

# Kendal Town Council

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



6 September 2021

To Members of the Environment and Highways Committee

Cllr G Archibald (Vice chair)	Cllr S Evans
Cllr J Cornthwaite	Cllr S Long
Cllr J Dunlop	Cllr C Rowley
Cllr A Edwards	Cllr K Simpson
Cllr E Hennessy (Chair)	

You are invited to a non-statutory Working Group meeting of Kendal Town Council Environment & Highways Committee on Monday 13 September 2021 at **7.30 pm** via Zoom.

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 on 12 July, and affirm them as a true record.

### 5. E&H Budget

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

### 6. Highways and Infrastructure Proposals

To consider proposals for improvements to the highways and infrastructure of Kendal as follows: (*see report*)

#### a. Green Spaces Proposals

To consider projects to improve Kendal's green spaces (*see report*)

- i. Town View Fields
- ii. The Adventure and Kirkbarrow Path Network
- iii. Signage Audit
- iv. Seating (Abbott Hall and Riverside)
- v. Public Toilets

- b. Birdcage  
To consider options to develop; a program of improvements
- c. Citizens Jury Recommendations Hub  
To consider options to create a physical town centre presence
- d. 20 mph  
To consider preferences ahead of CCC working group meeting on 29 September

**7. Project Updates and Recommendations**

To consider questions from members on the following areas of activity, in the context of the reports attached.

- a. Biodiversity Policy
- b. Citizens Jury Recommendations Updates
  - i. Solar Audit
  - ii. Dark Skies
  - iii. Wild Kendal
  - iv. Kendal Municipal Compositing
  - v. Recommendations Festival Stand
  - vi. Online Inspiration Hub
- c. Green Spaces Update
  - i. Unity Hands
  - ii. Pumptrack
  - iii. Valley Drive Lighting Scheme
- d. Infrastructure Updates
  - i. Speed Indicator Devices
  - ii. Ivy Screening
  - iii. Woolpack Yard

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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

**Kendal Town Council 2021-21 Environment & Highways Budget and /I&E**

<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; HIGHWAYS + <u>Action Plans</u></b>					
	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>Funding B/Fwc</u>	<u>Exp To Date</u>	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>Projected</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>From 20/21</u>	<u>(Apr-Aug)</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Yr Exp</u>
<b>Bins</b>	<b>£2,500</b>		£1,593	£907	
<b>New Infrastructure</b>	<b>£3,500</b>			-£516	
Enviroground - Wattsfield, install bench			£567		
Enviroground - Burton Rd Bus Shelter - dig out, lay concrete			£674		
SID			£2,775		
Ivy Screening Project		£3,266	£331	£2,935	
Ivy Screening Grant from SLDC		£10,000		£10,000	
<b>Signage:</b>					
Reserve Fund		£3,265	£426	£2,839	
Woolpack Yard		£4,476	£2,096	£2,380	
<b>Footway Lighting</b>	<b>£4,917</b>		£4,054	£863	
<b>Somerville Annual Maintenance</b>	<b>£1,500</b>			£1,500	
<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	£2,019		£12,019	
Kendal Composting		£5,000		£5,000	
<b>Biodiversity Schemes &amp; Grants</b>	<b>£11,000</b>	£2,400		£13,400	
Sommerville		£1,500	£869	£631	
Fletcher Park		£1,500		£1,500	
Nobles Rest		£5,000		£5,000	
<b>20mph</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	£4,297		£14,297	
<b>Parks Improvement</b>					
Fletcher Park		£1,500		£1,500	
Nobles Rest		£5,000		£5,000	
<b>Cycling &amp; Walking</b>	<b>£12,500</b>			£25,000	
LCWIP		£5,000			
Pump Track		£2,000			
LCRP		£5,500			
<b>FRSWG Connectivity Scheme</b>	<b>£15,000</b>			£15,000	
<b>CCTV</b>	<b>£1,500</b>			£1,500	
<b>Defib</b>	<b>£1,600</b>			£1,600	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£74,017</b>	<b>£61,723</b>	<b>£13,385</b>	<b>£122,355</b>	<b>£0</b>

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	6 September 2021
From: Project Manager	Agenda Item 6a

## Green Spaces Proposals

To consider projects to improve Kendal's green spaces.

