

# Kendal Town Council

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



6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

To Members of the Environment and Highways Committee

Cllr G Archibald (Vice chair)	Cllr S Blunden
Cllr J Cornthwaite	Cllr S Long
Cllr C Russell	Cllr D Brown
Cllr M Helme	Cllr K Simpson
Cllr E Hennessy (Chair)	

You are summoned to a meeting of Kendal Town Council Environment & Highways Committee on Monday 13 June 2022 at **7.00pm**, at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal (**please note change of time**).

Yours faithfully

Chris Bagshaw  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

### 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 of the Last Meeting

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 and to authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record.

### 5. E&H Budget 2022/23

To receive a report on the E&H budget for the current year (*see attached*).

### 6. Working Group Updates & Membership

To review membership of working groups and discuss updates where appropriate (*see attached*).

### 7. Project Update Report

To review an update of ongoing projects and answer members' questions (*see attached*).

**8. Happy to Chat Proposal**

To consider proposal to decrease social isolation (*see attached*).

**9. Bike Repair Stand Proposal**

To consider a proposal on installing public bike repair stands (*see attached*).

**10. Biodiversity**

To discuss the updated Biodiversity Policy (*see attached*).

**11. Explore Kendal Signage**

To consider proposal to improve the appearance of Explore Kendal signage (*see attached*).

**12. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

To discuss and endorse the LCWIP document (*see attached*).

**13. Kendal Castle Pumptrack**

To discuss the visual, proposed location and potential next steps (*see attached*).

Income/Exp

<u>ENVIRONMENT &amp; HIGHWAYS</u>		22/23 Budget	Exp to Date	Forecast
<u>New Infrastructure &amp; Main</u>	<u>22/23 Budget</u>	£8,166		
	· Oxenholme Signage Improvements	£500		
	· SLDC Signage Improvements		£3,000	
<u>Infrastructure Maintenance</u>				
	· Infrastructure Maint	£1,893		
	· CCTV Maint	£1,500		
	· Defib Maint	£800		
<u>SLDC Service Charges</u>				
	· Footway Lighting	£3,751		
	· Somervell Annual Maint	£500		
	· Bins	£2,650	£1,254	
<u>Total E&amp;H</u>		<u>£19,760</u>	<u>£4,254</u>	<u>£19,260</u>

Income/Exp

New Action Plans/Projects for 22/23

ONGOING ACTION PLANS / PROJECTS		Proposed 22/23	Exp to Date	Forecast
1	<b><u>Climate Change</u></b>	<b>22/23 Budget</b>		
	. Town Centre Recommendation Hub - WIW	£10,000		
	. Solar Audit Campaign	£4,565		
	. Zero Carbon Kendal	£1,000		
	. New Projects TBC	£1,519		
	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£17,084</u></b>	<b><u>£0</u></b>	<b><u>£17,084</u></b>
2	<b>Biodiversity Schemes &amp; Grants</b>			
	. Dark Skies Campaign	£5,000		
	. 2nd Round of Biodiversity Grants	£6,000	£500	
	. New Projects TBC	£10,400		
	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£21,400</u></b>	<b><u>£500</u></b>	<b><u>£21,400</u></b>
3	<b>20mph</b>	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£0</u></b>	<b><u>£19,400</u></b>
4	<b><u>Cycling &amp; Walking</u></b>	<b>22/23 Budget</b>		
	. Footpath Quality Audit	£12,000		
	. <b>Kirkbarrow Connections</b>	£15,000		
	. - Cllr Long Contribution	£2,000		
	. - Cllr Severn Contribution			
	. Signage Improvements for Footpath & Cycle	£4,000		
	. Kendal Castle Pump Track	£4,000		
	. LCRP 22/23 Cont	£5,000		
	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£42,000</u></b>	<b><u>£0</u></b>	<b><u>£42,000</u></b>
5	<b>Public Realm Improvements</b>	<b>22/23 Budget</b>		
	. <b>Nobles Rest</b>	£5,000		
	. Windermere Road Railing Improvements	£3,000		
	. Further Ivy Screening Projects	£2,000		
	. New Projects TBC	£1,000		
	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£11,000</u></b>	<b><u>£0</u></b>	<b><u>£11,000</u></b>
6	<b>River Connectivity</b>			
	. FRSWG Connectivity Scheme	£30,000		£30,000
	. FRSWG Connectivity Scheme (Reserve Pot)	£40,000		£40,000
7	<b>Green Space Improvements</b>	<b>22/23 Budget</b>		
	. Bowling Fell Improvement Project	£7,000		
	. Serpentine Woods Alphabet Trail Maint	£1,000		
	. Fellside Play Provision	£5,000		
	. New Projects TBC	£11,000		
	<b><u>Sub Total</u></b>	<b><u>£24,000</u></b>	<b><u>£0</u></b>	<b><u>£24,000</u></b>
<b><u>Total Action Plans</u></b>		<b><u>£204,884</u></b>	<b><u>£500</u></b>	<b><u>£204,884</u></b>

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 6
Description: Working Group Membership	

## Working Group Membership

### Background

The Environment & Highway Committee agreed a verbal update from working group representatives would be beneficial as a standing committee agenda item.

### Proposal

To continue representation and updates, new Councillor representation is required for the following working groups.

Working Group	Former Councillor representative	Proposed New Representative
Kendal Northern Access Route Reference Group	Cllr Dunlop	tbc
Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership	Cllr Rowley	tbc
Dark Skies Kendal	Cllr Cornthwaite Cllr Hennessy Cllr Rowley	Cllr Cornthwaite Cllr Hennessy
20mph	n/a	Cllr Hennessy Cllr Archibald
Solar Made Easy Kendal	n/a	Cllr Hennessy Cllr Archibald
Natural Kendal	n/a	Cllr Hennessy Cllr Archibald

## Working Group Updates

- 20mph
- Solar Made Easy Kendal
- Natural Kendal – see attached document



## **Natural Kendal Baseline Research September 2021 – February 2022**

### **Aim**

The aim of the baseline research is to map the following (as far as possible within the time available):

- Who's (a) doing and (b) planning to do what (nature recovery activity) and where in the Kendal area, including regional and national activity and policies that happens to be relevant to Kendal?
- What and where the gaps and opportunities (spaces) are for (a) enhancing biodiversity and (b) engaging with individuals, communities and organisations (public, private and third sector)?
- What are the opportunities for quick wins and high impact projects?
- Examples of best practice nature recovery projects in other urban areas

### **Geography inclusions and restrictions**

The research will focus on Kendal and the countryside adjacent to the town (e.g. to Plumgarths roundabout to the north, Low Sizergh to the south, Scout Scar and Cunswick Scar to the west and the Helm to the east).

### **Focus**

The research will cover policies, activities, etc that will or could have a positive impact on biodiversity (e.g. tree planting, encouraging pollinators) and those with a negative impact (e.g. developments resulting in a loss of green space).

### **Project capacity**

12 hours funded by CSEP, 75 hours funded by Kendal Town Council

### **Approach**

Contact has been made with as many identified stakeholder as project time permitted. Where appropriate and willing, conversations have lead to the below information being gathered. Where conversations have not been not possible or time did not permit, online research and third-party information provide the details included in this report.

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## Feedback Gathered

This report can be viewed alongside a populated [Google Map](#) file which plots the Kendal activities featured within in. [Refer to codes in green for guidance.](#)

## Local Authorities, Public Bodies and Partnerships

CCC	<p>LNRS Project Manager, Rachel Whaley likes the Natural Kendal proposal and sees it as a good fit with the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy. She found the proposal very helpful in showing how LNRS can engage with communities and be developed in more urban areas; NK could even be a case study for LNRS. In principle, Rachel would be happy to support project – in writing if needed.</p> <p>Rachel provided the following update on LNRS as of June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 5 pilots will send their draft strategies to Defra soon</li> <li>• Defra will then produce guidance on LNRS which will be issued to LAs in due course, and which LAs will have to follow when LNRS becomes mandatory in a year or so</li> <li>• Implementation of Cumbria LNRS will not begin immediately – not least because there are no resources for it yet and it isn't mandatory yet</li> </ul> <p><b>Habitat mapping and network</b></p> <p>Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) and Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC) have worked on behalf of Cumbria County Council for the development of the <a href="#">Cumbria habitat base map and Local Nature Recovery Networks (LNRN)</a>.</p> <p><b>Highways and Transport</b></p> <p>Victoria Upton is Traffic Management Manager for Highways and Transport. Her involvement in Kendal projects has been in supporting Kendal Town Council by giving permissions and advice as required. Recent projects have included the Ivy screening on Longpool [020] and Kendal Bus Station [021] and Balustrade planters on Windermere Road [055]. There is a current request for permission to install 8 evergreen tree planters to Woolpack Yard [015].</p>
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	<p>Victoria is happy to share CCC's service procedures as appropriate to Natural Kendal. These include approved procedures for dealing with tree planting, verge maintenance and biodiversity management. The procedures are internal guidance documents for officers and contractors, but can provide an insight into opportunities for Kendal's nature recovery plans (e.g. the tree planting document identifies species which are deemed acceptable and unacceptable in certain circumstances).</p> <p>Relevant procedures available, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verge maintenance SL</li> <li>Consent for tree and shrub planting within the highway</li> <li>Tree management</li> <li>License for adjoining properties to plant trees in the highway</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Tree and hedge cutting notices</li> </ul> <p>An introduction was made to David Rawle, Senior Estates Surveyor for more information on management of CCC own premises/land, including Care Homes etc. Awaiting further discussion.</p>
SLDC	<p><b>Parks and Open Spaces</b></p> <p>SLDC's <a href="#">Parks and Open Spaces Strategy</a> promotes the following:</p> <p>The council [also] recognises the role of its open spaces as part of its green infrastructure network and, where practical and appropriate, manages its open spaces to enhance their biodiversity value, create habitats, new tree planting and the creation of wet areas.</p> <p>Health and Environment is listed as one of the key themes in the strategy. It says this:</p> <p>"Protecting and enhancing our environment"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and implement management plans for individual parks, cemeteries and woodlands, taking into account existing knowledge and partnerships</li> <li>• Manage parks, cemeteries and woodlands to enhance and improve biodiversity</li> <li>• Work with SLDC's Green Team to improve resilience to climate change*</li> </ul>



- Promote safe links between separate green spaces by welcoming opportunities to develop green corridors and underused parks
- Protect and promote trees and woodlands

#### **Kendal's green spaces are managed by the Locality Team**

Nicola Metcalfe, Delivery and Commercial Officer and Polly Straker, Locality Team leader between them cover Parks and Open Spaces in terms of the management contract and community engagement. A meeting with them outlined the following activity:

Nobles Rest [001] – SLDC continues to support the works managed by Friends of Nobles Rest at Nobles Rest, Town View Field and Swine Parrock, including flood management, creation of bog gardens, clearing and bulb planting, wildflower planting, incorporation of the legendary trail, damson tree planting. The Friends group have £5k Postcode Lottery funding to further develop and plant trees.

SLDC is currently in consultation with various communities about disposing of old redundant play equipment to create community gardens in their place. Helmeside at Oxenholme, Murley Moss and Gate Close are three areas under review. The Murley Moss site is being considered as a tenancy agreement with a local resident.

The team is also working with the EA and partners on the Beezon Fields [002] plans which have just been passed. Incorporating bug hotels, willow structures, species tree planting and a biodiversity focus. (Also see EA)

Plans for Gooseholme [003] are currently in talks, with discussions around leaving it as open space versus planting it up. The locality team's hopes are that it will remain fairly open to offer health and wellbeing benefits to residents. Terry Park is a member of the Environment Agency working group and has presented a [draft concept proposal](#) to the last working group meeting. Feedback has asked for plans to further consider the area's challenges towards anti-social behaviour.

Nicola manages the ground maintenance project with Continental Landscapes. They respond to as many requests from residents and groups as possible regarding keeping grass long in certain areas, but are challenged by the fact they don't have the machinery to cut the long grass back once a year so rely on costly hires. They also have to balance people's desire for wilder areas with complaints that dog walkers don't pick up after their dogs when the grass is left longer. Current areas where grass is left to grow throughout the season are High Tenterfell, the

	<p>Heights [004] (where Kendal Conservation Volunteers support with annual raking and clearing), Hawesmeade Park [005], Sandylands Park banking [006], parts of the Castle Hill [007], Shap Road [008], Canal Path [009] and certain areas of Hallgarth.</p> <p>400 trees have been planted on Hallgarth recently and a site visit with the newly formed residents' association has identified sites that the residents would like to work on. When asked if SLDC are generally open to residents adopting and managing green spaces, the team highlighted the challenge of the long-term management should the groups lose interest or move on. They also have to consider the possible shift in control with the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation.</p> <p>From discussions, it seems that nature recover activity above and beyond the traditional management contact is in response to and driven by the community.</p> <p>Woodlands owned by SLDC include Serpentine Woods [010], Bluebell Woods [011], Swine Parrock [001], Millennium Wood [012], Prickley Fell [060], Coffin Wood [061]. Working with the Forestry Commission, SLDC published their <a href="#">10-year woodland management plan</a> for Kendal woodlands in February 2019. NK has requested copies of the Green spaces management plans referred to in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. To follow.</p> <p>*The Green Team mentioned in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is thought to be obsolete now.</p> <p>No specific intel to add from Cllr Dyan Jones, Climate Action and Biodiversity Portfolio Holder, however, she responded with the following message of support: <i>"This sounds amazing and dovetails with the vision for Kendal. With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, this may be something that would be welcomed across the new authority of Westmorland &amp; Furness, and it would be super if we can work together in the future. It is great work which sits comfortably with Kendal Jury and SLDC's Biodiversity Policy. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with updates."</i></p>
Kendal Town Council	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>The recent Local Plan review and public consultation (July-Oct 2021) detailed 22 sites identified as potential housing and employment land in the 2020 Call for Sites process. P8-128 lists the sites currently under review – <a href="https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/south-lakeland-district-council/sl-call-for-sites-2020-housing-and-employment-site/user_uploads/2020-call-for-sites-responses-report.pdf">https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/south-lakeland-district-council/sl-call-for-sites-2020-housing-and-employment-site/user_uploads/2020-call-for-sites-responses-report.pdf</a></p>

