

# Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED

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## Notes from the meeting of the Non-Statutory Working Group of the Environment and Highways Committee held on Monday, 12 July 2021 at 6.15pm via Zoom.

Cllr G Archibald	Present	Cllr S Evans	Present
Cllr J Cornthwaite	Present	Cllr S Long	Present
Cllr J Dunlop	Present	Cllr J Owen (Chair)	Present
Cllr A Edwards	Present	Cllr C Rowley	Present
Cllr E Hennessey (Vice chair)	Present		

**In attendance:** Town Clerk, Project Manager, Democratic Services Assistant

Also present: Mr J Rushworth (Local Democracy Reporter), Jack Ellerby, Quentin Merritt.

### **E13/21/22 Apologies**

None.

### **E14/21/22 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **E15/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

A member of the public sought to raise an issue related to minute E6/21/22. The Chair assured the member of the public that input was welcome but the process for such input must be followed and intervention during the meeting did not follow the Council's standing orders. The Clerk invited the member of public to contact him directly after the meeting.

### **E16/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 May 2021.

**Resolved:** To commend them as a true record

### **E17/21/22 Dark Skies**

The Committee considered a presentation from Jack Ellerby, the Project Officer on the Dark Skies Project on their work to reduce the polluting impact of inappropriate levels of lighting in and around Kendal. The Dark Skies Project wished to establish a working group with representation from Kendal Town Council. The aim of the working group would be to support and advise the Dark Skies Project and work positively to bring about change through providing guidance ensuring the right amount of light is provided, where it is needed, when it is needed. Mr Ellerby provided examples of projects that had significantly reduced unneeded levels of lighting and notified the meeting of a forthcoming Dark Skies Festival in November at the Brewery Arts Centre on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Chair reminded Council of their support for the light audit and this was a fast moving topic.

**Resolved:** That the Committee appoints Cllrs Hennessey, Rowley and Cornthwaite as members of a Dark Skies Working Group.

### **E17/21/22 E&H Budget**

The Committee considered a budget monitoring report. The Clerk noted that some work was still needed clarifying allocation of costs to budget headings but the new format is an improvement in the information provided.

**Resolved:** To receive the report.

### **E18/21/22 Highways and Infrastructure Proposals**

The Committee considered proposals for improvements to the highways and infrastructure of Kendal.

- a) Speed Indicator Devices. The working group considered proposals to expand the scheme to include three new locations at Burneside Road, Burton Road and Sedbergh Road on an eight week rotation. It was asked if a SID could be used to warn of excessive speeds on out of town routes. The working group noted the challenges of siting a SID on the Appleby Road.

**Resolved:** To support the three sites and approve the purchase of an additional SID and request the Project Manager liaise with the Police on a possible location on Appleby Road and Shap Road and report back to this working group.

- b) Cliff Terrace footway lighting. As part of the Dark Skies project, Kendal Town Council have supported the installation of wildlife friendly lighting on Cliff Terrace.

**Resolved:** To add the costs of Cliff Terrace lighting to existing lighting budget at a cost of £120 per year.

### **E19/21/22 Action Plan and Development Projects Proposals**

The Committee considered reports on the development of the following items:

- a) Pumptrack feasibility. Councillor Hennessey updated the meeting on the idea of establishing a Pumptrack and identified a number of potential sites. The Committee debated the suitability of the different sites acknowledging the difficulty of finding a safe site that is not too near residential properties.

**Resolved:** Officers produce an evaluation report of potential sites and report back to next meeting.

- b) Beck footway lighting. The Project Officer reported on complaints on the lack of lighting behind the Beck Community Centre. A solution to provide solar powered, motion sensitive and wildlife friendly lighting was intimated within the Climate Change Jury recommendations. Councillors were anxious that SLDC and CCC have an active part in implementing this solution.

**Resolved:** Officers to re-evaluate the proposal and request support from SLDC and CCC

- c) Wild Kendal. The committee considered a detailed report submitted by Quentin Merritt tackling the problems of biodiversity loss through an ambitious nature recovery plan. Some concern was expressed on the use of the name Wild and the risk of confusing this initiative with Wilding. There was support for this initiative and it was suggested that Kendal Town Council would benefit from a biodiversity policy that would capture the key elements of this report and the other complimentary activities happening elsewhere. The Chair suggested there would also be wider links with schools, flood defence work and other crossover schemes who are active in this area. The Clerk advised the working group on the forthcoming meeting with the

Planning Committee and SLDC's specialist on biodiversity and the opportunity to incorporate this activity.

**Resolved:** The council establishes a working group to liaise with the Wild Kendal initiative and Councillors Giles, Hennessy and Rowley agreed to serve.

- d) Local Plan consultation. The clerk reminded councillors of the local plan consultation and the option of joint meetings between committees when covid restrictions are eased.

### **E20/21/22 Project Updates**

The Committee considered reports on the following projects.

- a) Highways and Infrastructure Update. Councillors received the report and noted the difficulty identifying the owner of land adjoining Vicarage Drive. Councillors felt there was an opportunity for Kendal Town Council to take a lead on the restoration of footpaths across Kendal and suggested a condition survey that was Kendal wide. Given the possibility of major restructuring of local authorities in the near future there is some concern that public ownership of some paths could be missed. Councillor Archibald felt there was some urgency in making progress. The Clerk reported that there had been a detailed condition report constructed by the Ramblers Association and this could be reviewed.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to bring forward ideas at next meeting.

- b) Action Plan and Development Project Updates.

**Resolved:** To note the updates.

- c) Citizens Jury. The Project Manager reported on the positive initiatives on the development of 27 recommendations generated by the Citizens Jury. Aspirations include the creation of a physical space (possibly a café) to promote and inform. Initially there may be a pop-up café to test the suitability of an information site. Councillors welcomed the report and were keen to see measurements of sustainability. The Project Manager reported that the Sustainability Officer at SLDC was helping identify key performance indicators which will help identify who is responsible for what.

**Resolved** to note the report

The meeting closed at 20.35