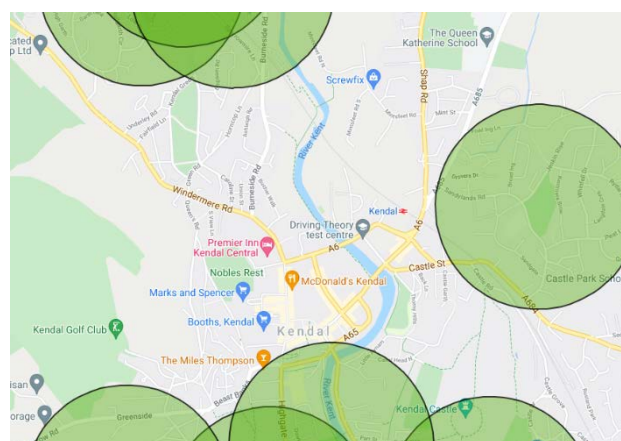
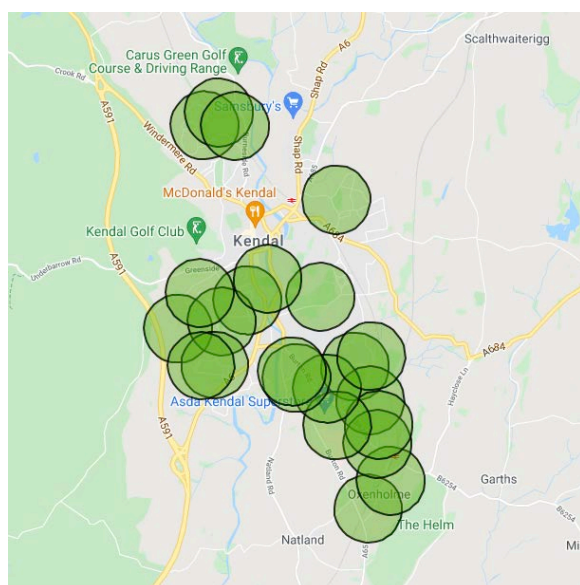
### I. Town View Fields

#### Background

The small play area at Town View Field has been shut due to poor equipment and a change of use at the neighboring hostel.

There is now a significant lack of play equipment in the area. The map below shows a 400m radius from every play area in Kendal and demonstrates the gap in provision.

To ensure the space at the former play area is utilised, the Allotment committee will consider a proposal to install raised beds and create a community allotment.



#### Proposal

To compensate for this loss in play provision, Councillors are asked to consider installing informal play equipment on an alternative green space within Fellside. Bowling Fell could be considered as part of wider access improvement scheme.