	<p><b>Management Committee and wider strategic working</b></p> <p>Chris Bagshaw, Kendal Town Clerk is working with SLDC, Kendal Futures, CCC and other partners on the Town Team, to unite the Kendal Vision and SLDC's Local Plan for a town centre strategy. The Town Clerk has proposed that Kendal Town Council adopt three key themes to run through all committees to direct budget planning and decision making. These are modal shift, insulate/generate and nature recovery.</p> <p>The Town Team are working on the levelling up fund application for the development of Longpool to birdcage, along Stramongate [013]. Riba plans are due to be ready for end of November 2021. When asked, Chris said it was likely to incorporate greening projects. UPDATE: This scheme has potentially been superseded by a scheme in another location for the levelling up fund application.</p> <p>Private land owner, Simon Pugh is proposing to sell the land along the riverside – from the planned Sandy Bottoms reserve to Beezon Fields [014] – to KTC (minus the fishing rights). The Town Clerk suggested this land could support an extension to the nature reserve (potentially under the management of Cumbria Wildlife Trust) and/or be used as allotment land and to support nature engagement projects such as the proposed Kendal Conservation and Education Park (see below). KTC are currently exploring ownership options.</p> <p>A proposal has been submitted to Management Committee for some CIL funding to be used for a greening project in Woolpack Yard [015]. This will feature the installation of 8 trees in planters.</p> <p><b>Environment and Highways (E&amp;H) Committee</b></p> <p>Currently E&amp;H Committee members assess each new proposal through the lens of does it enable Kendal's residents to thrive in a low carbon town and support nature recovery.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Grant</b></p> <p>A biodiversity budget to date has been offered out as grants to community projects. So far during 2020/21 financial year £4,700 has been awarded to fund a solar panel at Appleby Road Community Garden [016], new trees in Nobles Rests [001], the development of Belmont Biodiversity Garden [017], meadow turf for Somervell Garden on Waterside [018] (to be installed Spring 22), development of phase 2 of SLACC community composting proposal and Fletcher Park hedge planting [019]. This is where the funding for the extension of Natural Kendal baseline research came from.</p>
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	<p>Town Clerk, Chris Bagshaw is open to this fund be used more pro-actively in future and Project Manager, Helen Moriarty confirmed it was their hope that this would become a £10k allocation each year, suggesting that Natural Kendal could be perfectly placed to become delivery agent for it.</p> <p>Citizens Jury Recommendations E&amp;H Project Manager is tasked with supporting the implementation of <a href="#">jury recommendations</a> through partnerships with other tiers of local authority and third-party organisations and groups. Recommendations 1a-b, 4a-b, 22 a-e and 25 have the most powerful connections to Natural Kendal. So far there is no progress to report other than allotment opportunities featured under 'allotment committee' below. E&amp;H would look favourably at any projects Natural Kendal proposed to support recs 22a-e.</p> <p>As a first step in responding to rec 14b, KTC have produced the ZeroCarbon website to create a virtual hub to support low carbon lifestyle initiatives around the town. E&amp;H Project Manager sees scope for this to incorporate Nature Recovery projects under the Natural Kendal banner, but understands NK may wish to keep this separate. The online platform was launched in January 2022. A physical high-street hub is also being explored with Simply Repair, Future Fixers and Waste into Wellbeing.</p> <p>Greening projects – Ivy Screening Stretches of Ivy screening have been installed on Longpool <a href="#">[020]</a> and Blackhall Road <a href="#">[021]</a> as an alternative to the proposed Green Wall project on Lowther Street. No data is being collected as it was seen to be too small a project to offer considerable environmental impact. Windermere Road railings have been identified as another potential project for next year.</p> <p>Natural Play Further developments of Town View and Bowling Fell areas <a href="#">[001]</a> include a proposal to replace the tired, disused play area from near Nobles Rest. Discussions are being had regarding a natural play area to combine with a revamped Nature Trail in Serpentine Wood. Discussions are being held with Fellside Forum and Kendal Civic Society.</p> <p>Dark Skies Initiative Jack Ellerby from Friends of the Lake District has undertaken an audit of Kendal's light pollutants. Not publicly available. KTC is supporting a pilot for nature friendly lighting. Installations have been made on Cliff Terrace <a href="#">[022]</a></p>
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	<p>and funding is being proposed for next year to install solar, wildlife friendly lighting in the green space around Beck Community Centre and park on Heron Hill <a href="#">[023]</a>.</p> <p>Council-wide Biodiversity Policy</p> <p>Town Clerk is working on a biodiversity policy for Kendal Town Council. The draft policy (<a href="#">page 18 of the minutes</a>) was presented to E&amp;H committee in September. The Chair is keen to have specific targets embedded within this policy. Members welcomed the idea of a simple policy but would like to see the policy extended to ensure the five areas of bio-diversity loss differentiated from climate change. It was resolved that the Clerk would redraft the biodiversity policy with up to four targets that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely and to circulate an update to this committee and the Management Committee. The redraft wasn't ready for the November E&amp;H meeting so will be presented in January. UPDATE: Potentially going to be taken to full council now as it must cover all committees.</p> <p><b>In Bloom Committee</b></p> <p>A contract with Continental Landscapes (extended by 24 months as of Oct 21) and partnership working with Horticare plan and maintain all civic planting under Kendal Town Council's remit. All KTC planting sites, planters and baskets are detailed on <a href="#">KTC's assets map</a>.</p> <p>The In Bloom initiative is following the theme of Torchlight this year so it's more about reuse and recycle than biodiversity. The theme will span the categories of schools, business, community and allotments. They are re-introducing the front gardens competition and within that category they will be a choice of 2 elements, one is for the more traditional, formal garden and the other is going to consider more biodiverse, environmental gardening. Council Services Officer, Janine Holt believes there is some opportunity to build the emphasis of Natural Kendal during this stage. She would be happy if someone would like to join Kendal in Bloom committee or attend a few meetings.</p> <p>A £5k budget each year is offered out as <a href="#">In Bloom Grants</a> supporting small community projects with funding up to £500 each. These have supported a variety of projects over the past few years including Legendary landscape trail, Rinkfield hedgehog project, Ghyllside planters, edible planters in Kendal, Briary Meadow wild flowers, etc.</p> <p>Janine suggests there is definitely scope within KIB and allotments to promote biodiversity and she would be happy to work together with NK as she feels both committees would welcome the input and benefit from a bit of focus.</p>
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	<p>The Town Clerk recognises there is a lack of horticultural expertise within the civic planting team when it comes to encouraging nature recovery and creating and managing biodiversity-rich habitats. Traditional bedding plants still feature heavily in the planting schemes.</p> <p>Previous Partnership Projects – biodiversity Kendal Town Council partnered with SLACC and SLDC on the now completed 3-year project. <a href="#">Pollinator Project Final report 2019</a></p> <p><b>Allotments Committee</b></p> <p>The Allotments Committee launched a project called ‘More veg – More Life’ to encourage allotment holders to support biodiversity. A small working group was established to develop this initiative (<a href="mailto:Kendal.growyourown@gmail.com">Kendal.growyourown@gmail.com</a>) but COVID had put a stop to it. Janine is prioritising reinvigorating this campaign. Potential input from external partners could be beneficial and would probably be welcomed.</p> <p>30-40 allotment sites are being developed at Canal Head [024] and another at Nobles Rest/Town View. There is the potential for a community planting space within these developments.</p>
Environment Agency Riverside Corridor Enhancement Work	<p>As part of the flood scheme, EA are working with local partnerships to develop land along the riverside corridor. Sandy Bottoms [025] area of Mintsfeet is planned to become a nature reserve, potentially managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Beezon Fields [002] has had a planning application passed to become a community-focussed nature zone and natural play area. Local Community Artist, Lana Grindley has been commissioned by the EA to work with partners on the community engagement opportunities of the enhancements, utilising the Flood Works Arts and Culture budget to create a themed nature trail. Plans have been passed for Beezon Fields to include species-rich grasslands and tree planting, a sensory walkway with bug hotels and other habitat considerations, willow sculptures, rain wheel, timber seating, living sculptures, etc. Lana is in discussions with In Bloom. Lana mentioned advice was being provided by ecologist Andrew King. Andrew is a flood and coastal risk advisor at Environment Agency. Work on Beezon Fields is due to start in Spring 2022. There is more scope for input into Sandy Bottoms as the plans for there aren’t yet finalised.</p> <p>Beezon Fields Plans: <a href="#">Landscape Plan Reach E2</a></p>

	<a href="#">PC14 – Planting Plan Reach E2 Trees and Woodland</a> <a href="#">PC14 – Planting Plan Reach E2 Seeding and Ground Cover</a>
Simon Stainer, Natural England	<p>Quentin has had a brief conversation with Simon, followed up with the proposal being emailed. Positive feedback received.</p>
Forestry Commission	<p>Andy Bennett, Woodland Officer for South Lake District and North Lancashire responded to the proposal immediately. On a personal level he really likes it and is very supportive of its aims. The focus of his work is regulations, planting and control of illegal felling. Andy is going to escalate the proposal up his chain of command and will forward it to colleagues and partners working in the area, including the local partnership officer and the Social Forestry Team. Forestry Commission and partners have social responsibility schemes and grants. In terms of research input, he felt NK had already approached a lot of their delivery partners so he didn't have anything to add at this point. He warned that there are lots of other organisations and groups already doing similar work and trying to draw down the same funding, so it's a competitive market. He sees value in NK offering connectivity opportunities between other projects. He is happy to provide further contacts and advice, including anything he can gather on large landowners and introductions to LDNP (currently unresponsive). Meeting arranged between Andy and Quentin to pursue.</p>
Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership	<p>Very little of their published plan talks about nature recovery. They have plans for an entrance improvement project at Canal Head [050] which has funding and support from Kendal Town Council. The proposal to date doesn't include any consideration towards biodiversity enhancements that could be built into the plan.</p>
Kendal Futures	<p>As part of the vision process, 4 vision action groups are being established with members of the public and local organisations to steer community projects and feed into the overall direction of the vision – Housing and accommodation, Transport, Arts and Culture and Placemaking and Environment. Climate change and sustainability issues will be considered in all four. Some of the vision's aims have the potential to align with nature recovery ambitions, for example their housing vision for more town centre plots to be made available follows the assessment that 20 dwellings per hectare are achieved in town centre developments versus much fewer on out-of-town green belt land. However, this obviously must be steered towards brownfield sites that couldn't otherwise be used for urban nature recovery projects. The first Placemaking and Environment meeting agreed "greening the town centre, through introducing street trees and improving the look and feel of public areas", as a topic to progress.</p> <p>In Jan 2022, Nick Taylor, Vision Manager reported that the idea of Natural Kendal came to the fore at a recent Placemaking and Environment Group meeting. Green routes through the town and encouraging wildlife into town using these corridors were discussed, as was ways of encouraging the community to get further involved. Talks included plantings, window</p>

	boxes, hanging baskets and re-purposing flower beds etc. Nick highlighted that Kendal has a good mentor in Mary Clear of <a href="#">Incredible Edible</a> in Todmorden.
Kendal Business Improvement District	They have no current plans or ambitions relating to biodiversity or nature recovery and Project Manager, Simon Thomas doesn't see it as being within their remit.

### Environmental Organisations and Representatives

Cumbria Action for Sustainability	CAfS is aware of the Natural Kendal proposal and is broadly supportive of it. More details will be shared as and when appropriate.
Cumbria Woodland Trust	<p>Proposal sent to Steve Hebblethwaite, who said he would show it to Pete Leeson and respond. No response received to date.</p> <p>Two woodlands in Kendal are owned and managed by Cumbria Woodland Trust. <a href="#">Round Hill Wood</a> [026] and <a href="#">Scroggs Wood</a> [027]. Management plans available via links.</p>
Cumbria Wildlife Trust	<p>Graham Jackson-Pitt is very positive about Natural Kendal, saying it is consistent with CWT aims. In principle, he would be happy to endorse the project and is keen to be involved, capacity and resources permitting. He raised the need to be careful about use of (re)wilding; nature recovery (a wider term that encompasses wilding) is less controversial and better describes what NK is most likely to involve. Graham suggested keeping in contact with Paul Evans, the Trust's Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Officer.</p> <p>Cumbria Wildlife Trust is leading Kendal Conservation Volunteers in the <a href="#">creation of hydro-hedges</a> as a natural food defence and research opportunity in Stock Beck above Sandylands [028] and is working with Mark Cropper on plans for nature recovery on Ellergreen Estate [054].</p>
Friends of the Lake District	Friends of the Lake District (FOLD) are members of the Kendal River Corridor Group which includes officers and Cllrs from all tiers of local authority, as well as outside influencers. The group was triggered from the common land consent for New Road and Gooseholme [003] around the flood defence scheme. It focusses on replacing common land, has concerns about the loss of green spaces and has ambitions to identify a network of green space to create a corridor throughout the town. Jan Darrall, Policy Officer at Friends of the Lake District shared the challenges of funding and explained how the majority of activity is on a small scale with small pockets of funds from various places.



	<p>Kay Andrews got in touch following discussions with Jan. Kay joined FOLD recently as their Landscape Engagement Officer. Her role is to raise awareness of the social, cultural, natural, heritage and economic value of Cumbria's upland landscapes. She plans and delivers events and communications targeted at a wide range of audiences, focusing on reconnecting people with the landscape and promoting understanding of its management. Large events include Fell Care Days, Great Cumbrian Litter-pick, Landscape festival etc. She will also be leading a wellbeing project that got funding in lockdown but had to be postponed.</p> <p>Jack Ellerby the Dark Skies Officer also runs a lot of events and engagement with local communities as well as various volunteering activities and work party events, work with schools etc. FOLD were keen to give NK this brief overview so it was on the radar for potential opportunities and avoidances of duplication. The FOLD team is keen to hear how the project progresses.</p> <p>See details re management of Helm below.</p>
Open Spaces Society, Cumbria	<p>Ian Brodie, Ex FOLD leader, is a member of Open Spaces Society in Cumbria and volunteers his time to FOLD and Kendal River Corridor Group to fight the case for access through green spaces and biodiversity and use of native species in connection to the EA's flood defence scheme. He would like to see a long-term objective for a connected route along the River Kent from Kentmere Reservoir to Grange on one side and Arnside on the other. He also supports the Rangers at Sizergh in the management of the NT owned section of the River Kent and its surrounding land in South Kendal and Sizergh. Ian is also an active member of Kendal Ramblers.</p>
Jerram Ecology	<p>Rigby Jerram produced the management plan for Kendal Fell (including the golf course) amongst other things. Rigby expressed interest in NK proposal following a brief conversation and follow-up email exchange. Rigby would be worth approaching for specialist ecological input at appropriate time.</p>
South Cumbria Rivers Trust	<p>Jayne Wilkinson, Catchment Planning &amp; Monitoring Officer is supportive of NK in general and the riverine aspects in particular. It's a good fit with their work in the Kent catchment and creates no duplication of what they are already doing. Jayne would probably be interested in getting involved in the following ways (subject to funding, capacity &amp; priorities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting WK and volunteering opportunities to SCRT volunteers in the Kendal area</li> <li>• Letters of support</li> <li>• Supporting funding bids</li> <li>• Developing and delivering projects</li> </ul>

RSPB	<p>Big Garden Bird Watch for 2022 takes place 28-30<sup>th</sup> January to provide bird count data for the UK.</p> <p><a href="#">RSPB Annual Report 2020/21 – England focus</a> outlines their commitment for a nature-rich future which is visioned in their <a href="#">Recovering Together 2</a> report following the outbreak of the pandemic.</p> <p>Little information has been found about RSPB's local initiatives and work. More research is needed to obtain a key contact since the Kendal group closed 2 years ago. Chris Winnick has reached out to his contacts to make introductions. No response to date.</p>

### Environmental Groups and representatives

Wood Matters	Gareth and Ro are too busy at present but are interested in being involved at some point.
Duncan Pollard, South Lakes Action on Climate Change	Duncan has a background in forestry and corporate sustainability. Duncan expressed interest in NK proposal following a brief conversation and follow-up email exchange.
Cumbria Butterfly Conservation	Chairman Chris Winnick expressed how fortunate we are in Kendal to be blessed with such rich habitats so close to the town centre. He feels there is a need for a mapping exercise to identify all habitats and habitat opportunities in and around Kendal, then for a plan to be developed detailing what is needed to keep each healthy and how best we can engage the community in it. He sees lots of scope in Kendal. As Cumbrian Chairman and Trustee of the National Butterfly Conservation charity, Chris has a wealth of knowledge and uses it to carry out habitat assessments and organise working parties in South Cumbria. Kendal Fell (in partnership with Continental Landscapes and Kendal Conservation Volunteers), Holme Park Fell and Holme Stinted Pastures (alongside National Trust and Woodland Trust) and Whitbarrow Scar are key sites where CBC work. They have a packed programme of site working parties so wouldn't be able to take on any more. They have good relationships with the partners mentioned above as well as RSPB, CWT and the Forestry Commission. Chris always assesses habitats in view of other species as well as butterflies and moths. Chris is meeting with Quentin in view of joining the NK steering group.
Kendal Swifts	Ros Taylor runs Kendal Swifts (made up of 18 volunteers – 5 or 6 of which are regularly active). Whilst they work as an independent group, they connect with SL Network, Swifts in the Community (run by Pete Morton) who encourage the set-up of local groups. There is a national forum which they connect with to exchange information. The aim of the group is to preserve and enhance Swift colonies in Kendal. They do this by monitoring nesting sites throughout the summer and communicate and educate residents to encourage and provide for local Swift

	<p>colonies. When working with residents left her frustrated due to regular lack of action, Ros began to work with SLDC planning department. She reviews planning applications weekly and, where appropriate, writes to the planning department with suggestions for the addition of Swift bricks to be incorporated into the requirements/recommendations of a successful application. Dan Hudson and Doug Rathbone are supportive of her work, but without her involvement it wouldn't be a consideration due to lack of resources. In the last 3-4 years, Ros has written approx. 80 letters, of which 50-60 have resulted in the inclusion of approx. 250 Swift bricks into the planning consent stipulations. She understands her remit is niche and is keen to see wider biodiversity and species enhancement measures be represented in this process (she approached Stephen Trotter at Cumbria Wildlife Trust about supporting a volunteer group to provide ecological recommendations to planning applications), but lack of resources and expertise has meant this doesn't happen. As well as writing in herself, Ros reaches out to others like FOLD, Natural England and Fellside Forum to do the same as appropriate.</p> <p>General frustrations and observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Environment Bill and more generally, "biodiversity" and "nature recovery" discussions focus mainly on landscape rather than species support and recovery.</li> <li>- Biodiversity plans all have a human focus.</li> <li>- There is a huge need for buildings to be considered as habitats (Paul Crosby at Fellside Centre very proactive in this).</li> <li>- Activities of groups aren't joined up and need connectivity, potentially with a skilled officer creating and supporting the network.</li> </ul>
Himalayan Balsam Removal Action Group	<p>Ken Taylor is a member of the Kendal Himalayan Balsam Removal Group (lead by Judith Wallan) who works with South Cumbria Rivers Trust to remove and control the spread of this invasive species along the River Kent. Huge eradication activity has taken place in recent years, including communicating with private landowners to play their part. Action is now in the 'vigilance' stage, meaning volunteers continually monitor and remove the pockets found in and around Kendal. For Kendal to remain in control of the situation more volunteers are needed, and in South Cumbria a more proactive and strategic approach is required to tackle it. Pockets of funding have been provided for 'on the ground' activity, but a longer-term solution of a dedicated officer to manage invasive species in the area has never been supported.</p>
Clean up the River Kent Campaign	<p>A coalition of communities living along the River Kent established in Autumn 2021, the group include members from Staveley, Burneside and Kendal. The campaign aims to make the River Kent clean for water-based recreation and to protect wildlife, by applying to DEFRA for safe bathing status. Full <a href="#">campaign summary</a> can be viewed online.</p>

