present
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present

Co-optees

J Cottam	Not present	M Nicholson	Not present
C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present	A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer)

B35/2022 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

B36/2022 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

B37/2022 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

B38/2022 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 13 February 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B39/2022 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Officer reported that the W&FC highways were still looking at the possibility of planting wildflowers at the Asda roundabout (B18/2022). It was suggested that recent changes in policy at Heron Hill School meant a site visit to the nature area was no longer a possibility.

Relating to Minutes B26-28/2022, the Council Services Officer reported that a grant of £500 had been made to Stricklandgate House, £1,500 had been spent on planting at the new

Coronation Garden, new planters for Finkle Street had been ordered and the planting in public beds at Bishops Court had been very effectively delivered by Continental Landscapes for £1,028. The cost of the latter was queried as being on the high side, but it was explained that the planters were actually very large and required a lot of plants. The fee also included labour and other materials.

Also under Minute B26, an allowance of up to £100 had been made for planting at Nobles Rest, but this had not come to fruition within the timescale allowed for expenditure from the 2022-23 budget. A similar sum would be allocated from the 2023-24 budget instead.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had not yet discussed with the Mayor the appropriate wording for an invite to the King to come to Kendal, but was hoping to do so this week.

Resolved: To note the report and its related expenditure outcomes.

B40/2022 Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23

The Council Services Officer presented the report, informing Members that she was confident of being able to cover the watering costs this year, with a private contractor, following Continental Landscapes decision to withdraw from the work.

The Council Services Officer further asked the Committee to consider a funding request from Rotary Club for £500 to further expand the town's Crocus display, which marks the club's role in fundraising to support the eradication of Polio. There was some discussion about suitable locations, including the existing grass at Blackhall Road, areas on Gooseholme or New Road. Due to the restricted nature of these areas of Common Land, the Council Services Officer would liaise with the club over other suitable locations.

Resolved: To note the review of spend against budget at 29 March 2023.

Resolved: To grant £500 to the Kendal Rotary Club funding for crocuses.

B41/2022 Kirkland Crest – Coronation Garden

The Council Services Officer provided a verbal update on the Coronation Garden. She explained that the project was on schedule, plants were ordered, invites to the 5 May event sent out, and the badge would be painted as soon as the weather abated. The Chair expressed his excitement about the project and recorded his gratitude for the generosity of staff at Lakeland Gardens for their exciting designs and installation.

Resolved: To note the verbal update.

B42/2022 Beezon Fields Planting Scheme

The Council Services Officer informed the Committee that Beezon Fields formed a large part of the Environment Agency flood scheme. The Town Council had been asked to provide a planting scheme around the proposed bee sculpture on site. To this end, the Projects Officer had worked with partner agencies to develop a planting scheme for around the base of the bee sculpture. The scheme included native varieties, plants to attract pollinators and some varieties to discourage climbing on to the structure. The Committee was being asked to consider funding support for the purchase of plants.

Resolved: To allow a budget of £275 for the planting scheme.

B43/2022 Kendal, Cumbria and Britain in Bloom 2023

The Council Services Officer reported that the Committee had participated in the Cumbria in Bloom awards for a number of years and had been invited to represent Cumbria in the National awards this year. Alongside the regional and national initiatives, Kendal also developed and promoted a local initiative.

With regard to Kendal in Bloom, a working group had been established in December 2022, and had met on a regular basis. The theme for this year was Coronation Throne. The challenge was to find an upright chair of any description and transform it into a Throne celebrating King Charles' interests during his many years as Prince of Wales, using horticultural arrangements and wool as essential elements of the throne. The thrones were to be displayed by late spring/early summer and throughout the season (if possible). Businesses were being encouraged to display their creations in a prominent position. The Chair of the Committee and Mayor of Kendal would visit participating schools to view their displays shortly before the summer term finished. Members of the Committee would view community and businesses displays during summer. The initiative would be promoted via social media, leaflet drop to businesses, direct mailing to previous participant and Town Council website. Best entries would be invited to afternoon tea with Mayor in the Parlour. There were three category entries, namely schools; community group-clubs, societies, neighbourhood groups, sports and social clubs, etc.; and businesses. The closing date was initially set at 5 May 2023, but it was suggested that this now moves to the end of May, to allow more entries. The Council Services Officer reported that three business had already been in touch.