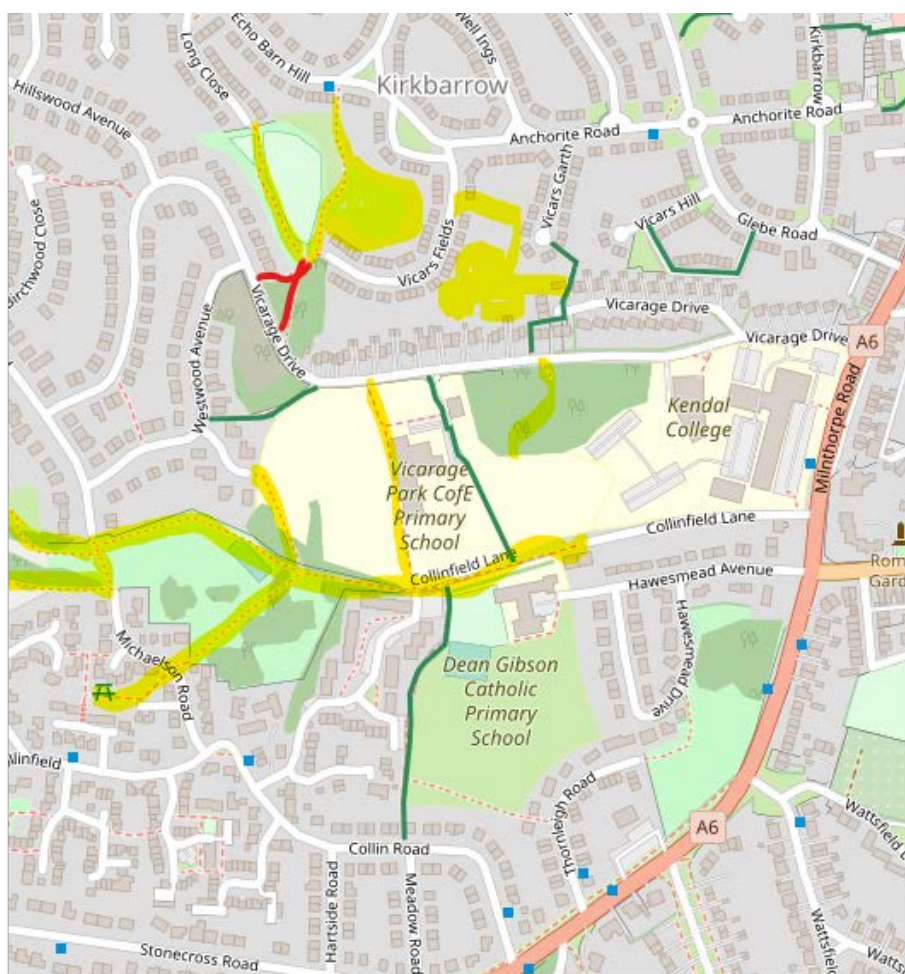
The Committee is asked to discuss and confirm support or otherwise for further research to be presented at a future meeting.

### II. The Adventure and Kirkbarrow Path Network

#### Background



Several paths in the area highlighted below are in poor condition, making access to green spaces difficult for many, and also hindering a traffic-free route both to school and college for many young people and parents. The map below highlights path ownership and status.



#### Key

Green – Cumbria County Council Public Right of Way

Yellow – SLDC land or footpath (not exhaustive or definitive)

Red – Fleetwood Building Company Ownership (ultimately Hyperion and Baltac Holdings, Vancouver, Canada)

#### **Proposal**

To consider seeking quotes for an overarching improvement scheme that aims to improve connectivity and access regardless of ownership challenges. A wider improvement scheme has the potential to both reduce costs and increase impact.

### **III. Signage Audit**

#### ***Finger Post Signage***

- A green finger post in Abbot Hall Park is rusty and contains the TIC and K Village as destinations.
- Utilise £772 from the signage improvement budget to replace with custom cast finger pointer stating 'Town Centre and Brewery Arts'



***Nobles Rest***

- New signage is required near the Marks and Spencer's entrance to Nobles Rest to aid navigation. Woolpack Yard's new signage promotes Nobles Rest but it's currently unclear how to access it from Marks and Spencer's.
- Utilise £100 from the signage improvement budget to install (once appropriate permission has been obtained) two additional walking trail signs.

***Castle Directional Signage***

- New signage is required at the Canal Head Castle entrance near the ski slope to aid navigation.
- Utilise £200 to reinstate.

***Clarks Heritage Sign***

- Confirm ownership and permission to improve
- Utilise £200 to improve
- Research and confirm the protection of the sign

**Budget**

- £2,845 = Total Signage Improvement Budget
- £1,272 = Total Improvement Costs of above
- £1,573 = Budget remaining if approved

**Proposal**

To consider above spend.

***Street Name Signage Improvements***

SLDC were informed of KTC's signage improvement budget and audit plans. SLDC Officer's fed back that reporting damaged street signs can only be actioned via the Customer Connect system therefore an audit 'en masse' approach would not be viable.

**Proposal**

To consider encouraging residents to report the street signs they would like to see improved. KTC Officers tested the system and within three weeks of reporting the damaged sign on Queens Road it was fully restored. Promotion of the service via the next KTC newsletter to be discussed.

**IV. Seating****Background**

KTC have received two requests for additional seating at:

- Abbot Hall Park (request via Cllr Archibald)

- Abbot Hall Riverside (request via Tim Farron MP)

KTC have an account with Amberol who can supply and install benches.