Kendal Conservation Volunteers	Connected to many of the projects detailed elsewhere in this report, including activities developed and managed by Fellside Forum, Civic Society, 'Friends of' groups and community gardens. Terry Parr, representative of the group, agreed to join Natural Kendal steering group.
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### Town Centre Land Owners

Windermere Road Kendal Residents Association	Windermere Road Kendal Residents Association owns 32 acres of land behind Windermere Road [029]. Chair, Matthew Smithers explained that initially it was purchased to protect against development and to continue its use as grazing land. The committee/shareholders have made a commitment to tree planting in 3 key areas of the land over the last 15 years. The main drivers behind the greening initiatives are to reduce flooding risk from runoff and as a contribution towards reducing the impact of climate change. The group don't work with any other groups in Kendal and currently there are no other development plans to note.
Parkside Road grazing land	Owned by 9 residents of Parkside Road and Parkside Mews as a collective, the 7-acre field [030] was purchased 35 years ago with the intention to prevent housing development. The owners are now mostly in their mid – late eighties and can no longer perform maintenance on the boundaries etc. Since purchase, the field has been rented out to local farmers, now restricted to sheep grazing. The income from rental is trivial and barely covers the costs of maintenance, however 'profits' from previous decades mean there is some income in the field's bank account. One owner, Mike, has the view they need to consider how to proceed over the next few decades. They can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue as they are</li> <li>- Plant trees, remove grazing and mow for fodder 1-2 times a year</li> <li>- Plant trees and wild flower meadow (significant seed investment required)</li> </ul> Other options might include turning the management / ownership over to an organisation dedicated to environmental improvement or lease the land for other purposes – organic vegetable growth has been suggested. Any change would need agreement of all the 9 owners and under the current climate they have not met for a couple of years. One key for owners will be to protect privacy and tranquillity. Tree planting would need to consider the existing views from houses and height / location of trees planted, etc.
Underly Hill Orchard	The orchard's [031] prime purpose is to preserve the lesser-known local heritage cultivars with special focus on those not in the National Collection. Because they have 160 different varieties in one tenth of an acre, the group recognise it is not very "wild" – In fact it is quite intensively managed, although they have never used insecticides & fungicides. They do get interesting species such as elephant hawk moth, borage etc but not a huge diversity.

Kendal Parish Church [052]	Activity over the last three years amounts to a few additional shrubs and a range of bulbs and herbaceous perennials being planted in the otherwise rather sterile bed that lies between the churchyard and the Ring O' Bells property. They'd like to extend the planting at least round the edge of the churchyard – i.e. in front of the hedge that divides it from Church Walk. This will take discussions with SLDC and with the local residents. The church is facing the prospect of having to raise funds and apply for grants for fairly major repairs (likely to get under way in the Spring 22). There will be a green dimension to the grants which is welcomed by the church. They will be looking further at the churchyard and, perhaps, the feasibility of solar panels on parts of the roof.
Summerhill Care Home [063]	Through their well-maintained wildflower areas, Summerhill Care Home is a good example of how the management plan of a relatively small landowner can support a positive impact on biodiversity.
South Lakes Housing	<p>Lyn Richardson, Community Engagement Officer acknowledged that through a series of seemingly small pieces of land, SL Housing own a fair amount of Green Space in Kendal. She has a personal interest in the NK project but explained that it wasn't part of her remit apart from small community consultations and activities she has been involved in. E.g. SL Housing work with Groundworks NE &amp; Cumbria to run activities with SL House residents. Recent activities have included a consultation event with Pembroke Court to hear what the residents would like to do with the green space around their residence. Ideas such as veg plots, better suited trees (possibly fruit), wildflower areas, enclosed play zones, etc. were raised. A similar successful project held on Ullswater Close in Ulverston in partnership with CWT has resulted in growing areas, a polytunnel, wildlife friendly habitats and the creation of bug hotels, etc which had a positive impact on how the residents have connected with and shown pride for where they live.</p> <p>Lyn sits on an Estates Improvements Group, which generally focusses on improvements to the accommodation provision and energy efficiency of housing stock, but she would be happy to escalate to her superiors, opportunities for getting involved with NK. SL Housing are looking to appoint a sustainability manager in the new financial year. Again, their priorities are likely to focus on the housing stock, but there is the potential for green spaces to feature here too.</p> <p>SL Housing work with Continental Landscapes for management of their green spaces and in advance of the expiry of the contract in 2 years, the team plan to review land ownership and the traditional management plan for each green space. Within this review, there is the potential for NK to influence future management of the green spaces. SL Housing have been open to proposals from community groups to adopt pieces of land around Kendal (e.g. Belmont Biodiversity Garden, Sepulchre Lane Triangle, Rosemary Lane Garden).</p>

## Surrounding Land

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The Helm [032]	<p>Friends of the Lake District has owned and managed the east side of the Helm since approx. 2008. In that time, they have planted several hundred trees in the southern woodland area, re-dug the pond which is now home to nesting birds and carried out ecological surveys. All activity is undertaken via 6 yearly work meets with volunteers. Two thirds of the land is pastures for grazing sheep and cattle and is dedicated to open access. 50 dedicated tree planters have been planted in this area recent years.</p> <p>The Western area of the Helm is owned by the Strickland family who kept hold of the land when selling Sizergh to National Trust. It is left as common land and due to lots of management issues around vehicle access and conflicts with dog walkers, it is no longer used by farmers as grazing land. This has led to the majority of the area being left to the growth of bracken and scrub.</p> <p>Ros Taylor (Kendal Swifts) and husband own a field at the Helm, which is managed as a hay meadow, but also includes an orchard.</p>
Strickley Farm, Rear side of Helm [033]	<p>Kendal Climate Jury recently met at the farm as a showcase for sustainable farming practices. It has a comprehensive outreach programme with schools and the community, funded by Natural England. <a href="https://www.visitmyfarm.com/">https://www.visitmyfarm.com/</a>, <a href="https://www.itv.com/news/border/2021-07-06/kendal-farmers-measures-that-builds-for-a-greener-future">https://www.itv.com/news/border/2021-07-06/kendal-farmers-measures-that-builds-for-a-greener-future</a></p>
Benson Knott [034]	Still to establish land ownership beyond the United Utilities managed site around Fishers Tarn Reservoir.
Cunswick Scar [035]	As per Scouts Scar.
Kendal Fell and Serpentine Woods [010]	<a href="#">Kendal Fell and Golf Course Management Plan.</a>
Scout Scar [036]	An area of Scout Scar and Cunswick Scar form part of the LDNP extension, Helsington Burrows to Sizergh is owned by National Trust. See NT management information below.
National Trust owned land [049]	<p><a href="#">Map of Sizergh Estate</a> shows the land owned by the National Trust. Across the Sizergh estate, the National Trust directly manages the woodland, but most of the rest of the land is managed by the tenants. There is a mosaic of habitat types and ways in which it is managed. Sam Stalker of NT supplied a copy of their <a href="#">management plan</a>, which includes a small section about the river, but also sets out their objectives for NT land holding at Sizergh. Sam points out that the dates are a little out due to the disruptions of the pandemic over the last couple of years, but the ideas remain the same.</p>
Ellergreen Estate [054]	Mark Cropper is commencing a rewilding / regenerative agriculture / conservation programme from 1 Jan 2022, including the largest wildflower meadow restoration in the UK, and a very large area of wood pasture, reinstating hedgerows/wetlands as appropriate. This will include land directly bordering Kendal north of Hallgarth.

	<p>Concurrent with this, the estate is exploring bio-intensive food production on other areas including orchards (planting/part restoring 50 acres as a starter), permaculture, perennial fruit/veg.</p> <p>They are also considering new woodlands and returning many existing to better managed coppice. As well as a wildflower and tree nursery growing from local seed and possibly a plant centre. They may be seeking volunteers for tree planting in the future but this will likely be via a third party that has the capacity to manage it, such as the Woodland Trust.</p> <p>Mark is progressing with planting sites in Burneside and the creation of new allotments is underway. He may own some potential allotment land on the edge of Kendal to the north of Hallgarth adjacent to a new development and is advising any interest in this to be steered towards Kendal Town Clerk.</p> <p>Mark Cropper has seen the Natural Kendal Proposal, and via communication through his PA, is said to be positive about it. He raised his reluctance to actively participate in another partnership but his PA felt he'd be happy to support it, potentially with some level of endorsement.</p>
United Utilities	<p>According to its public messaging, UU is committed to deliver Net Gain for biodiversity in the delivery of their capital programme and across their landholdings. This approach includes all development activities they undertake. They are working closely to understand the additional requirements that are expected through the Environment Bill and will ensure they meet these requirements and deliver at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity and the provision of a 30-year maintenance plan for biodiversity gains where needed.</p> <p>Following the launch of the Government's Natural Environment White Paper in June 2011, outlining their vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years, they developed a UU Natural Environment Strategy.</p> <p><i>"The strategy commits us to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>aim to comply with all national and international natural environment legislation, either directly or through our contractors / partners</i></li> <li>• <i>integrate the management of the natural environment into business as usual activities</i></li> <li>• <i>communicate, share and embed where possible best practice across UU employees, partners and contractors</i></li> <li>• <i>work with partners and stakeholders to actively inform and influence future developments affecting the natural environment and United Utilities, based on sound evidence</i></li> </ul>

*The very nature of our business means we are acutely aware of our responsibility to the environment. This is why we are committed to protecting and enhancing habitats and wildlife across our operations to have a positive impact on the natural environment of the North West."*

Current initiatives include:

**Woodland Management** – This is about managing trees in sustainable way to protect water quality, conservation, access, recreation and timber. UU have been Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified since 2003. The FSC-UK forest management standard endorses the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) which covers all 4336 hectares of UU's woodland estate.

**Natural Course** – The UK's first EU LIFE Integrated Project that builds capacity to protect and improve the North West water environment. Natural Course is designing projects to better understand and overcome some of the biggest barriers preventing the achievement of 'good ecological status' under the EU Water Framework Directive in north West River Basin District. Recent/ongoing projects delivered by Natural Course include:

Regional Water Governance Study – See [Phase 3 Report – Recommendations for Water Governance Arrangements in Cumbria. Jan 2021](#)

Rush Control Trials for farming, biodiversity and run-off reduction. [The project](#) focus on an area of West Pennine Moors SSI but it is hoped that the results of the trials will benefit the whole region and beyond.

Developing an [integrated wetland network](#) in Lancashire and Cheshire

**Groundwork:** UU works in partnership with this social and environmental charity to deliver community projects in neighbourhoods where their engineers are working on potentially disruptive capital schemes. This partnership delivers a variety of projects including community allotments, sustainability programmes and community cohesion projects.

They also continue to work with RSPB and other conservation partners.

#### **Catchment Management**

The aim of UU's Catchment Management is to protect and enhance the water environment through managing the surrounding land. Its sustainable catchment management programme (ScaMP) aims to demonstrate that by working with



	<p>partners, it can manage catchments for water quality and other benefits such as an improved natural environment. UU is expanding this approach to catchments where it takes water from but doesn't own the surrounding land and to benefit the lakes, rivers and coastal waters where they return wastewater through its new Catchment Wise project. More on Catchment Management can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">UU's Environmental Policy can be viewed here.</a></p> <p><b>UU Environment Performance</b></p> <p>This aims to demonstrate progress in protecting and enhancing the environment as part of delivering its purpose. Performance highlights to 2021 include developing a north west natural capital baseline to understand the natural assets the North West has, the benefits they provide and the value of them. More Environmental Performance target and results data can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Approach made to determine UU plans and projects specifically relating to Kendal and its surroundings. No response received to date.</p>
Network Rail	<p>On the topic of nature recovery, National Rail say: <i>"Over the next five years, we'll transform our approach to vegetation management to deliver a safe, efficient, and biodiverse railway fit for the future. We've worked with biodiversity experts using satellites to survey the whole of our estate, which condensed together, is one and a half times the Isle of Wight size. The satellite data allows us to split our land into different habitats, including woodland and various kinds of meadows. Using this information, we can look beyond our fence line and find similar habitats near us. So, we can then work with our neighbours to improve the connections between different habitats and increase biodiversity on the railway."</i></p> <p>In 2021, they published a new <a href="#">Biodiversity Action Plan</a> which features their future targets. In summary, they are:</p> <p>2024 – Collect baseline information about our diverse railway habitats so that we can manage them effectively. Run a reliable railway and look after all existing plants and wildlife on our land in a way that causes no net loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>2035 – Increase levels of biodiversity near the railway by creating new habitats or managing invasive weeds. Lead the way in land management, advising others on how to manage and increase biodiversity.</p>

	Further work is needed to make connections with regional contacts who can provide information on activities and plans impacting the Kendal area. Phil James, Route Director.
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### 'Friends of' Groups

Friends of Fletcher Park [019]	<p>The group was formed in 2018 following the loss of one of the mature Beeches to Meripilus and the recognition that succession planting was necessary as others were likely to follow. Two more Beeches have or are going the same way since then, two Ashes have been felled and Arwen has wrecked another Beech, an Oak and a Cypress. Initial fundraising allowed for two lots of tree planting, mostly on the perimeter of the park: Oaks, Hornbeams, fruit trees in a small orchard area, a couple of bird cherries and a Dawn Redwood. More saplings are due in early 2022.</p> <p>The group has worked on the south and west side hedges, to thicken them up and hopefully make them better for wildlife. They have put in whips and larger specimens of native species. Concerned that the soil is pretty exhausted after decades of the leaves and grass being carefully removed, the group think they have now got Continental, via SLDC, to agree to leave a border and to blow in a layer of leaves in various areas in the hope of encouraging some soil improvement.</p> <p>The group have carried out verti-draining treatment which has seen the grass being less soggy as a result, but they'd like to think there were more sustainable ways of improving drainage. The southern triangle of the park is often very boggy, compacted over the years; the worm population is pretty thin. In the longer term they'd be very keen to do things to improve the soil's health.</p> <p>Through Eamonn Hennessy, SLDC and the Town Council have been very helpful and generous. While about 20 people pay their subs to the group, there are only about half a dozen who are active.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/19007740.planting-breathes-new-life-kendals-fletcher-park/">https://www.thewestmorlandgazette.co.uk/news/19007740.planting-breathes-new-life-kendals-fletcher-park/</a></p>
Friends of Nobles Rest [001]	<p>Alongside SLDC and KCV and with funding from KTC, Friends of Nobles Rest have worked on a flood management programme for the park, created bog gardens, planted bulbs, seeded wildflower meadows and planted trees. They have also supported the creation of edible planters. The Friends group have £5k Postcode Lottery funding to further develop and plant trees. They care for the areas of Town View and Swine Parrock and have plans to remove the redundant play equipment, replacing it with growing space which could potentially become a community garden. Plans are still up for discussion with Kendal Town Council.</p>

Levens Greening Group [037]	Newly established group which officially launched 30 October 2021 in-line with COP16. At time of contact, no confirmed plans have been made. <a href="#">CCC Landscape Conservation Strategy relating to Levens Parish.</a>
Friends of Parkside Cemetery [048]	<p>Friends of Parkside Cemetery is still at the development stages but the plan is to recruit volunteers to create and manage community green spaces within the cemetery. The aim is to improve and enhance local biodiversity within the grounds from local wildflower areas, 'memorial' flower beds and wildlife box projects. Resident, Jade Gibson is working on an advert to go into the Westmorland Gazette to promote the group and will be holding a meeting with the grounds management team to discuss ideas when the group is formed. She hopes to source wildflower plants from Kendal Conservation Volunteers.</p> <p>Aside from the above...</p> <p>Jade's background in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (having worked with Horticare) means she would love to see more nature-based wellbeing activities promoted and led within the town, especially with the multiple allotment sites across Kendal. She wants these to be more of a community asset not just a private asset (host 'grow your own' activities on a designated allotment plot- Age UK used to have an allotment group and Jade tried to set one up with Stroke but they didn't have the volunteer resources).</p>