The need for the competition to be fun/wacky was emphasised as members felt this was an important aspect of making it accessible to as many people as possible. It was suggested that this 'upcycling' would make a good subject for a press release.

The Chair of the committee offered to supply an actual chair for the committee's own entry.

There was some discussion about the prospect of planting around Gooseholme Bridge. The Clerk suggested the timetable for EA works in the area, the problem of watering and the difficulties in planting on Common Land may all mitigate against this being possible this year, but that conversations could be initiated with EA and W&FC to scope future planting.

Horticare expressed their disappointment with their winter planting this year, which had suffered from a combination of poor weather and logistic/timing issues, forcing them to rely on bought-in stock. Summer planting was well in hand, however, and the Council Services Officer confirmed this was the case for the main summer planting, too.

There was no further news about the prospect of being able to use an empty shop, but the Chair offered to hand deliver school letters around the town's schools next week. Cllrs Hendy and Sutton agreed to join him.

The Town Council had entered into the Cumbria in Bloom competition and would use the judging day as a trial run for the Britain in Bloom judging. It was not yet known when the judging day will take place, but it was usually during the last two weeks in July. The Cumbria in Bloom judging panel was using Kendal for a training day on 20 April. Cllr Hendry would attend this event and provide feedback to the Committee.

The judging day for Britain in Bloom had been confirmed as 4 August 2023. Judging times were currently planned for 09:00 – 12:30 and this included 30 minutes for any press and presentations. The route could only be within a mile radius of the Town Centre. The Working Group had met on 28 March 2023 and had established a shortlist of suitable areas.

The Council Services Officer had been asked to develop a draft route from that list, ensuring that the criteria was cross-referenced and included on the route and within the portfolio. Any gaps in the criteria were to be discussed with Committee Members. Once a draft route had been developed, it was suggested that Members visited the proposed locations to assess their suitability. Members would also be invited to participate in a trial route tour.

The Committee was being asked to consider the draft route and discuss amendments and to identify a date(s) to undertake a trial tour. The Council Services Officer explained that she was not quite satisfied with the current proposal, as it didn't quite flow from 'Wow to Wow'.

The current proposal was to begin at Beeson Fields, then progress via the jubilee beds to Fletcher park, then Rinkfield allotments, Ford Park, Milnthorpe Road, college, fern trail, Gillingate park, Tenterfell, bowling club, Triangle Garden, Nobles Rest, Stricklandgate House, Market Square, Unitarian church, then Braithwaite Brow and pick up to the Coronation Garden. Following discussion it was suggested that the final point should be the emergence into the Brewery Garden from Garth Heads. This would give the requisite 'Wow' and also provide a convenient finishing point for refreshments. This would require a revision of the route, which the Council Services Officer would draft, prior to a trial walk on 24 April, meeting at Beeson Fields at 9.30am.

The Council Services Officer also reported that the carved wooden wolf, which had been installed as a part of the Kendal's Legendary Landscapes Trail several years ago, but almost immediately gone missing, had been found, intact, by EA contractors working on the planted areas in Kirkland. It would be reinstalled in the coming weeks with attendant press release.