**Proposal**

The New Infrastructure balance is £158. Consider transferring £500 from the Ivy Screening project underspend (current balance £3,266) to install two new seats pending appropriate permissions. Appropriate consideration will need to be given to style and materials, in line with council policies.

## **v. Public Toilets Provision**

**Background**

Gooseholme is a very popular place on a sunny day but there are no public conveniences on or near the area. It's been reported that some people are using the bushes as an alternative which creates safeguarding issues as well as poor public realm.

**Proposal**

To consider if the development of public toilet provision in this area should be progressed by the Kendal Town Team as a part of a wider area improvement plan. Exploring an extension to the Courtesy scheme may also be an option, subject to consultation with partners.

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	6 September 2021
From: Project Manager	Agenda Item 6b

### **The Birdcage**

To consider options to develop a program of improvements in this important town centre location.

### **Background**

The Birdcage has been identified by both the Kendal Vision and Town Centre Strategy as an area that requires improvement. The structure and surrounding street furniture is owned and managed by South Lakeland District Council. Recent damage has highlighted the need for redesign. Issues include:

- Dated unstable structure
- Taxi parking
- Unstable paving
- Lack of identity
- Poor seating
- Limited greening options

### **Proposal**

To utilise potential Welcome Back funding to appoint a designer and scope options for further development in partnership with SLDC and CCC.

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	6 September 2021
From: Project Manager	Agenda Item 6c

### Citizen Jury Recommendations Hub – The Corner Shop

To consider continued support to create a physical town center presence

#### Background

Kendal Town Council initiated and invested in a Citizens Jury to answer the question 'What should Kendal do about Climate Change?'

Of the 27 recommendations, leadership and raising awareness feature in 16 recommendations.

Specifically, the Jury recommend that Kendal:

- *Create a 'one stop shop/climate change hub/info centre' using one of Kendal's shop fronts as an information centre for climate change that can give people/businesses access to information. (Recommendation 14)*
- *Provide accessible information to make it easier for individuals to make informed decisions. (Recommendation 14b)*
- *Educate/raise awareness at community level about future consequences to motivate individuals, schools and businesses to act- through a pledge/commitment to take climate action. Such an awareness campaign should include simple steps that individuals and schools can take with a balance of what is positive, not just negative. (Recommendation 15)*

To improve the viability of a one stop shop, KTC have partnered with Waste into Wellbeing and Future Fixers to approach a town centre lease option in partnership to improve impact and reduce risk and costs. Edwin Thompson have received a proposal, shared with Councillors via email, to investigate town centre lease options. A meeting will follow to better understand potential terms.

By supporting third sector organisations the Council are well placed to meet additional Jury recommendations. In particular:

- *Reducing Food Waste: Kendal Town Council to provide extra funding for "Waste into Wellbeing" to enable them to develop their educational work aimed at enabling their clients to make good food choices, teach cookery skills and how to avoid food waste. (Recommendation 2)*

A partnership approach to create a town centre hub also makes the possibility of achieving the following recommendations more viable in the long term:

- *A programme of education so that people better understand low carbon footprint diets Tips on how to get the correct nutrients from a plant-based diet. (Recommendation 8a)*
- *Local councils to work with CAfS, and fund them if needed, to provide an ongoing awareness campaign to every home in Kendal informing owners of the steps they can take to retrofit homes, the benefits this brings (e.g. lower heating bills, more marketable property), the help available (e.g. grants / relevant information) and a list of accredited companies. (Recommendation 10e)*
- *Kendal Town Council to provide independent advice and guidance on energy efficiency and retrofitting and manage a list of contractors with accreditation for retrofitting in partnership with Cumbria Action for Sustainability. (Recommendation 10b)*

### **Proposal**

The Committee is asked to consider the continued support of progressing this project and reinstating the Zero Carbon Kendal sub group to oversee developments.