### Community Gardens

The Triangle Garden, Queen's Road [038]	Developed by local residents, the Triangle Garden has been planted up and a bench added. It is managed by a team of residents and is open to all.
Appleby Road Community Garden [016]	<p>This project aims to provide children, young people and volunteers with education and training opportunities and a chance to grow fruit and veg in a friendly and supportive environment. The garden is used by a range of individuals and groups of all ages and abilities – students from QKS (who work towards a City and Guilds Level 1 in Practical Horticultural Skills), students from Sandgate special school, individual plot holders who rent allotment plots, community groups, local nursery and local primary schools. They run seasonal workshops and training open to all.</p> <p>The garden is designed and run using permaculture principles, it has open access and is owned by The Queen Katherine School. The community involvement in the project is run by the 'Friends of Appleby Road Community Garden' (ARCG). The land hosts an area of 15 allotment plots, a small polytunnel, a compost toilet, an orchard</p>

	<p>and forest garden, willow coppice, dry stone training wall, pond, communal tool shed and small yurt garden classroom.</p> <p>In Jan 22, Chris Eastman sent his project outline and highlighted their plans for future development, all of which he is currently looking for funding support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid support to run the monthly open volunteer sessions</li> <li>• Improved access for wheelchair users and those with sight or mobility issues (based on user requests)</li> <li>• Long term plans to extend the site to accommodate a food growing project to supply the school kitchens</li> </ul>
Belmont Biodiversity Garden [017]	The project is managed by Fellside Forum on land owned by South Lakes Housing. Work is due to start soon with funding provided by KTC biodiversity grant. Awaiting South Lakes Housing approval for digging work. Dec 21.
Sepulchre Lane Triangle [039]	Funding from SLDC and KTC is supporting work on this piece of land next to the church (owned by South Lakes Housing). Work is underway by Kendal Conservation Volunteers.
Rosemary Lane Garden [040]	This community garden was established in Rosemary Lane in the heart of Fellside about 5 years ago. Run by Fellside Forum on South Lakes Housing land. It's a hidden gem, only accessible on foot. It is maintained on the Forum's behalf by Kendal Conservation Volunteers.
South Lakes Community Garden [041]	Jigsaw Family Support is working with South Lakes Academy on a project to use an allotment on Rinkfield in Kendal, to improve the mental wellbeing of children and young adults with Special Educational Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition. It's a new initiative in 2020 and much equipment has been donated already. Children with SEN and ASC, as well as residents from Kendal, will have the opportunity to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers and will have their own working areas at the allotment.
Somervell Garden [018]	This piece of land on Waterside is owned and managed by KTC by arrangement with the Somervell Family. It underwent an enhancement programme a few years ago and wildflower turf is to be installed Spring 2022 with biodiversity grant funding.
Whitwell Victorian Fern Garden and Legendary Landscape Trail [042]	Kendal Conservation Volunteers began a regeneration project in 2018 to develop and maintain a fern garden on the entrance to Serpentine Woods utilising donated ferns from the national collection. The garden won In Bloom Gold in 2018. This project has developed into the Legendary Landscape Trail, utilising a number of KTC planters across the town centre and creating a trail between them, telling the story of the area through the ages.
Resident Activity	<p>Curb side green space – Hawthorn Gardens / Briarrigg [043]</p> <p>A local resident has been working with SLDC Parks team to encourage a diverse range of flowers in part of this green space. He has been supported directly by SLDC with seeds and bulbs and also with some funding through Cllr Stephen Coleman's SLDC Locality budget.</p>

	<p>Tree planting – Burnside Road / Briarrigg [044]</p> <p>New tree planting has taken place on the green space to provide a privacy screen between Briarrigg and Burnside Road. Funding was provided by Jon Owen’s SLDC Locality budget to plant a range of new trees on the banking (100+). This has enhanced this area that is no longer mown regularly.</p> <p>Ghyllside Planters [053]</p> <p>A group of residents received a small KTC grant in 2020 to purchase and plant up a pavement planter near the barriers at the end of Ghyllside. A further grant application has been submitted in 2021 to purchase and plant up a second planter, a tree planter and a balustrade planter to further enhance the area. The planting considers biodiversity and there is the hope it will incorporate vegetables next year. Based on In Bloom feedback, the group hopes to work with Fellside Forum, the landlord of the Rifleman’s Arms and the managers of Summerhill Care home, to explore ideas for the wider area. They intend to submit an application to KTC for consideration for the financial years 2022-23 to tackle this third phase of the development. The group also has a draft proposal under development for an audit of tree loss in the Greenside area. Their proposed ambition is for 6:1 tree replacement.</p> <p>Craig Russell, Blind Beck</p> <p>Blind Beck runs through Craig Russell’s land at Hylands, Brigsteer Road [056] before continuing onto the Vicarage housing estate and running underground at the back of Vicarage Park School. Craig has ambitions to involve other residents in the area to carry out improvements on the watercourse and its immediate surroundings.</p>
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### Resident Associations

Sandylands Residents Association	<p>The Residents’ Association maintain some small permanent planters on Sandylands that were otherwise neglected. The group are taking part in The Conservation Volunteers project <a href="#">I Dig Trees</a> for the second year and have just received 900 tree saplings for residents to collect free of charge. There is no management or advisory service to this project, residents can simply collect what they want from a local front garden. No other plans or ambitions expressed at this time.</p>
Hallgarth Residents Association	<p>Newly formed, this association has recently run litter picks and a community apple press day with Underley Hill Orchard. In November 2021, they did a walk around the estate with SLDC’s open spaces team, South Lakes Housing representatives and local councillors, to share their hopes and plans. This included identifying land which they wish to develop for nature recovery, growing and community enjoyment. The initial activity planned is to</p>

	<p>incorporate planting on the concrete space around the community centre. The group has had approval for a £500 In Bloom grant, match funded by Peter Thornton's discretionary grant to support the project. Work is due to start in Spring 22.</p> <p>United Utilities are due to start work on the <a href="#">Low Garth Flood Alleviation Scheme [064]</a> in February 2022 which hopes to tackle surface water flooding on this part of the estate. Hallgarth Residents Association are hopeful that the scheme will include a raised, all-weather footpath to make this area accessible and would welcome and encourage biodiversity rich planting, which is currently beyond the remit of the development. Residents would like to see more made of this development and have voiced ambitions for a nature walk. Historically this piece of land has attracted fly-tipping and other antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Tom Priestly, Chair of Hallgarth Residents Association explained how residents would like to improve the multiple areas of green spaces across the estate. They would welcome and encourage nature recovery enhancements if plans also considered the community's use of the area and connectivity through it. They wouldn't be supportive of enhancements that were solely focussed on nature recovery and rendered the green space inaccessible to the community. Two green spaces <a href="#">[058, 059]</a> have been specifically raised as having potential for enhancement and community fruit trees have been suggested in addition to managed habitats rather than the 'brush' that is currently prominent across these spaces. Tom suggested that any developments would need to be a partnership approach with support needed in terms of expertise and funding.</p>
Fellside and Greenside Forum	<p>In addition to the works detailed elsewhere, Fellside Forum have also made suggestions as to areas to be left unmown, particularly on High Tenterfell and, although it's not exactly part of the Forum area, Bowling Fell too. They are represented on the Kendal Fell Action Group. Volunteers recently raked large areas of the fell which Continental Landscapes had agreed to leave for the season and cut back in Autumn. On the last Saturday of each month a few volunteers do a litter pick but often they will clear brambles, sweep up leaves and weed the steps in the area if necessary. On regular walkabouts with the local councillors and other interested groups, they try to identify areas for improvement etc.</p>

### Other Groups

Rotary of Kendal <a href="#">[051]</a>	<p>The club has planted over 120,000 crocus bulbs on verges and green spaces across the town since 2012. Another 8k have been planted in autumn 2021 along the verges of Burton Road. They also manage a small hospital garden at Westmorland General Hospital.</p>
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Kendal and District Lions	The group have been involved in a small-scale hospital garden project at Westmorland General Hospital.
Civic Society	As part of its millennium programme the Society planted a wood of 1100 trees on Castle Hill, they have created a small commemorative garden on Blackhall Road, were involved in the transformation of Somervell Garden on Waterside and have been developing plans for better connectivity between Nobles Rest and the town centre. Ros Taylor is responsible for biodiversity on the committee. The society has just incorporated biodiversity into their constitution – a revised copy will be uploaded to their website shortly.
Age UK – Men in Sheds	This team work on small-scale projects such as creating bird and bat boxes with its members and connects local groups such as Cubs. Graham Fell at Men in Sheds has been heavily involved with Kendal Swifts; creating nesting boxes and developing an electronic 'swift call' to encourage Swifts. Graham has worked with Kendal Parish Church to introduce a swift tower and calling system to the Church grounds. He has also worked with Rob Pocklington at Sizergh to create a Swift Tower at the Wetlands near Brigsteer Woods. [047].
Manna House [045]	The organisation received an In Bloom grant in 2019 to create a small garden in their existing car park. The garden is used for growing produce, encouraging wildlife and as an outdoor event space for client sessions. A good example of what is possible on a very small scale.
Independent Retailer Ilovememost [046]	A good example of what a small business can do on a small budget in the centre of town. Winnie from Ilovememost added planting to Old Police Yard.
Kendal Torchlight Carnival	Craig Russell responded positively to the NK proposal. Craig explained how Kendal Torchlight has changed dramatically and now has sustainability as a core value. The 2021 event had a focus on biodiversity and Craig feels local creative people could make a huge contribution to NK. Craig is happy to make introductions and an agreement was made to explore ways in which NK could be featured in the 2022 event.
Another Way	Another Way is a not-for-profit charity run by Another Weigh, a zero waste shop which has stores in Kendal and Penrith. Profits from Another Weigh are used to support this educational charity which aims to promote and support behavioural change engendering an environmentally sustainable community. With a Tree Futures Grant from The Tree Council, Another Way are leading a project planting 1700 trees in the Matterdale. A selection of 20 schools and scout groups that have been invited to plant these trees and to learn more from specialists about the benefits they will bring. The aim of this project is to make progress on four key themes: 1) Natural flood management, 2) Planting trees (both in new woodland areas and on farmland), 3) Improving, 4) Key species support. Although this project is outside the geographic boundary of the Natural Kendal project, Another Way being Kendal based, could be an engaged supporter/partner.
The Well	A new group to Kendal, The Well moved in to the Highgate Hotel in 2021, supporting people recovering from alcohol and drug abuse. They have centres in Barrow, Morecambe, Lancaster and Carlisle. In Barrow, they run a successful growing project which offers their members' horticulture training opportunities, grows food for their community supermarket and

	offers a chance to partner with other groups like Age UK. Directors Ged and Dave are currently looking to secure similar land in Kendal to develop a secondary project and is in contact with Jonathan Brook about it.
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### Education Providers

Emails were sent out to all schools in Jan 2022. These are the responses received to date.

Brantfield Nursery School [057]	<p>Headteacher Alyssa Dobbs explained the ongoing development of their extensive grounds which reach up towards Serpentine Woods and High Tenterfell. Over the last 6 years they have been working to clear an inaccessible area of ground behind the property. They have created a space for their forest school and have plans to prepare and scarify the land ready to sow a wildflower meadow. Their clearing has uncovered 4 apple trees, giving them 6 in total. They hope to expand their range of fruit bushes and create more growing space alongside 'wilder' areas. They have lost 11 trees in the last few years, due to Ash die-back and more recently, the Dec 21 storms. They are taking advantage of the Queen's Jubilee project with the Woodlands Trust and are awaiting a tree package for planting late winter. The felled trees are being used to provide wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Brantfield would benefit from a small amount of funding to support their plans and would like to engage with residents or community groups who could contribute labour to the project in exchange for use of the grounds and its produce during evenings and weekends. They'd welcome the opportunity for it to become a community garden when not in use by the nursery. The headteacher would like to keep updated with the Natural Kendal project and would welcome connectivity with other projects with similar aspirations.</p>
Kendal Education and Conservation Park (Lead: Sandgate headteacher)	Sandgate headteacher Dan Hinton, is leading a proposal to develop Kendal Conservation and Education Park. The plan is very much in its infancy, but the aim is to bring conservation and environmental sustainability into the heart of Kendal through the mechanism of education and longitudinal academic research. The park and research aims will be to rewild, reintroduce indigenous species, capture CO2 through the development of Kendal as an area of outstanding action-based conservation. The dream is that a child will see through a piece of academic research from Nursery to 6 <sup>th</sup> Form. The proposal has identified Beezon Fields to Sandy Bottoms [014] for this and is liaising with the Environment Agency. Dan has copy of Natural Kendal proposal and Quentin had very productive conversation with Dan; lots of shared interests; agreed to keep in touch to ensure two projects 'talk to each other'. Last update Nov 21.
Stramongate School	Headteacher Matt Beresford, was keen to ensure that NK is in talks with Dan from Sandgate regarding the proposed Education and Conservation Park (above). When asked what land management activity goes on within the school grounds or if they have any plans/ambitions to develop the grounds, Matt outlined the types of things they'd run to date: Yrs 5 and



	6 pupils have worked with Wood Matters on the John Muir environmental award, they continually engage KS1 children in outdoor education, they've created and manage a pond, care and maintain the surrounding trees, etc. Matt expressed their keenness to do more, to engage the kids more and to work with more partners. He felt this was the right time for something like this and suggested the Kendal Primary Partnership would be a good place to engage with all schools together. They meet every 6 weeks and are currently chaired by Ghyllside headteacher, Huw Davies.
Queen Katherine School	<p>The QKS Eco Group was established in 2017 and consists 20 + members from y7-11, as well as representatives from Sandgate School. Their aim is to be a model of sustainability to take positive action to reduce the environmental footprint of QKS, build reliance to change and to raise awareness of climate related issues within school. QKS has received the Eco Schools Silver Award.</p> <p>The group meet weekly and comprises of subgroups that are responsible for taking action. The subgroups include waste, litter, biodiversity, transport and publicity. They run on a 2-week cycle of planning and action. Recent relevant actions include tree planting (in 2021 we planted over 100 trees in the school grounds), visiting the community garden and collecting compost. They are part of the Master Composters scheme. They also run events in school to raise awareness and engage others in the group. They have produced a <a href="#">film</a> about their group. Also see Appleby Road Community Garden.</p>

### Wider learnings

Lake District Farmers	<p>Dan Austin spoke at a recent event. Lake District Farmers are working with 8 Cumbrian farmers on a mob grazing pilot scheme funded by private sector sponsors to reduce the risk to the farms involved. Mob Grazing focusses on the rotation of animals and cattle on pieces of land, builds resilience for the farmer and regenerates biodiversity. No information found online regarding LDF's involvement.</p> <p>Woodland Trust feature an online case study about mob grazing and hedgerow planting with Cumbria farmers Nic and Paul Renison. <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1715/mob-grazing-and-hedgerows-for-livestock.pdf">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1715/mob-grazing-and-hedgerows-for-livestock.pdf</a></p>
Workington Nature Partnership	Workington Nature Partnership was/is a joint venture between Allerdale Borough Council and Workington Town Council. The partnership supports the natural environment in and around Workington by undertaking a wide range of conservation activities on the 3 nature reserves, parks, open spaces, woodlands and access networks. The initiative also provides a great opportunity for volunteers of all ages and abilities to get involved in improving the land on their doorstep. Funding was secured to pay a Nature Partnership Officer to lead the project. This information was provided via Chris Bagshaw ex

	Workington Clerk. More detail can be gathered through direct contact with Workington NPO, Raegan Blacker. <a href="#">See presentation.</a>
Wild Garsdale Pike	This <a href="#">project</a> working with young people aims to enhance the ecosystem and biodiversity of 195 acres of high pasture and hill land in Garsdale, connecting with other similar projects and the wider landscape and landowners.
Cumbria Coastal Community Forest	A new <a href="#">5,000-hectare coastal community forest</a> is to be created in Cumbria over the next 25 years.
Schools Funding	The Linnean Society – Local Nature Grants for schools and community groups in the UK to increase youth engagement with nature.  Local School Nature Grants Scheme provides outdoor learning training and equipment to schools and early years providers in England, Wales and Scotland.
Wild Fowl and Wetland Trust and Wetland Conservation Unit	WWT is a national conservation organisation focussing on wetlands in the UK and oversees. They don't have a presence or projects running in the North West, but their <a href="#">work</a> can offer beneficial case studies for what is possible in a rural, agricultural and urban environment.
John Muir Trust	John Muir Trust is a community focussed conservation charity based in Scotland. They took over the Glenridding Common in 2017 and run the John Muir award aimed at KS2 primary pupils.
Rewilding Britain	Nearest ongoing Rewilding Britain project is <a href="#">Lowther Estate</a> . <a href="#">Wild Ennerdale</a> also works in partnership with Rewilding Britain and Rewilding Europe.
University of Cumbria BOOM Project	Back On Our Map is a pioneering project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and hosted by the University of Cumbria. The project works with communities to reintroduce a suite of locally threatened or extinct species to South Cumbria.

