Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED

www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

**Notes from the meeting of the Non-Statutory Working Group of the Environment and Highways Committee held on Monday, 13 September 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom.**

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| Cllr G Archibald (Vice Chair) | Present | Cllr S Evans | Present |
| Cllr J Cornthwaite | Present | Cllr S Long | Present |
| Cllr J Dunlop | Present | Cllr K Simpson | Present |
| Cllr E Hennessey (Chair) | Present | Cllr C Rowley (Until 9.15) | Present |

**In attendance:** Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw), Project Manager (Helen Moriarty), Democratic Services Assistant (Ian Gordon)

Also present: Kate Houlden (member of public), Graham Harrison (member of public)

**E21/21/22 Apologies**

None

**E22/21/22 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**E23/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee for the hard work of the previous Chair, Councillor Owen.

**E24/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council received the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 July 2021. Councillor Evans pointed out that she was absent from this meeting and was incorrectly listed as attending.

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

As member of public has asked to make a three minute address regarding agenda item 6(a) v (Public Toilets), the Chair ruled that this item would be taken immediately.

**E25/21/22 E & H Budget**

The Committee considered the budget for the current year. A query was raised about the allocation for painting railings and similar activities There was also some confusion over the allocation of funding to the Somervell Garden, which in the past had been £500, but was now £1500

**Resolved:** To note the report The Clerk will investigate the queries and clarify matters for the next meeting.

**E26/21/22 Highways and Infrastructure Proposals**

1. **Green Spaces Proposals**
   1. **Town View Fields**.

The committee considered the report noting the lack of play equipment in this area and agreed that an alternative provision should be made.

**Resolved**: To compensate for the loss of play provision at Town View Fields through exploring other sites for the installation of informal play equipment at either Bowling Fell or Maudes Meadow. In addition to explore an alternative type of play provision in Serpentine Woods e.g., renewal of the sculpture trail and interpretative trails.

* 1. **The Adventure and Kirkbarrow Path Network**.

The committee considered the report and were dismayed at the poor state of these paths. Councillors wanted to ensure that any planned restoration around the Kirkbarrow Scheme didn’t limit exploration to other areas in Kendal that may be equally in need. Councillors were informed of ownership challenges.

**Resolved**: To invite senior representatives from SLDC and CCC to meet as a matter of urgency to agree a course of action to improve the paths in this area and for the Town Council to explore possible use of the Community Infrastructure Levy as a potential source of funding.

* 1. **Signage Audit**.

The committee considered the report on signage at Nobles Rest, Castle directional signs, finger posts and the Clarks Shoes heritage sign. The committee were concerned that SLDC had reported they could only process damaged signs if they were reported via the Customer Connect system indicating a large audit would not be viable. The committee welcomed the promotion of customer connect to encourage residents to report faulty signs to SLDC.

**Resolved**: To delegate the delivery of these proposals to the Chair in consultation with the Town Council’s Project Manager after consultation with the Civic Society. To engage relevant portfolio holders for further discussions on establishing a partnership approach to a street sign audit.

* 1. **Seating**.

The committee welcomed the proposal to purchase new seats for Abbot Hall. Councillors also wanted to see the previously removed seat from Dockray moved back into position possibly with a new position so that the path is not restricted.

**Resolved**: Subject to appropriate permissions, and in keeping with EA improvements and town design strategies, purchase a new bench with Kendal Town Council crest for Abbot Hall Park and for Abbot Hall Riverside. To confirm costs with the Chair and utilise underspend from the Ivy Screening Budget.

* 1. **Public Toilets**.

A member of the public spoke about anti-social behaviour at Gooseholme and its use in the evening when generally young people are there, two to three times per week and often drinking alcohol. She explained that people urinating and defecating is now common place using hedges, squatting behind cars, and the putting green. She did not believe that extending the Courtesy Toilet Scheme to Gooseholme would offer a solution, as she felt it unlikely that young people, possibly underage, entering licensed premises was a realistic expectation It was noted that there was CCTV overlooking the site, and councillors wondered if this was picking up the anti-social behaviour. It was observed that there was potential space for a public toilet in the vicinity of the bowling green. Councillors asked if there was evidence that this behaviour was a year round phenomenon. The member of the public explained that this was mostly an issue in the summer months. Councillors observed that a number of public toilet solutions were available, but their cost and ongoing maintenance would have to be considered. It was noted that both New Road and Gooseholme were promoted as places for families to visit, but that without adequate toilet provision, they were less practical or attractive. It was suggested better signage of the CCTV might act to deter anti-social behaviour.

**Resolved**: To explore the extent of anti-social behaviour on Gooseholme and explore the costs, implications and risks of proactive solutions.

1. **Birdcage**.

Councillors welcomed a report identifying potential improvements at the Birdcage, and wished to see improvements to this important town centre location.

**Resolved**: To authorise an officer of the Town Council to speak to Kendal Futures and Kendal BID requesting they take potential leadership of a program of improvements to the Birdcage with the full support of the Town Council.

To write to SLDC taxi licensing about ongoing illegal parking of taxis in this area.

1. **Citizens Jury Recommendations Hub**.

The committee welcomed the progress on this project. Councillors wanted to be satisfied that staffing arrangements at a central hub would not be the responsibility of the Town Council. The Town Council Project Manager said this would be covered via the partnership approach.

**Resolved**: To continue to support progression on this project and to reinstate the Zero Carbon Kendal sub group to oversee developments.

1. **20MPH**.

Councillors considered their implementation preferences for the introduction of a 20mph zone in Kendal. Councillors highlighted adjoining areas that have successfully introduced 20mph. Councillors feel that they should continue to support a full introduction for the whole town. Councillors felt the Town Council would be opposed to phased options due to concerns of public confusion, costs and implementation timescales. The Clerk reported that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) could cost about £3,000 and believes cost to the Town Council could be £100k.

**Resolved**: In line with earlier decisions, the committee supports a Kendal wide introduction of a 20mph zone and will present this preference to the working group meeting on 29 September.

**E27/21/22 Project Updates and Recommendations**

1. **Biodiversity Policy.**

The Clerk presented the draft biodiversity policy. 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. The five primary drivers of biodiversity loss are habitat loss, invasive species, overexploitation, pollution and climate change.

**Resolved**: The committee asked the Clerk to 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 and/or Full Council.

1. **Citizens Jury Recommendations**

The committee received reports on:

* 1. Solar Audit
  2. Dark Skies
  3. Wild Kendal
  4. Kendal Municipal Compositing
  5. Recommendations Festival Stand
  6. Online Inspiration Hub

**Resolved**: The committee welcomed the update reports and noted the contents.

1. **Green Spaces Updates**

**The Committee received updates on the following**

* 1. Pumptrack.
  2. Valley Drive Lighting Scheme.

**Resolved**: The committee welcomed the reports and noted the contents. The Clerk and the Chair will walk round potential Pumptrack sites.

1. **Infrastructure Updates**

The Committee received progress reports on the following**:**

* 1. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Progressing
  2. Ivy Screening SLDC grant confirmation received, project completion predicted within six weeks of receiving the grant.
  3. Woolpack Yard.

**Resolved:** To note the reports

The meeting closed at 21.34