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	6 September 2021
From: Project Manager	Agenda Item 6d

### **20 MPH**

To consider implementation preferences ahead of Cumbria County Council working group meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **Background**

Following the Town Council's commission of a 20mph feasibility study for Kendal, Cumbria County Council hosted a partner meeting to discuss development and implementation. Notes from the meeting on 19 May are appended below. The focus of the working group is to agree phasing, funding strategy and co-ordination.

### **Proposal**

Councillors to consider the pros and cons of implementation options:

- Gradual implementation via a phased approach in different areas.
- Town wide implementation.

The conclusion of this discussion will feed in to the next 20mph working group meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

**Appendix A****Proposed Speed Restrictions for Kendal****Notes of Meeting between Kendal Town Council  
& Cumbria County Council****19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 1pm to 2pm  
Zoom**

**Present:** Cllr Nick Cotton (CCC)  
Cllr Geoff Cook (CCC)  
Cllr Shirley Evans (CCC)  
Cllr Peter Thornton (CCC)  
Karen Johnson  
Sinead McCann  
Rob Lewis  
Victoria Upton  
Helen Karaaslan  
Cllr Jon Owen (KTC)  
Cllr Chris Rowley (KTC)  
Helen Moriarty (KTC)  
Paula Scott (Kendal Futures)

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Cllr Nick Cotton welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined that the purpose was to discuss the details of a request to Cumbria County Council's Local Committee for South Lakeland to consider 20mph speed restrictions for the town of Kendal. Everyone on the call was asked to introduce themselves.

**2. Background and Markides Report**

Cllr Jon Owen provide a background summary to the above report and framed the current situation.

The Markides report, which was completed in October 2020, provided 3 options (incl. approx. costings)

1. Expand existing 20mph zones
2. Sign only 20mph through areas that have average speed up to 24mph
3. Town wide blanket approach

KTC has recently agreed a motion to "implement a town wide 20mph limit" acknowledging that this requires partnership working.

It was noted that some of the residential streets in Kendal already have a 20mph limit in place.

**3. Kendal Vision - 20mph links**

Paula Scott of Kendal Futures outlined the Kendal Vision aspirations for an altered traffic system in the town centre, which is a much wider piece of work.



Suggestions include changing the present one-way system to two way and looking at Longpool roundabout in a new way eg a Poynton style layout. It was felt that this work should not be tagged on to the 20mph scheme but instead this would be complimentary to the Kendal Vision.

#### **4. How might speed restrictions be implemented in Kendal**

There was open discussion amongst the partners to consider how best to approach this request, which included a requirement for full and robust community engagement, the funding for implementation to be in place and also the formal governance / decision making to realise this.

Rob Lewis, Traffic Management, provided an outline of CCCs position, highlighting the need for funding to be in place for each stage of the work, which would accrue officer costs to discharge the legal requirements for the Traffic Regulation Orders etc, as well as the final implementation. He also stressed the necessity and importance of public consultation, which would also accrue costs.

Victoria Upton, Traffic Management Manager, provided examples of the various types of schemes which could be implemented and the varying requirements of each. She also referenced smaller schemes which are underway in Broughton and Arnside, which had both taken significant time and planning to get to this stage. These schemes have been taken forward in partnership with the villages who have secured the funding.

Cllr Jon Owen advised that KTC has allocated a budget of £10K per annum to progress a scheme which would go towards costs of consultation & implementation. Peter McCall is also interested as PCCP, as this will also include a level of enforcement in future as adherence to existing schemes is not good at present. SLDC has indicated they may wish to support this financially but this would need to be confirmed.

Karen Johnson, Area Manager for South Lakeland, identified 3 key themes emerging from the discussion which appeared to be accepted by both partners, which were:

1. Phasing – a measured approach to determine and prioritise manageable and measurable stages within a potential wider town scheme eg. residential areas, arterial routes, town centre
2. Funding – identify cost estimates for the full scheme, plus the various phases within it, and securing required funding before commencing any work, including community engagement
3. Timing and co-ordination – a proposal to create a partnership working group to look at the scheme in more detail before any formal process begins

County Councillors Geoff Cook, Peter Thornton and Shirley Evans spoke in favour of taking the idea forward while highlighting the need to “take our time – do it properly/do it once”. It was important to bear in mind that Kendal is busy with work and improvements already underway (EAs Flood Alleviation

Scheme) or planned (Kendal Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan) so timing and co-ordination of any works is vital.