#### Approaches made with no responses to record to date

All Kendal Schools
All Kendal ward councillors
Kirkbarrow Residents' Association

Kendal College
David Rawle, Senior Estates Surveyor, CCC
Westmorland Red Squirrels
Carus Green
United Utilities
National Rail
John Webb, RSPB via Chris Winnick
Lake District National Park re Scout Scar and Cunswick ownership

### Summary

These findings are in no way an exhaustive list of activity taking place in Kendal at this time. The project has reached out as far as possible within the time given and the report comprises of details gathered via online research and contact with individuals. It builds a picture of active groups and organisations delivering projects likely to have an impact on nature recovery and biodiversity within the town. It highlights engaged groups who could potentially become partners or advocates of Natural Kendal, as well as those that have influence. It begins to highlight the opportunities, gaps and challenges facing Kendal's nature recovery. Whilst not a direct objective of this brief, the research process has also begun to raise awareness of the Natural Kendal project and test responses to the proposal – the vast majority of which has been extremely positive and supportive.

### In brief, the research response highlights:

- A general agreement that Kendal is fortunate in its number of habitats and habitat opportunities close to the town centre
- There is value in assessing the habitat provision and species-rich biodiversity of the green spaces that Kendal processes in order to identify key opportunities
- Kendal hosts many engaged conservation and community-focussed groups and whilst partnership working is taking place, many groups are working in isolation of each other.
- On the whole, activity is taking place on relatively isolated pockets of land and on a modest scale.
- Drivers for the grassroots activity tend to focus on health and wellbeing, education, growing food, social interaction and public realm enhancements, in addition to nature gain.
- Kendal has a wealth of expertise and skills which could be harnessed to benefit a town-wide initiative
- Funding, resources and volunteer capacity are key factors affecting future plans and ambitions
- Communication with the wider public is vital to harness support

## **Next step opportunities for Natural Kendal**

Feedback from respondents to the research has raised some key themes as a need that align with the aims of the Natural Kendal proposal and which could provide focus to the project's next steps:

### **1. Further research and assessment**

A natural next step to this baseline research would be to assess the town's current green spaces and waterways in terms of the quality of habitat, to gather baseline data and identify key locations for activity. As well as considering individual locations, this can begin to identify opportunities for linking habitats and creating wildlife corridors throughout the town. Opportunities to partner with Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre and Cumbria Wildlife Trust to be considered.

### **1. Connectivity and Awareness**

There is value in connecting the activities already taking place across the town and the engaged groups and individuals behind them. In addition to raising the profile of Natural Kendal as a town-wide initiative, connectivity would:

- harness the skills and expertise within the town
- allow groups to benefit from shared experience and potentially shared resources
- provide inspiration and support to new groups
- apply pressure to unengaged landowners to act responsibly
- raise awareness among local people of the benefits of nature recovery
- share opportunities for residents to get involved
- celebrate the incredible work already taking place around the town
- encourage good land management practices for growing projects who's first priority isn't nature recovery.

There is also the potential for groups to benefit from collaborative buying power and funding bids if a more joined up approach is adopted.

Natural Kendal could deliver a number of projects to encourage connectivity.

- A website or social media channel would showcase nature recovery projects in the town and begin to offer opportunities for communication between groups.
- A meeting/event would start discussions about a town-wide effort, offering an opportunity to share ideas and experiences and identify challenges facing progress.

- Development of a recognisable brand would allow projects to promote their contribution to a town-wide effort and encourage others to participate or find out more. The brand could become a recognisable symbol around public spaces, communicating a nature recovery commitment to the wider community.
- Building a public awareness campaign would allow residents to join the initiative through activity in their own homes, allotments and gardens.
- Developing a Natural Kendal Awards scheme would celebrate the efforts within the town, promote the key messages and inspire others.

Connecting active players, could support the expressed shared ambitions of individual groups. For example Brantfield Nursery are looking to engage the community in developing their growing space whilst Jade Gibson, The Well and others looking to seek land for development as a community asset.

## **2. Natural Kendal Community Pilot Project**

Kickstart Natural Kendal with a grassroots project that can become a case study for future development. The research identifies Hallgarth as having real potential for a pilot project based on the following observations:

- Geographically, Hallgarth has a wealth of green spaces and is backed by green belt land.
- Mark Cropper's plans for the Ellergreen Estate could offer opportunities for connecting with a Natural Kendal project on Hallgarth.
- United Utilities' current work on the flood alleviation project could provide habitat enhancement opportunities to link with.
- South Lakes Housing own land on the Hallgarth estate and are active within the community there. Evidence in other parts of Kendal show that SL Housing are open to community adoption of their green spaces and are keen to partner with other groups. The upcoming recruitment of a Sustainability Manager could create an opportune time to partner with SL Housing, as could their planned audit of their land ownership and land management plans.
- The newly established residents' association is keen to explore opportunities for Hallgarth's green spaces for both nature and community gain.
- The residents' association has already begun to liaise with South Lakeland District Council regarding the management of the estate's council-owned green spaces.
- The project could partner with Kendal Town Council's ongoing audit of walkways and connectivity to consider the accessibility of the green spaces.
- A nature recovery project on this level would provide an opportunity for partnership working. It would need to ensure resident buy-in and consider the current challenges of anti-social behaviour. As such, it could provide an ideal case study for future urban nature recovery projects.

## **3. Schools and education**

The development of the proposal for an Education and Conservation Park stands out as an ideal project for Natural Kendal to support. Not only could it provide excellent educational opportunities for all of Kendal's nursery and school-aged children and engage families and the wider public, it could offer

significant long term habitat enhancement for Kendal's green spaces. As such, this project has the potential for Kendal to become an exemplar to other towns.

Beyond the Education and Conservation Park proposal, there is an opportunity for Natural Kendal to work with schools on conservation projects on their own land. Kendal Primary Partnership is a strong and engaged group of head teachers so could offer a good starting point for discussions. As a flagship project, this would offer opportunities to engage with families in Kendal and could therefore support the connectivity and awareness campaign detailed above. This project also has potential for attracting national funding for Kendal.

# Kendal Town Council

## Agenda Item 7

### Project Update – May 2022

E&H Budget Heading	Project title	Progress	Partners	Red Amber Green Progress	Additional Notes
<b>New Infrastructure</b> (£5,166 available)	Street Signage Improvements	Audit complete and shared with SLDC. Funding transferred and improvements in progress.	SLDC		SLDC to share before and after pictures for inclusion in next KTC newsletter.
	Bike Repair Stands	Proposal at June E&H	CCC permissions		
	Happy to Chat Benches	Proposal at June E&H	CCC permissions		
	Handrail at 'The Crack' Kirkland	Quotes requested: approx. cost ~£350	Resident, Kendal Civic Society		
	Handrail at Fountain Brow	Approx. cost ~£2300	SLDC		
	Handrail at Triangle Community Garden	Approx. cost ~£560	Garden Community Group		
	Handrail at Vicarage Drive	Approx. cost ~£1700	SLDC		
	Kendal Castle signage at the Castle	n/a	n/a		
	Nobles Rest signage at M&S	Quote requested and contact with Store Manager initiated.	M&S		
	Signage from Oxenholme to Kendal (Cllr Rathbone Locality budget)	Exploring costs & options, site visit with Cllr Rathbone 6 <sup>th</sup> June	tbc		
	Additional SIDs	n/a	n/a		

<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> (£1,893 available)	Explore Kendal Signage Refresh	Proposal at June E&H	n/a		
	Ivy Screening KTC logos	Quote requested	n/a		
	Research to improve signage mix and improvement options at Abbot Hall car park	City scape questions sent to SLDC – awaiting response.	SLDC, CCC & Lakeland Arts		
	Green finger posts (x3) refresh	Quote requested	n/a		
	Sepulchre and Serpentine Road handrail repaint	Quotes requested: approx. cost ~£340	SLDC		
	Thorny Hills barrier repaint	Quotes requested: approx cost ~£740	CCC		
	Undercliff Railings improvements	Improvements options under review	tbc		
<b>Climate Change</b> (£7,084 unallocated)	Zero Carbon Kendal Website	New blog posts and case studies added	Various		New comms plan in development
	Recommendations Panel	New format researched and agreed by Chairs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring dashboard report of recommendation progress from KTC and relevant partners</li> <li>- Annual informal reunion for former Jury members</li> <li>- Membership of ZCCP Local Authority Officer group to progress</li> </ul>	Various		
	Jury Supporter Engagement	May newsletter update sent	n/a		
	Festival Engagement	Stall at Jubilee Celebration organised	Fellside Forum & public		
	Kendal Solar Audit	Partnership work with CAfS progressing. Top 10 potential co-operative sites identified. Two positive responses to date, progressing towards site visits with installers.  SLDC meeting re simplifying planning info for residents complete – follow up actions in progress.	CAfS, residents and business owners.		



	Waste into Wellbeing (£10,000 per year for three years agreed)	Regular Kendal Peoples Café at South Lakes Foyer. Site visit to Appleby Hub arranged. No proposal to draw down funding to date.	SLACC		
<b>Biodiversity Schemes &amp; Grants</b> (£10,400 unallocated)	Somervell Wild Flowers	Maintenance transferred to KTC, new mower purchased to manage grass between flowers. Positively received.	CCC		
	Dark Skies Campaign (£5000 allocated)	Awaiting new working group members. Scheme in development to reduce lighting pollution at Westmorland General Hospital – proposal to follow at September’s meeting.	Friends of the Lake District		Report to be presented at September’s E&H.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> round of biodiversity grants (£6,000 allocated)	River Kent grant awarded.  Promotion required to raise awareness of availability.	Clean River Kent Group		
<b>20mph</b> (£19,400 available)	20mph	Officer meeting completed to agree presentations to members at next working group meeting. Penciled in for end of June early July. Proposals include boundary decisions and KTC leading initial engagement to secure buy in before CCC led statutory consultation.	CCC		Report to be presented at September’s E&H.
<b>Cycling &amp; Walking</b>	Footpath Quality Audit (£12,000 allocated)	Officers to develop initial scoping report based on 2mile radius from all Kendal primary schools, assessing quality, accessibility and signage of connective footpaths.	tbc		Report to be presented at September’s E&H.
	Signage improvements for footpaths and cycle paths (£4,000 allocated)	Spend to be informed by report above.	tbc		
	Kirkbarrow Connections (£17,000 allocated)	Awaiting transfer of Vicarage Drive. Improvements can follow once ownership is transferred.	KTC Solicitors		

	Kendal Castle Pumptrack (£4,000 allocated, £2000 invoice expected)	Visual complete. Next steps to be discussed at June Committee.	Velosolutions		Page 42 of 76
	LCRP contribution (£5000 allocated)	No request to draw down to date.	LCRP		
<b>Public Realm Improvements</b>	Windermere Road Railings improvements (£3000 allocated)	Established 19/43 of the railings need repairing. CCC request to fix logged and residents and local CCC Councillor engaged.	CCC		
	Further Ivy Screening Projects (£3000 allocated)	Potential locations to be researched.	CCC		
	Woolpack Yard	New planters installed following successful Welcome Back Funding application.	SLDC and Continental		Initial trees died. Alternative bedding planting ordered and installed wk beg 6 <sup>th</sup> June.
	Ivy Screenings	Ivy screenings complete at Blackhall Road & Longpool. KTC Crest stickers ordered.	CCC		
<b>River Connectivity</b>	Mintsfeet connectivity (£30,000 allocated)	Purchase request with solicitors.	Landowner		
<b>Green Spaces Improvements</b> (£11,000 unallocated)	Bowling Fell Improvement Project (£7000 allocated)	n/a	SLDC		Research and options to be presented at September's E&H
	Serpentine Woods Alphabet Trail (£1000 allocated)	Forum aware of allocation but no drawdown request to date.	Fellside Forum		
	Serpentine Woods Natural Play Provision (£5000 allocated)	'Seeing is Believing' tour suggested to Forum members to Sizergh Castles Wild Trail in July for inspiration and advice.	SLDC, Fellside Forum, Kendal Conservation Volunteers, National Trust		Initial ideas to be presented at Septembers E&H
	Nobles Rest community growing space	SLDC currently assessing the transfer of the former play area to KTC to develop additional growing space.	SLDC		
	Gooseholme ASB improvements	A range of measures agreed with SLDC following completion of bridge and flood defense works including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CCTV signage</li> <li>- Toilet signage</li> </ul>	SLDC and Cumbria Constabulary.		

- Putting green boundary improvements (SLDC to lead)
- Public Spaces Protection Order (SLDC to lead)
- Assess Marshall option once site is accessible and ASB levels have been reviewed.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 8
Description: Happy to chat benches	

## Happy to Chat Benches Proposal

### Background

Happy to chat benches are proving a popular and effective way to reduce social isolation.

Success stories are available here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-50000204>
- <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/74068/Happy-to-Chat-Benches-to-Spark-Conversations>
- <https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/19453681.happy-chat-benches-secured-keswick-penrith-living-well-coaches/>

### Proposal

Install 'Happy to Chat' signs on 50% of Kendal Town Council benches, 31 in total, in appropriate locations to be confirmed if approved.

Signs can be produced by Kendal Town Council officers therefore there is no costs attached to this project.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 9
Description: Bike Repair Stand Proposal	

## Bike Repair Stand Proposal

### Background

Bike Repair stands enable cyclists to carry out basic repairs. Each bike repair stands provides:

- Pump with gauge
- Adjustable flat wrench
- Hex key set wrenches
- Phillips screwdriver
- Flat screwdriver
- Open end wrench
- New metal tire lever 2pcs

Bike Repair stands are relatively small (H 150cm, D 45cm, W 65cm, W 21.5kg) but do require space around them to enable basic repairs to be carried out.



## **Proposal**

- Scope potential locations at New Road, Gooseholme and Beezon Fields
- Check locations with Kendal Cycle Club
- Secure permission from Highways
- Utilise New Infrastructure funding = £1000 for one unit

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 10
Description: Biodiversity Policy	

### Biodiversity Policy

Kendal Town Council recognises that dramatic biodiversity loss is happening at scale. Globally, scientists report that we are facing a 'sixth mass extinction', with the rate of extinction for wildlife species at over 100 times the 'normal rate'. In the UK, more than half of the 4,000 species assessed between 1970 and 2013 have declined in number, largely as a result of habitat fragmentation and climate change, among other factors. This decline is illustrated by the following statistics:

- 50% of British butterflies are now included on the extinction red list
- 97% of UK meadows have been lost since the 1930s
- The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries globally, with only 53% of its biodiversity left intact (against a global average of 75%)

Biodiversity underpins all healthy ecosystems and food systems and is integral to our health and wellbeing.

This Biodiversity Policy reflects the Town Council's recognition of the above and its ambition to conserve and enhance biodiversity where possible, and to contribute to a net gain in biodiversity. This will be achieved by completing a risk assessment of the impact on Biodiversity (alongside an assessment of carbon impact) when new projects are initiated and developed. The examples included here are not exhaustive but illustrate some positive actions. Further research would be encouraged at the risk assessment stage.

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Environment and Highways Committee to ensure it remains an active and relevant policy.

Kendal Town Council will actively seek to mitigate habitat loss and make efforts to generate biodiversity net gain in all its activities across all green spaces, blues spaces (visible water) and dark skies.

The Town Council strives to reduce pollution and habitat loss and exploitation, and to increase biodiversity by:

- Exercising its planning function to influence new developments to minimise habitat loss and water course destruction, and to increase habitat connectivity and create a net biodiversity gain. The Council can achieve this by providing applicants with best practice examples and guidance on a case-by-case basis.
- Exercising its planning function to influence a reduction in waterways pollution where possible, for example, by encouraging green (permeable) rather than tarmac drives.
- Developing, funding and/or supporting projects that encourage habitat creation and/or tackle invasive species by linking to Natural Kendal's baseline report. Examples include creating wildflower meadows and supporting the Kendal Swift Group and the Clean River Kent group.
- Supporting and celebrating resident and local group efforts to maintain habitats, grow trees etc. For example, social media and newsletter promotion and use of facilities or other in kind offers.
- Promoting awareness of biodiversity issues and actions.
- Continuing to promote traffic reduction across the town and active travel opportunities together with partners such as Kendal Futures and other local authorities.
- Encouraging allotment holders to develop healthy soils by using natural fertilisers and pest management, using no-dig methods and growing cover crops ('green manures'). Healthy soils can store more carbon than the world's plants and forests combined; therefore, we



recognise healthy soil as a positive approach to both habitat conservation and carbon reduction.

- Developing the 'Plant More Trees' recommendation of the Kendal Climate Change Citizens' Jury aiming to source and redistribute 500 trees per year.