Resolved: To note the report and the arrangements for the In Bloom routes.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 17-07-23							
Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
17/10/2022	B18/2022	Wildflower Planting	Discussion with Highways re project at Asda Roundabout and surrounding areas	JH		Completed	Confirmed that Asda roundabout not appropriate due to visibility confirms
13/02/2022	B18/2022	Wildflower Planting	To make arrangements for Members and those interested in engaging with the agenda to visit Heron Hill School one evening at the end of May 2023.	JH		Completed	No longer appropriate
13/02/2022	B26/2022	Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23	To earmark in principle a sum of £500 for the supply of soil, compost and plants for two planters at Stricklandgate House, the final decision to be delegated to the Chair in consultation with officers, with a report to be brought back to a future meeting.	JH		Completed	Grant funding approved by Chair and payment information passed to the Finance Officer.
13/02/2022	B26/2022		To earmark in principle a sum of £100 for the refreshing of the planters at Nobles Rest, the final decision to be delegated to the Chair in consultation with officers, with a report to be brought back to a future meeting.	JH		Completed	Planters refreshed
13/02/2022	B29/2022	Kendal in Bloom 2023	To invite King Charles, on behalf of the Committee and the Mayor of Kendal, to view the chairs at some point during the summer.	CB			
11/04/2022	B40/2022	Review of Spend against Budget 2022/23	To grant £500 to the Kendal Rotary Club funding for crocuses.	JH		Completed	Bulbs purchased
11/04/2022	B42/2022	Beezon Fields Planting Scheme	To allow a budget of £275 for the planting scheme.	JH		Completed	Plants purchased, awaiting planting date from EA

20:49

Kendal Town Council
Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 4)
Note: Full Budget Statement

		<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
440	<u>Kendal In Bloom</u>											
4900	KIB Floral Displays	21,500	21,444	0	0	26,500	0	26,500	2,699	0	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	8,700	8,114	0	0	8,500	0	8,500	497	0	0	0
4910	Other Expenses	0	322	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	30,200	29,880	0	0	35,000	0	35,000	3,196	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(30,200)	(29,880)			(35,000)		(35,000)	(3,196)	0		
	Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	30,200	29,880	0	0	35,000	0	35,000	3,196	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(30,200)	(29,880)			(35,000)		(35,000)	(3,196)	0		

**Agenda Report**

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 25 th July 2023
From: Council Services Officer	Agenda No.: 7
Description: Location of Rotary Crocus Planting 2023	

Summary: *The committee are asked to approve the suggested location for the 2023 Crocus Planting*

Proposal

The Rotary have purchased 4,000 Ruby Giant (purple) crocuses, 4,000 Chryanthus Romance (Gold crocuses) and 500 Tete a Tete small daffodils with a grant supplied by the KIB Committee.

The Rotary members have suggested that they plant the majority round the slope of the Coronation garden on Kirkland. They feel it will make a good display at the entrance to Kendal. The grass is kept quite short in this location so the flowers will be clearly visible. Please note, in a number of other places the grass is allowed to grow longer and this sometimes hidesthe crocuses.

Alternatively, the Rotary would be happy to split them between a couple of sites and suggestions would be welcome.

The planting usually takes place in November.

Recommendation

That Committee members are asked to consider the Coronation garden as a location for the crocus planting.

If the Coronation garden is not appropriate, members are asked to provide suggestions on alternative locations.

**Agenda Report**

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 25.7.23
From: Council Services Officer	Agenda No.: 8
Description: Development of Civic Planting Strategy	

Summary: The committee are asked to consider enlisting the help of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the current planting scheme and to make recommendations for the future civic planting.

Background

The civic planting contract was last reviewed in 2019, this was a very light touch review with the contract requirements remaining largely unchanged. Since then, the weather patterns have changed quite considerably, this has had a direct impact on the types of plants which thrive and the ongoing maintenance of the plants. The current planting scheme is very water intensive.

The contract is due for renewal in summer 2024. It is evident that the current requirements are outdated and are not sustainable in the long term. The contract renewal process provides the ideal opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the service and to make appropriate changes for the future.

Proposal

Due to the complexity of the issue, the need for specialist input has been highlighted. The Committee are asked to consider appointing an independent specialist who will review all the current civic planting procedures and will make recommendations for the future scheme. These recommendations will be used as the foundation for the development of a planting strategy in Kendal.

Recommendation

That Committee members are asked to approve the appointment of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the civic planting in Kendal.