## **5. Next Steps**

The principles were agreed on the vision and outcomes of this work and to ensure it remains within a wider strategic town plan.

- i) Victoria Upton and Helen Karaaslan will review costings from the Markides report and outline approx. costs.
- ii) KTC to re-group and consider the suggestion of gradual/measured phasing in place of a town wide 'big bang'.
- iii) Convene first partnership working group to begin the process of working through the 3 key themes above.

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	13 September 2021
From: Town Clerk	Agenda Item No 7a

### **Draft Biodiversity Policy**

Biodiversity – or biological diversity – is a term for the variety of life on earth. Concern about biodiversity loss crosses many areas of public concern, with a particular emphasis in recent years on its impact on human health. Climate change has been identified as an underlying driver in biodiversity change and loss, so the two issues are often closely linked – both in reality and in popular perceptions.

The UK signed international conventions supporting biodiversity protection at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and subsequently, leading to the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020.

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

The Town Council currently has a biodiversity obligation from s40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006.

*‘A public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.’*

The current Environment Bill, which is expected to become law sometime later this year, proposes to alter this duty to ‘conserve’, to one of a duty to ‘enhance’ biodiversity.

In Planning law, the National Planning Policy Framework recommends that new development be considered on the basis of its contribution to ‘biodiversity net gain’ (NPPF s179).

### **Why does the Town Council need a policy?**

The Town Council interacts with biodiversity issues in two major areas of its activities. In Planning, the Planning Committee has already been considering how its actions and recommendations can best support the cause of Biodiversity Net Gain.

In other areas the Environment and Highways Committee, along with Allotments and Kendal In Bloom committees, has been concerned about Biological Net Gain through its work on climate change, dark skies and general planting and townscape improvement. However, the Council does not have an overall policy on this matter, and it was considered appropriate

that the Environment and Highways Committee, with its history of leading on Climate Change, should take a leading role in biodiversity too.

**Keeping policy simple**

Rather than become bogged down in the minutiae of climate and environment science, it is suggested that the council develops a relatively simple approach to the metrics of biodiversity loss. It is further proposed that any such policy is developed with the guidance of appropriate local expertise.

**A Draft Policy**

1. Kendal Town Council recognises that dramatic change or loss of biodiversity is a real threat.
2. Biodiversity loss or dramatic change may be related to climate change, or it may have other causes related to the actions of people.
3. Kendal Town Council will seek to mitigate any perceived loss, and make efforts to generate net gains, where possible, in all its activities.
4. All its appropriate activities will include an assessment of the impact on Biodiversity (alongside an assessment of the impact on reducing carbon to mitigate the affects of Climate Change).

## Kendal Town Council Report

To: Environment & Highways	6 September 2021
From: Project Manager	Agenda Item 7b, 7c, 7d.

### 7b Citizens Jury Recommendations Updates

To receive members' questions based on the updates read in advance of the meeting.

#### I. Solar Audit

The SLDC Community Climate Change grant is funding a solar audit of Kendal. Kendal is the fourth town in Cumbria to audit its potential solar capabilities following successful audits in Alston, Keswick and Alston Moor. Kendal's audit will be complete by early November.

The appointed consultant, Tom Nicholls, will assess how much power Kendal as a community can produce. The audit will demonstrate the overall potential, further research will be required to understand the suitability of the identified properties because the condition of roofs and buildings is not included.

An initial meeting has taken place to agree the boundary of the audit. It was agreed that the whole of Kendal Parish can be included, including new estates currently outside of the parish boundary. This approach ensures all industrial areas are covered, the hospital and head offices of key organisations such as Natural England and the Lake District national Park Authority.

Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) have provided great support and are happy to share best practice from elsewhere.