Reporting against this Biodiversity Policy will be included in the Council's Annual Report process to highlight successes and demonstrate where aspects of the above could be better developed and/or integrated into Town Council activities.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 11
Description: Explore Kendal Signage	

## Explore Kendal Signage

### ***Background***

Installed in 2009, seventeen large information signs were transferred to Kendal Town Council in 2019. Featuring maps corresponding with the Visit Kendal leaflet and web maps, as well as historical information provided by Kendal Civic Society, these signs offer useful information to visitors and locals alike. A condition survey in May 2022 found that 11 of these signs would benefit from maintenance and refurbishment.

### ***Proposal***

To repair/replace damaged signs as appropriate.

### ***Funding***

There is currently £1893 remaining in the Infrastructure and Maintenance budget. Sun Signs has provided a quote of £1385.60 to repair/replace damaged panels.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 12
Description: Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Endorsement	

## LCWIP Endorsement

### Background

Kendal Town Council have been asked by Cumbria County Council to review and endorse the LCWIP for Kendal.

The LCWIP document is attached as a separate PDF, below is a copy of Cumbria County Council's South Lakeland Local Committee endorsement of the document for Councillors information.

<b>COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKE LAND</b>
Meeting date: 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022
From: Angela Jones, Executive Director, Economy and Infrastructure

## KENDAL LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Kendal.*

### **2. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**1. *By preparing an LCWIP for Kendal and working to achieve the delivery of the findings, the Council will be meeting the following Council Plan priorities:***

- ***To safeguard children, and ensure that Cumbria is a great place to be a child and grow up***
- ***To enable communities to live safely and shape services locally***
- ***To promote health and wellbeing, and tackle poverty***
- ***To protect and enhance Cumbria's world class environment***
- ***To provide safe and well-maintained roads and an effective transport network***
- ***To promote sustainable economic growth, and create jobs***
- ***To support older and vulnerable people to live independent and healthy lives***

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

1. It is recommended that Members approve the LCWIP for Kendal as attached at Appendix 1.
2. It is recommended that Members delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Local Committee to make any necessary minor amendments to the Kendal LCWIP prior to its publication.

### **1. BACKGROUND**

1. The Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (2022 – 2037) sets out the strategy for Active Travel in Cumbria and the development of LCWIPs are a key part of this. The Council has committed to the development of a series of LCWIPs. The methodology for LCWIPs has been developed by the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the national Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. DfT funding for local cycling and walking schemes will be dependent upon the schemes inclusion in a LCWIP, with infrastructure to be designed in line with the DfT Cycle Infrastructure Design guide issued in July 2020.
2. The LCWIP for Kendal, outlines the network of key cycling and walking routes in the district. The focus of the Kendal LCWIP is the improvement of routes used for everyday shorter journeys, such as to work, school or the shops. It aims to identify good quality infrastructure

that connects the places people need to get to, in a coherent, direct, safe and attractive way.

3. Recognising that it is not always possible to connect everywhere and that funding for delivery needs to be secured, the Kendal LCWIP focuses on the routes where the most benefits can be realised. Support for walking and cycling infrastructure usually increases further once it is built and people are using it. Over time these priorities can be built on to deliver a more extensive network to encourage and support a step change in the number of people cycling and walking.
4. The Kendal LCWIP is a not a funded plan however, having an LCWIP in place will put the Council in the best possible position to secure future funding for the delivery of improvements.
5. Public consultation on the draft LCWIP proposals was undertaken in May 2021. During this consultation the draft priority network for cycling was presented. Feedback was sought on the existing barriers to cycling and walking and what improvements could be made to encourage more everyday short journeys to be undertaken by active travel. The consultation received a total of 485 questionnaire responses. Through the consultation it was established that 88% of respondents welcomed more money being spent on cycling and walking in Kendal and 60% felt the proposals in the Kendal LCWIP would encourage them to cycle or walk more often.
6. A second round of public consultation took place in November 2021, presenting the updated priority cycling and walking networks reflecting the feedback received in the first consultation. 230 responses were received, showing the same strong desire for future investment in cycling and walking infrastructure.
7. The Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2022 – 2037) is included in Appendix 1.

## **2. OPTIONS**

1. That Members approve the Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
2. That Members approve the Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan with recommended changes.
3. That Members do not approve the Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

## **3. RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

1. There are no financial implications for the Local Committee arising from this report.

#### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

1. The Local Committee is authorised to accept the recommendation to approve the Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The Members can delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure to make any necessary minor amends to the Kendal LCWIP prior to its publication.

PS 01/03/2022

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

1. The Kendal LCWIP provides a prioritised investment plan for cycling and walking in Carlisle District over the next 15 years.
2. The LCWIP considers the overlaps and synergies with other plans, schemes and strategies. This means the network priorities will be reviewed and updated periodically, particularly if there are any significant changes in local circumstances, such as the publication of new policies or strategies, new development sites, if funding bids are successful and as walking and cycling networks mature and expand.
3. The LCWIP is a live document that will be regularly reviewed to ensure the most appropriate routes for cycling and walking are identified and prioritised for future delivery.

**Angela Jones**  
**Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure**

***11<sup>th</sup> March 2022***

# Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2022 - 2037





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## Foreword

I am pleased to introduce Cumbria County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Kendal, which outlines the proposed network of key cycling and walking routes in the town and surrounding communities. The plan will work in conjunction with our wider infrastructure plans, including the Cumbria Travel Infrastructure Plan to support transport and connectivity, which will help Cumbria to become one of the best-connected rural geographies in the UK, whilst also incorporating the growth of Cumbria and responding to climate change.

The LCWIP identifies cycling and walking improvements at a local community level and are designed to facilitate a long-term approach to developing cycling and walking networks. Encouraging people to adopt a more active lifestyle will benefit their health, but collectively this will have a positive impact on net zero carbon emissions.

This document gives a summary of the county council's goals and objectives, while sharing more specific information about the communities that we have consulted with in the Kendal area.

I'd like to thank all the residents, businesses, and visitors for their support and feedback on engagement and consultations to date

It is a privilege to live in a part of the country with such a strong sense of community, culture, heritage and stunning scenery right on our doorstep, especially in South Cumbria. Our aim is to encourage more people to take up walking and cycling within Kendal, to improve connectivity, boost *health and wellbeing*, and become a 'shining light' for climate action, helping Kendal to become zero carbon.

Cycling and walking are very important to Kendal residents and visitors, and through the delivery of the LCWIP we want cycling and walking to become the preferred way to travel, for shorter journeys. In Kendal, the LCWIP has great potential to help encourage more cycling and walking if the right conditions are in place - good infrastructure is key to this, as it preserves the town's identity, culture, and heritage and will help to ease the congestion in the town centre.

Additionally, we should not underestimate the role active travel will play in supporting the recovery of the economy. Through better connections and travel options, people will have access to education, training, and employment opportunities, which will contribute to a healthy, more reliable workforce.

I'm delighted with the progress that has been made through South Lakeland Local Committee and I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of all who have taken the time to share their views and opinions.



**Cllr Keith Little**  
**Cumbria County Council Cabinet Member for**  
**Highways and Transport**



**Cllr Nick Cotton**  
**Cumbria County Council Chair of South Lakeland**  
**Committee**

## Vision and Aim

### What is a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan?

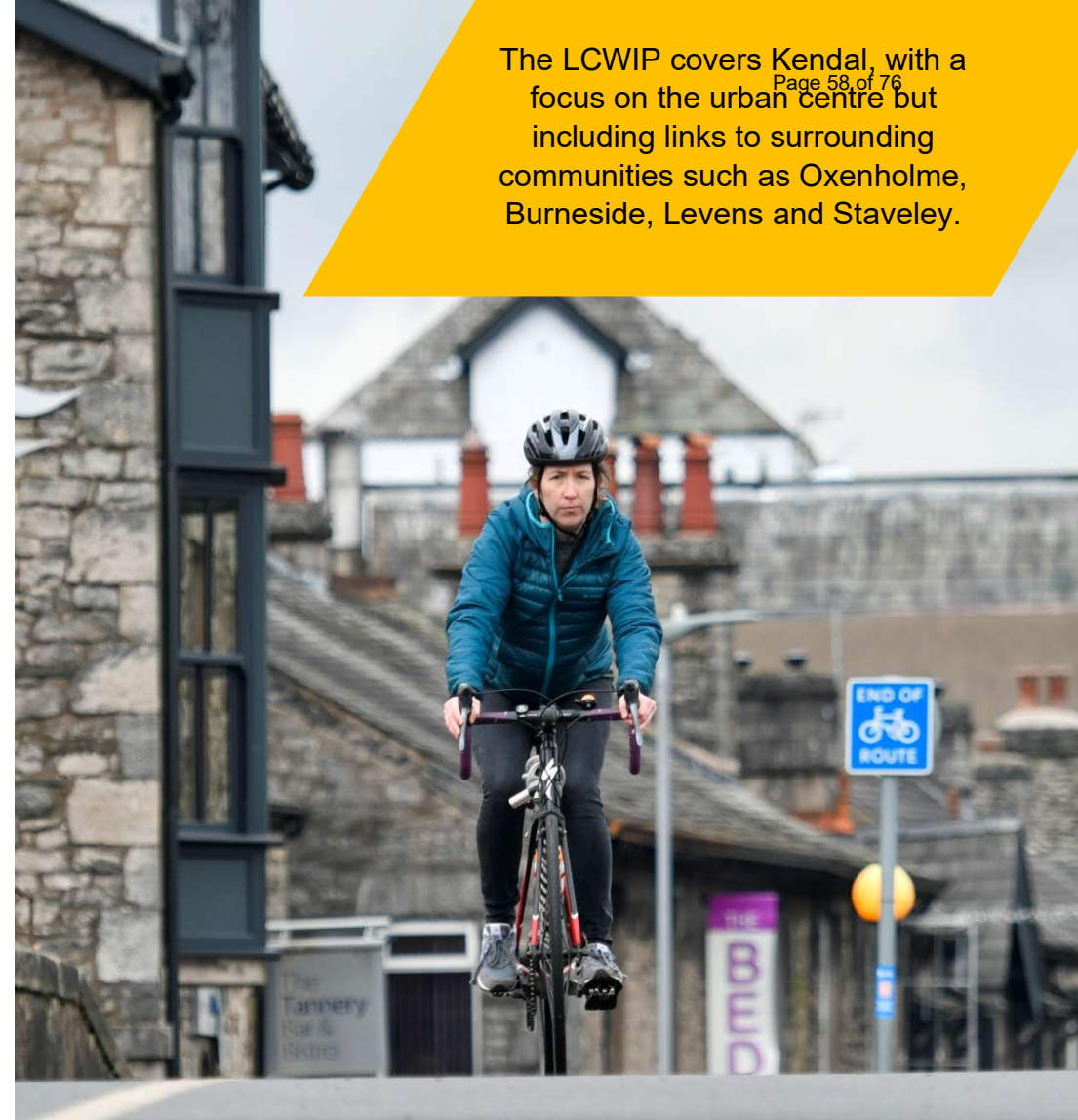
A **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)** is a document that identifies and prioritises cycling and walking improvements at a local level. It sets out an approach for developing prioritised routes over the period of the Plan (2022-2037), with the aim of **encouraging more people to make journeys on foot or by bike**.

The focus of the LCWIP is the improvement of routes used for **everyday shorter journeys**, such as to work, school or the shops. It aims to identify good quality infrastructure that connects the places people need to get to, in a coherent, direct, safe and attractive way. Recognising that it is not always possible to connect everywhere and that funding for delivery needs to be secured, the LCWIP aims to prioritise future investment where the most benefits can be realised. The LCWIP is not a funded plan. However, having an LCWIP in place will put the Council in the best possible position to secure future funding for the delivery of improvements.

The LCWIP has been developed using principles set out in the Government's first Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, 2017. This Strategy sets out the ambition "**to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey**". Government guidance outlining a recommended approach for developing LCWIPs has also been followed.

The LCWIP is based on data and evidence of existing and future potential demand but has also been guided throughout by effective engagement with partners, stakeholders and the public.

The LCWIP covers Kendal, with a focus on the urban centre but including links to surrounding communities such as Oxenholme, Burneside, Levens and Staveley.



The LCWIP provides:


- Plans showing the most important routes for development
- Priorities and timescales for development
- A detailed evidence base to support future delivery funding bids
- A basis for securing government funding or developer contributions

## Why is an LCWIP important for Kendal?

### Creating Attractive Places to Live and Work

The district of South Lakeland employs approximately 43,500 people, which accounts for 21% of all employment in Cumbria<sup>[19]</sup>. A significant proportion of this employment is concentrated within the LCWIP area, primarily within Kendal itself. The town of Kendal is relatively compact with a number of retail, education and leisure sites banding the river corridor. Many people live and work within a distance that can be undertaken on foot or by bike. Investment in the streets where people live or work could create more attractive and desirable places, particularly where the investment promotes sustainable modes of travel.

### Responding to the Climate Crisis




Transport accounts for **27%** of the UKs greenhouse gas emissions – **61%** of this is from cars and taxis

(DfT Transport Statistics for Great Britain 2021)

Cumbria has set itself an ambitious challenge to be the first carbon-neutral county in the UK by 2037 (Cumbria Zero Carbon Partnership, 2021). De-carbonising transport is key to achieving this goal. Cycling and walking has a much lower carbon footprint compared to other forms of transport and undertaking more journeys on foot or by bike will help to tackle climate change. The LCWIP for Kendal focusses on everyday short journeys such as those to work, school and the shops, where there is the greatest potential for change.


### Supporting Health, Wellbeing and Access for All

Active travel can play a crucial role in supporting public health and wellbeing. It is one of the simplest and most effective ways of enabling adults and children to meet the recommended levels of physical activity. The LCWIP for Kendal has an important role to play in promoting behavioural change. By setting out well planned networks that connect people to the places they want to go and focussing on inclusive design that ensures access for all, the LCWIP presents a real opportunity for behavioural change that will last for generations to come.




**20.9%** of people in South Lakeland (16+) are **inactive**

Compared to 27.5% in England (Active Lives Survey 10, 2021)



**1.3%** of adults in South Lakeland cycle for travel at **least 3 days** per week

Compared to 2.3% in England (Active Lives Survey, 2019-20)



**10.0%** of adults in South Lakeland walk for travel at **least 3 days** per week

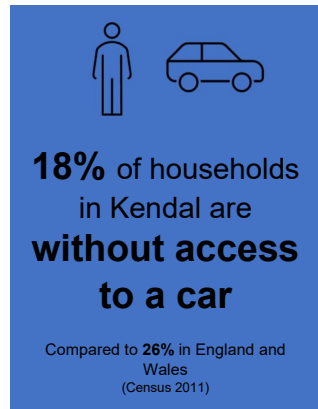
Compared to 15.1% in England (Active Lives Survey, 2019-20)

The health cost of inactivity to South Lakeland is **£1,900,000** every year

(Sport England Local Sport Profiles)



## Improving Accessibility and Social Inclusion



Households who struggle to access employment and education opportunities, key services and facilities due to transport poverty can suffer from social exclusion. Cycling and walking are generally affordable modes of transport, accessible to most people. Enabling people to walk or cycle to the places they want to travel to can facilitate social inclusion. The LCWIP for Kendal aims to connect people to jobs, education and each other, which is especially important when other modes of transport are not available.

## Improving the Tourism Offer

Cumbria is well known for the fantastic leisure cycling and walking opportunities that the landscape offers, and Kendal is a key gateway for visitors to the area and to the wider Lake District World Heritage Site. The Kendal LCWIP integrates with existing longer distance leisure routes, such as the Walney to Wear (W2W) National Cycle Network Route 70 (NCN70) and NCN Route 6. It also provides connections from the transport hubs to several key tourist destinations within the town such as Kendal Castle, Quaker Tapestry Museum and Abbot Hall.



National and local policy has guided and shaped the development of the Kendal LCWIP. The Plan supports key environmental, health, social, economic and sustainable mobility goals to better connect **people** and **places**.

## Existing Context

### National policy context

#### **Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking (DfT, 2020)** <sup>[1]</sup>

Sets out the governments vision for the delivery of far higher quality cycling infrastructure. Accompanied by Local Transport Note 1/20 with new ambitious cycle design standards.

#### **Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (DfT, 2017)** <sup>[2]</sup>

Aims to make active modes of transport the natural choice by 2040. Sets out the need for LCWIP to inform locally targeted investments.

#### **Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy (DfT, 2019)** <sup>[3]</sup>

Includes the principle that ‘walking, cycling and active travel must remain the best option for short urban journeys’.

#### **Clean Air Strategy (DEFRA, 2019)** <sup>[4]</sup>

A change to more sustainable modes of transport is key to delivering a reduction in emissions.

#### **Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (DfT, 2021)** <sup>[5]</sup>

Sets out the government’s commitments and actions needed to decarbonise the UK’s transport system.

#### Key Local Policy documents include:

- Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan, 2022-2037<sup>[8]</sup>
- Cumbria Local Industrial Strategy, 2019<sup>[10]</sup>
- Cumbria Cycling Strategy, 2017-2022<sup>[11]</sup>
- South Lakeland District Local Plan, 2003-2025<sup>[9]</sup>
- South Lakeland District Local Plan, 2020-2040<sup>[21]</sup> (emerging)
- Cumbria Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan, 2017<sup>[14]</sup>
- Destination Borderlands and the Borderlands Growth Deal, 2021-2031<sup>[13]</sup>
- Economic Recovery Plan, 2020<sup>[12]</sup>
- Kendal River Corridor Vision, 2021<sup>[20]</sup>

#### **UK Net Zero Target (2020)** <sup>[6]</sup>

National target to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050

#### **Inclusive Transport Strategy (DfT, 2019)** <sup>[7]</sup>

A need for inclusive infrastructure with streetscapes designed to meet the needs of all travellers.

### Local policy context

There are strong levels of support for cycling and walking in existing local policy.

The **Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan (CTIP)**<sup>[8]</sup> recognises the role that active travel schemes can play in improving health, access to education, employment and services and supporting the local economy. The CTIP places active travel centrally in the aim to develop a ‘Clean and Healthy Cumbria’.

The **South Lakeland District Local Plan, 2003-2025**<sup>[9]</sup> cites cycling and walking as key mechanisms to achieve the goals outlined in several policies including:

- Policy CS10.1 - Accessing Services
- Policy DM5 - Rights of Way and other routes providing pedestrian, cycle and equestrian access.

The Local Plan also sets out a number of housing and employment growth areas in South Lakeland which need to be considered when developing an active travel network for Kendal. These include housing sites at Kendal Parks, Stainbank Green and north of Laurel Gardens.

A review of the Local Plan is currently underway to ensure policies continue to meet the development needs of the area up to 2040<sup>[21]</sup>.

Kendal is benefiting from significant investment across a number of transport and placemaking schemes. The schemes aim to improve the area's offer as an attractive place to live, work, study, visit and invest. They also feature improvements to connectivity by active travel modes.

### **Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme**

- A £72m flood risk management scheme aiming to better protect homes and businesses from flooding in the River Kent catchment.
- Opportunity to improve the riverside corridor for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists with flood management measures integrated with active mode infrastructure along the riverside.
- The Council are working alongside the Environment Agency and other stakeholders to determine improvements.

### **Kendal Northern Access Route (KNAR)**

- The KNAR is a longstanding aspirational transport corridor to the north of Kendal, expected to provide congestion relief and air quality improvements in Kendal town centre.
- Whilst no funding has yet been secured for the KNAR, the Council is preparing an Outline Business Case for delivery funding. Central to the business case for investment will be funding to reduce the dominance of vehicles in the town centre by improving the public realm and cycling and walking infrastructure.
- The expected reduction in traffic and reduced need for vehicular capacity creates a very significant opportunity for major transformational change for walking and cycling in the town.
- This could include the creation of a direct and continuous cycling route through the town centre on the A6 which would be funded as part of the KNAR.

### **Gooseholme Bridge Replacement**

- A £2m project to build a replacement bridge across the River Kent at Gooseholme. The replacement bridge has been designed to be fully accessible to both cyclists and walkers and it is expected that construction will be completed by summer 2022.

### **Kendal X**

- The Kendal X developed proposals for active travel in Kendal, this included north-south cycling and walking connections running along the canal and through the town centre.
- A £2.3m allocation from the Local Growth Fund for highway improvements and sustainable transport interventions, to address expected increases in traffic generated by development sites in the District's Local Plan, enabled delivery of part of the Kendal X.
- The Kendal X has been included within the Kendal LCWIP.

### **Levelling Up Fund**

- South Lakeland District Council are currently preparing a bid to the government's Levelling Up Fund.
- The bid includes elements of cycling and walking which align closely with proposals in the LCWIP.
- Funding for delivery is subject to the bid being successful.

### **20mph**

- Kendal Town Council have a long-standing aspiration to introduce a 20mph speed limit across Kendal and have prepared a feasibility study setting out how this could be implemented.
- The County Council as highway authority has responsibility for changes to the highway and are considering the merits of implementing a 20mph scheme in Kendal.
- Reducing speeds to 20mph can create a better environment for cycling and walking and can make it easier to provide cycling improvements that meet the new design standards.



## How do people currently make local journeys?

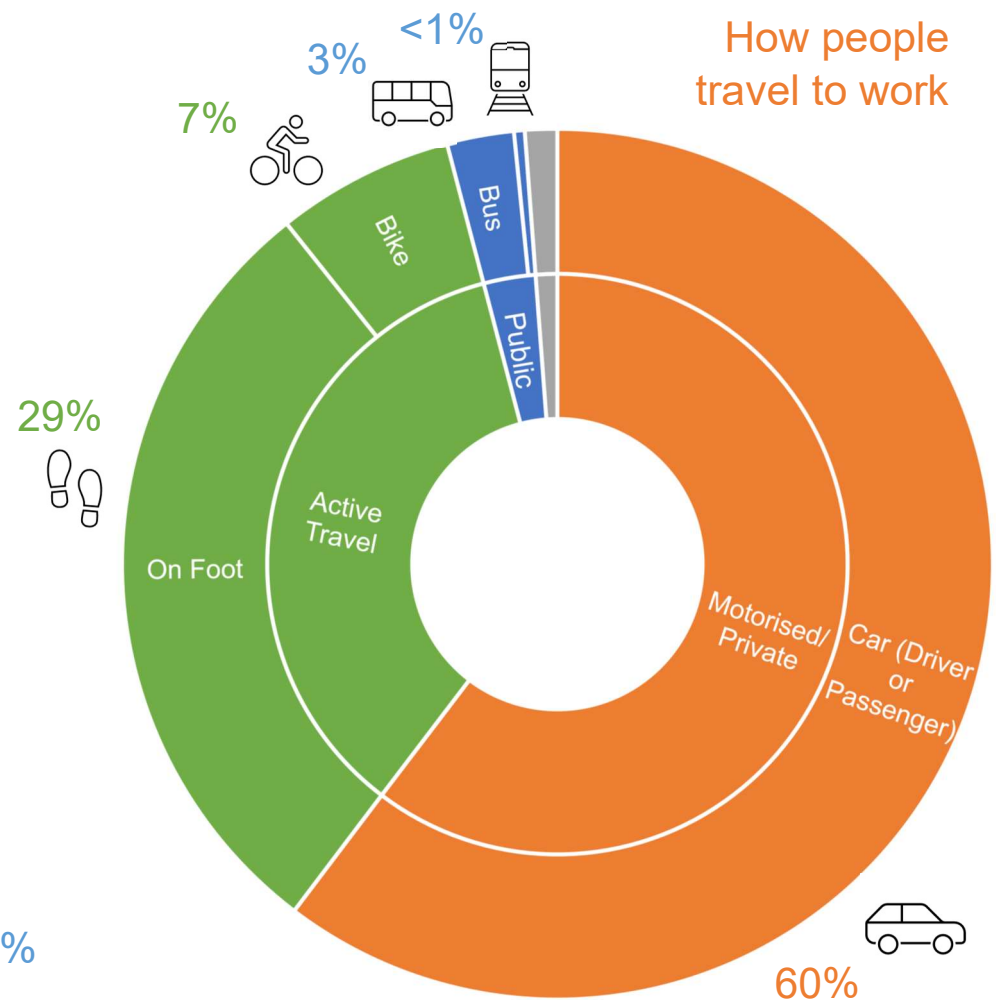
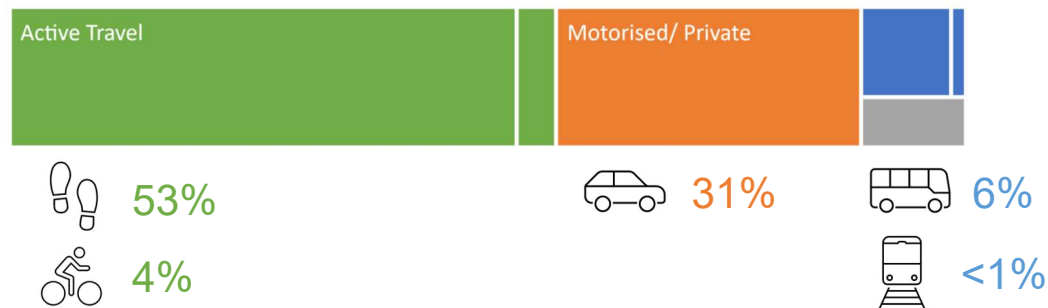
National **travel to work** data from 2011<sup>[15]</sup> shows high levels of containment in Kendal with almost 78% of residents also working within the area. Kendal town centre is a key zone for employment, attracting the greatest volume of trips.

Despite short commuting distances there is a high level of car dependency with around **60%** of trips using this mode of travel. Around **7%** of journeys to work were found to be made by cycling and **29%** by walking.

Travel to school <sup>[16]</sup> data indicates **53%** of children in South Lakeland district walk to school, whilst **4%** cycle. Private motorised transport as a means of getting to school accounted for almost **31%** of journeys.

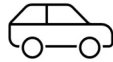
The most popular cycle routes <sup>[17]</sup> for both school and travel to work journeys within the district are all located within the **urban area of Kendal**. For cycling to work these include the NCN6, Wildman Street and Shap Road which converge on the town centre. North-south routes, including the river corridor are important for school journeys.

## How children travel to school



**60%** of respondents said **improvements to cycling and walking routes** would encourage them to walk and/or cycle **more often** than they do currently.

## Potential for more walking and cycling



**60%**  
of **journeys to work** are  
made by private motorised  
transport in Kendal.

however..

**40%**  
of **journeys to work** are  
**<5km<sup>[18]</sup>**



**27%**  
of **journeys to work** are  
**<2km<sup>[18]</sup>**

But did you know...

Distances of **5km** can  
be covered in  
**20 minutes**  
by **bike**



Distances of **2km** can  
be covered in  
**25 minutes**  
on **foot**



Levels of cycling and walking in Kendal increased during the COVID-19 lockdown in Spring/Summer 2020. This was in part because roads were less busy and quieter, offering more desirable conditions for cycling and walking. The reduction in traffic emissions also led to improvements in air quality. As people returned back to places of work and to school, levels of cycling and walking reduced. This demonstrates that the potential for cycling and walking exists if the right conditions are put in place. Improvements to active travel infrastructure will form part of this.

**Despite high levels of car dependency across Kendal district, a high proportion of everyday journeys to work, school or the shops are within a distance which is easily achievable either on bike or on foot.**

An initial round of public engagement on the Kendal LCWIP undertaken in May 2021, asked for feedback on what would encourage people to change to cycling and walking for short journeys. Findings were consistent with national data whereby, a large proportion (64%) of respondents identified they currently make journeys by car to places that were within cycling and walking distance. Journeys to the shops, to a leisure activity and transporting children were the top 3 reasons given.



## Cycling and Walking Infrastructure

### Developing the LCWIP

The LCWIP for Kendal has been developed in accordance with government guidance and has followed a six stage process.

**Stage 1: Determine the scope** – establish the geographical context and arrangements for governing and preparing the plan.

**Stage 2: Gathering information** – identify existing walking and cycling patterns and potential new journeys. Review existing conditions and identify barriers to walking and cycling. Review related transport and land use policies and programme.

**Stage 3: Network planning for cycling** – identify origin and destination points and cycle flows. Convert flows into a network of routes and determine the improvements required.

**Stage 4: Network planning for walking** – identify key trip generators, core walking zones and routes, audit existing provision and determine the improvements required.

**Stage 5: Prioritising improvements** – prioritise improvements to develop a phased programme for future investment.

**Stage 6: Integration and application** – integrate outputs into local planning and transport policies, strategies and delivery plans.



## Engagement and Public Consultation

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement has played a key part in the development of the Kendal LCWIP with an initial public consultation undertaken in May 2021 and a follow up in November 2021. In addition, regular workshops have been undertaken with key stakeholders throughout.

The initial public consultation focused on gaining an understanding of:

- Current travel behaviour – cycling and walking journeys and why these are undertaken;
- Public opinion on the current active travel provision in Kendal;
- Any barriers on active travel routes that may prevent cycling and walking;
- What would encourage modal shift to cycling or walking for short journeys; and,
- Feedback on the emerging prioritised cycling network.

A total of **485 responses** were received for this consultation.

The follow up consultation offered a second opportunity to comment on proposals prior to finalising the Kendal LCWIP. This consultation focused on:

- Gauging the level of support for the draft prioritised cycling and walking network plans;
- Whether the network and interventions proposed would encourage the respondent to use active modes more often; and,
- Whether there was support for reduced space for cars to prioritise active modes.

A total of **230 responses** were received for this consultation.

The results of the consultation exercise demonstrate a **strong desire for future investment** in cycling and walking infrastructure. Responses emphasised the importance of providing **safe, segregated routes** that provide **direct connections** to the places people want to get to. The need to provide routes that were **separated from other modes of travel** was a common theme in the responses and was identified as a key measure for encouraging more cycling and walking. **Greater priorities for cyclists, less traffic on the roads and lower speed limits** were also supported.

The main perceived barriers to cycling and walking were:

- Busy roads
- Quality of routes
- Feeling unsafe
- Junctions that are difficult to cross

The draft priority cycling and walking networks presented received a **high level of support** and the majority of respondents felt the proposals would encourage them to cycle or walk more often.

“Kendal is an ideal size for accessing on foot or by cycle, and the road infrastructure is necessarily limited by the physical geography of the area. Changing the balance towards cycling and walking would be a great improvement on many levels.”

- a local resident, open ended question response,  
November 2021

## Existing cycling and walking routes

32% felt the existing cycling routes **do not** connect to the places they want to go

10% felt the existing walking routes **do not** connect to the places they want to go

## Cycling and walking barriers and opportunities

70% identified **“busy roads”** as top 3 reason for why it is difficult to cycle

41% identified **“difficult junctions to cross”** as top 3 reason for why it is difficult to walk

60% identified **“cycle routes separated from other modes of travel”** as a top 3 reason for encouraging them to cycle more

44% identified **“better maintained pavements/footways”** as a top 3 reason for encouraging them to walk more

“I think safe cycling for kids needs providing as they have different needs and if they get used to being driven everywhere they will then drive everywhere later as it’s what they are used to.”

- A local resident, open ended question response, May 2021

“It is important where busy main roads are concerned to have dedicated separate cycle and walking areas, not a simple line painted at the inside of the road. I realise this is more costly but it is essential to encourage more cycling and also enables walking..”

- A local resident, open ended question response, November 2021

## Support for proposals

90% said they would support cycling and walking improvements even when this could mean less space for other road traffic

88% welcomed more money being spent on cycling and walking in Kendal

65% strongly agreed or agreed with the routes prioritised in the draft Kendal LCWIP cycling network

71% strongly agreed or agreed with the routes prioritised in the draft Kendal LCWIP walking network

60% felt the proposals in the Kendal LCWIP would encourage them to cycle or walk more often



See Kendal LCWIP Consultation Summary Reports for further details



The Kendal LCWIP broadly identifies the types of improvements that could be implemented. All improvements are subject to securing funding and further development.

## Cycling Infrastructure Improvements

### On-Highway Fully Segregated Cycleways



Segregated cycleways offering separation from pedestrians and motor vehicles.

Photo shows a stepped cycle track.

### On-Highway Lightly Segregated Cycleways



Light segregation providing a protected space.

Photo shows light segregation using 'wands'.

### Off-Road Cycleways



Greenways providing rural connections. Shared use paths where pedestrian number are low.

Photo shows a greenway with segregated facilities

### Upgrades to Existing Facilities



Removal of through-traffic to create Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. Slowing traffic i.e. 20mph zones.

Photo shows a Low Traffic Neighbourhood

### Road Crossings and Junctions



Strong visual priority for cyclists and walkers on side junctions. Crossings and junctions offering separation and improved safety.

Photo shows a 'CYCLOPS' junction.

### Secure Cycle Parking



Short stay and long stay solutions that are secure and positioned at strategic locations.

Photo shows a secure cycle hub.

## Walking Infrastructure Improvements

### Public Realm



Enhancing the look and feel of an area through, planting, paving, seating, and street art.

Photo shows public realm improvements.

### Road Crossings



Widening refuges, improving timings, signals and markings.

Photo shows an improved signalised junction .

### Blended Footways



Continuing footways across junctions to enforce pedestrian priority.

Photo shows a blended footway

### Wayfinding



Providing simple directional signage, larger maps or interactive screens

Photo shows information and wayfinding signage.

### Maintenance

Short term maintenance to bring a route up to standard or planning for longer term maintenance.

### Increased Surveillance

Improving sightlines, additional access points or installing CCTV.

### Footway Widening

Proving adequate footway widths.

### Speed Reduction

Through physical traffic calming measures, enforcement cameras or public realm.

### Dropped Kerbs and Tactile Paving

Improving access for pedestrians with limited mobility or sight impairments.