Progression options and ideas, to be informed by the audit results, include:

- Working with Big Solar Coop for industrial estates, businesses parks and buildings with large roofs where energy generation is required
- Promoting bulk buying schemes for domestic properties where groups of 5 or more bid to work with a single local supplier
- Creating a match funding grant scheme to incentivise change, by creating funding opportunities inclusivity is enabled

#### Next steps

- Oversee audit contract
- Set up working group to review results and decide how to utilise results to create an impact

#### II. Dark Skies

The completed audit has been received by the working group. An agreement regarding the approach to businesses is required. The working group to consider a wider narrative to incentivise change, it's unlikely a letter from the Town Council will effect change.

Officers can continue to support by investigating ownership and drafting an approach together with the working group. Jack Ellerby, Friends of the Lake District, returns in early October to lead and progress this project.

### **III. Wild Kendal**

The Wild Kendal working group is planning to meet in September. A community interest company, Wilder Kendal is in the process of being set up to enable grant funding opportunities. Wild Kendal have applied to Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership to fund baseline research of current related projects and activity within Kendal.

### **IV. Kendal Municipal Composting**

A positive meeting with Hani Cox, Partnership Development Officer for the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership took place in August. Food waste collection will be mandatory from 2023 therefore Officers agreed to focus on the benefits of composting leaf litter from parks and open spaces within Kendal.

Next steps include understanding the current South Lakeland District Council contract arrangements to compare against a local municipal approach. SLDC have agreed to provide this information and to join a working group, together with councilors, to compare options when ready. Stuart Lockton from South Lakeland Action on Climate Change has been introduced to colleagues at Cumbria County Council regarding further research.

The Zero Carbon Inspiration Hub will promote 'Share Waste' an app that connects composters to food waste donors locally. If more people access local options food waste issues, highlighted by the Citizens Jury, could be addressed in lieu of the mandatory change.

### **V. Recommendation Festival stand**

Volunteers, including former Jury members, have been promoting the Jury's recommendations at the Saturday Market as part of the Torchlight stand. The recommendation objects have created a great conversation starter. The festival stand will be replicated at the Lakes International Comic Festival and the Kendal Mountain Film festival.

### **VI. Online Inspiration Hub**

We Are Net have been appointed to design the Kendal Zero Carbon Inspiration Hub which will be launched in conjunction with the Citizens Jury's stand at the Garden of Delights during Torchlight. The link will be shared with Councilors to promote when ready.

## **7c Green Spaces Update**

To receive councilor questions based on the updates read in advance of the meeting

### **I. Unity Hands**

The Unity hand sculpture has been removed. The structure was rotten and there were significant health and safety concerns. South Lakeland District Council are considering alternative options and will present ideas to the Town Council.

## **II. Kendal Pumptrack**

A site to the east of the Castle site remains the best potential location for a pump track within Kendal. South Lakeland District Council have agreed to investigate further via the Assets Team who will feedback land options around the castle. The new Windermere Pumptrack provides a great local example.

Funding options include Sport England, Awards for All, Landfill Grants and other tiers of local authority. Costs can range from £50,000 to £125,000 depending on the size and configuration of the design.

## **III. Valley Drive Lighting Scheme**

Cumbria County Council are supporting the Town Council to prepare a scheme estimate to light the area in compliance with the Dark Skies objectives.

The scheme estimate is expected in October and will include:

- Solar option
- Mains powered – Standard lanterns
- Mains powered – Enhanced lanterns
- Reactive lighting to adjust automatically to the distance of the object

## **7d Infrastructure Updates**

### **I. Speed Indicator Devices**

Cumbria County Council are currently reviewing the new locations identified and agreed by Councilors. They will be considered by the CRASH group (Casualty Reduction and Safer Highways group) which includes Cumbria Police and County Highways. County Council Officers may need to check locations with the Police as per the CRASH service procedure.

### **II. Ivy Screening**

The prototype Ivy screen on Longpool has provided useful information to inform the installation of a further 18m on Longpool and Blackhall Road. The South Lakeland District Council Locally Important Project contract has been signed and the grant transfer is expected. The additional screens and planters will be ordered on receipt of the grant.

### **III. Woolpack Yard**

The Woolpack Yard sign will be installed by the end of September. The Town Council's October Management Committee will consider a proposal to use Community Infrastructure Levy funding to purchase evergreen trees to complete the programme of Woolpack Yard improvements.