### Reduced Kerb Radii

Limiting the speed of motor vehicles at junctions to allow pedestrians to cross more safely



## Cycling Network

The Cycling Network reflects the importance of connectivity across the LCWIP area to increase active travel and reduce car journeys. Key aspects of the network include:

- routes running along the Kendal River and Canal corridors, providing access to the centre of town;
- links to both Kendal Railway Station and Oxenholme Railway Station;
- access to key employment sites, including the town centre;
- links to schools including Kirkbie Kendal School and the Queen Katherine School, and,
- longer distance connections to Levens, Natland, Burneside and Staveley

Recognising that it is not possible to connect everywhere, the LCWIP focuses on the most important routes to secure funding for. Support for walking and cycling infrastructure usually increases further once it is built and people are using it. Over time these priorities can be built on to deliver a more extensive network to encourage and support a step change in the numbers of people cycling and walking.

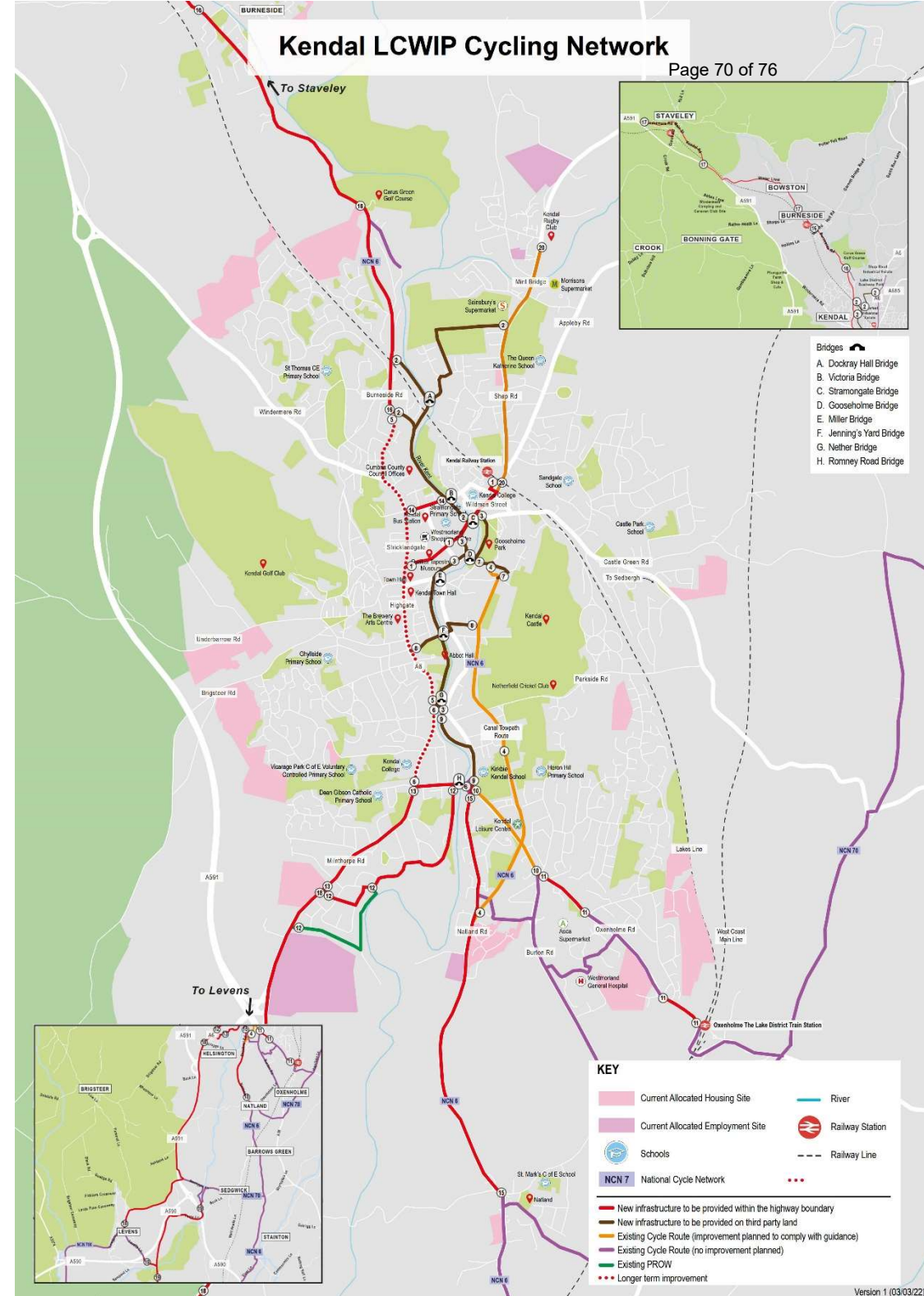


See Kendal LCWIP Technical Report Appendix A for a copy of the Cycling Network Map

The network makes use of Kendal's natural assets with a focus on active travel routes running along the Kendal River and Canal corridor. It incorporates new cycling routes and improvements to existing routes, alongside existing provision to provide a coherent, direct, safe, comfortable and attractive cycle network for Kendal.

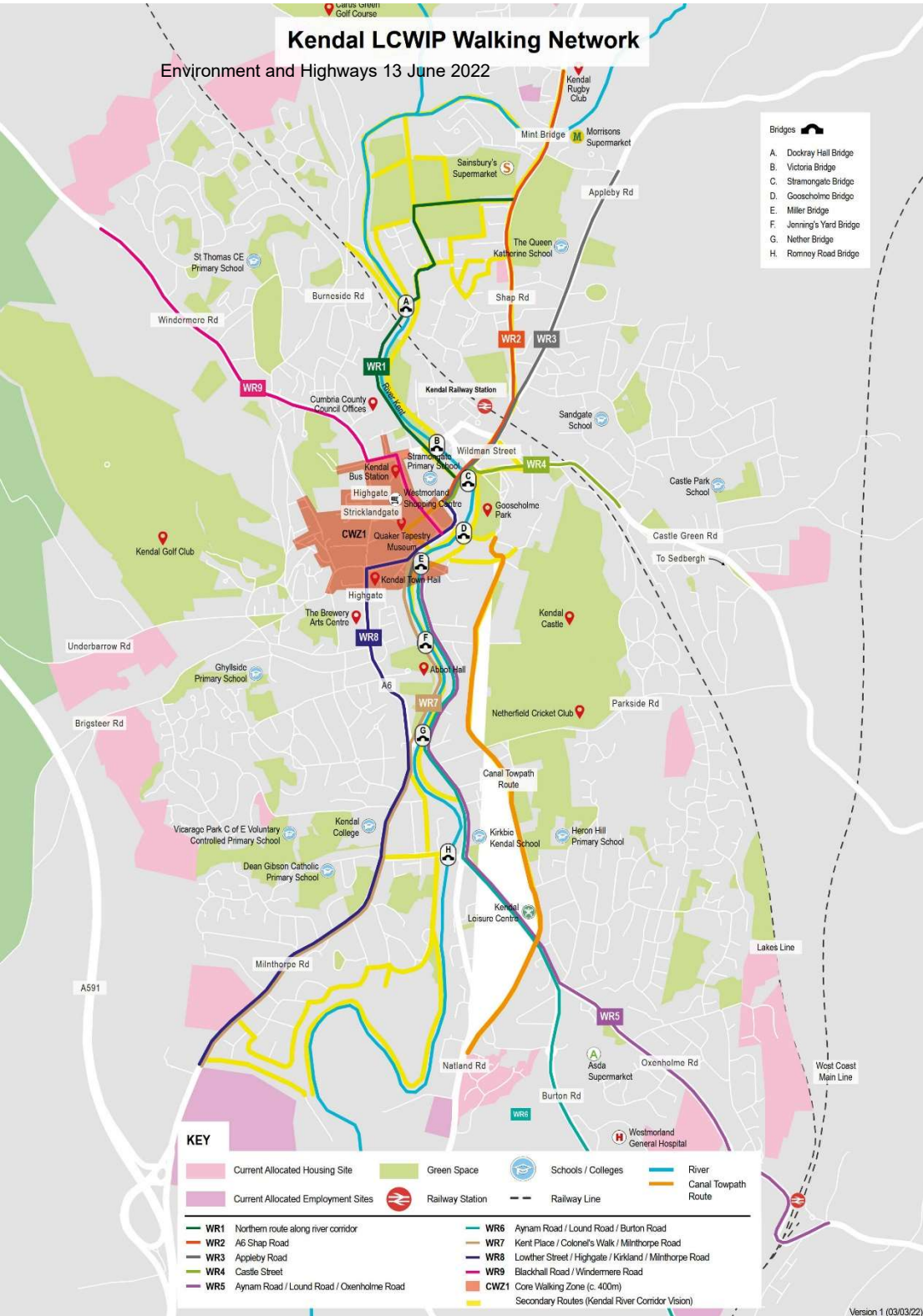
## Kendal LCWIP Cycling Network

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# Kendal LCWIP Walking Network

Environment and Highways 13 June 2022



The walking network map shows Primary routes to Kendal Town Centre Core Walking Zone. The Kendal River Corridor secondary route network is also shown. Throughout the lifespan of the LCWIP a more complete walking network will be established by identifying routes and improvements for other Core Walking Zones.

## Walking Network

As part of the LCWIP, we have identified Core Walking Zones across the study area, along with primary and secondary routes linking into those Core Walking Zones.

- **Core Walking Zones** are areas with the highest potential for footfall such as town centres and employment sites.
- **Primary routes** are those routes that are generally the most direct and have the highest usage.
- **Secondary routes** are alternative routes that are generally less direct but quieter.

The LCWIP identifies potential improvements within the Core Walking Zones and along the primary routes which, could include: new or enhanced road crossings; better quality public spaces and paths; and the provision of dedicated and separated space for walkers.

Improvements have been identified for the Kendal Town Centre Walking Zone (CWZ1) and connecting primary routes. These are shown on the plan adjacent and further detail is provided in the full LCWIP.

Throughout the lifespan of the LCWIP, improvements will be identified for the remaining Core Walking Zones and connecting primary routes across the LCWIP area.



See Kendal LCWIP Technical Report Appendix A for a copy of the Walking Network Map



## Prioritisation

In developing the LCWIP, government guidance setting out a recommended approach to prioritising networks of walking and cycling routes, has been followed. The guidance recommends that priority should be given to areas which have the **greatest potential for increasing cycling and walking trips** and offer the **greatest value for money**.

The delivery of all improvements identified in the Kendal LCWIP is subject to securing funding. Routes for delivery have been prioritised using a framework that assesses:

- Effectiveness – the potential to generate cycling trips
- Alignment with policy objectives – such as those in the CTIP
- Economic factors – scheme cost, value for money and likelihood of attracting funding
- Deliverability – engineering constraints, land ownership and stakeholder support

The cycling routes have been prioritised as shown on the adjacent plan. The routes have then been categorised according to the targeted timescale for delivery:

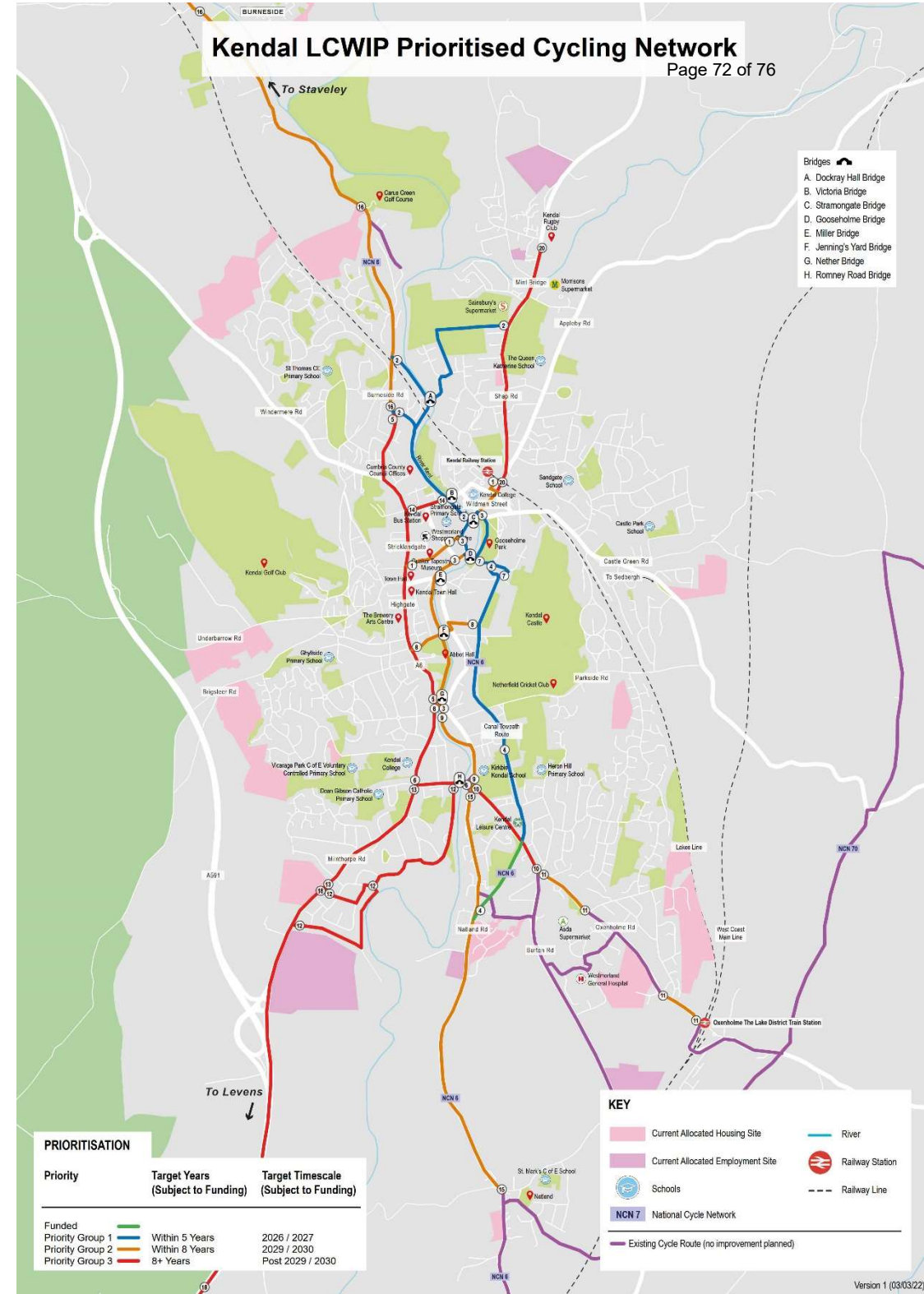
- Funded: These will be delivered in line with the timescales of the funding source
- Priority 1: Delivery within 5 year (2026/27), subject to funding
- Priority 2: Delivery within 8 years (by 2029/30), subject to funding
- Priority 3: Delivery 8 years plus (post 2029/30), subject to funding.



See Kendal LCWIP Technical Report Appendix B for a copy of the Prioritised Cycling Network Plan

## Kendal LCWIP Prioritised Cycling Network

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## Conclusion and Next Steps

The Kendal LCWIP provides a prioritised investment plan for cycling and walking in Kendal District over the next 15 years.

The LCWIP takes into account the overlaps and synergies with other plans, schemes and strategies. This means the network priorities will be reviewed and updated periodically, particularly if there are any significant changes in local circumstances, such as the publication of new policies or strategies, new development sites, if funding bids are successful and as walking and cycling networks mature and expand.

The LCWIP for Kendal is a live document that will be regularly reviewed to ensure the most appropriate routes for cycling and walking are identified and prioritised for future delivery.

The document will be used to assist in securing funding for the delivery of the identified improvements.

## Further Information

For further information please refer to our webpage for accompanying reports:

[www.cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking)

- Kendal LCWIP Technical Report and Appendices:
  - Appendix A – Cycling Network Plan and Walking Network Plan
  - Appendix B – Cycling Prioritised Network Plan
  - Appendix C – Supporting Information
- Consultation Reports

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## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Environment & Highways	Meeting Date: 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
From: Project Manager	Agenda No: 13
Description: Kendal Castle Pumptrack	

## Kendal Castle Pumptrack

### Background

Kendal Town Council commissioned Velosolutions, a national pumptrack provider, to create a visual representation of a pumptrack in situ at the foot of Kendal Castle.

Velosolutions met Kendal Town Council Officers and Cllr Hennessy onsite and it was agreed the site pictured below was preferable to allow easy construction access and provide parking for users going forwards. The site is also secluded whilst being accessible to many Kendal residents.

### Visual



### **Discussion Points**

- Options to secure landowner permission to proceed with funding research
- Options to secure Westmorland & Furness support
- Options to link to Kendal Castle footpath improvement scheme