

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Environment and Highways Committee

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm  
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

**PRESENT** Councillors Jonathan Owen (Chair), Eamonn Hennessy (Vice Chair), Giles Archibald, Shirley Evans, Jonathan Cornthwaite and Chris Rowley

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Julia Dunlop, Susanne Long and Adam Edwards

**OFFICERS** Stacy Hurley (Project Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)

**598/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**599/19/20 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair proposed that item 5 on the agenda (Presentation on the Dark Skies Campaign) be the next item of business. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That Item 5 on the agenda be the next item of business.

**600/19/20 PRESENTATION: DARK SKIES CAMPAIGN**

The Chair welcomed Johanna Korndorfer, Dark Skies Officer for Friends of the Lake District, to the meeting.

Johanna explained that the Friends of the Lake District are leading a campaign for an internationally recognised 'Dark Sky' accreditation featuring all of, or part of, the Lake District and wider Cumbria. The designation is recognition of an area of outstanding dark skies such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, town or community. The accreditation also signals a commitment to a framework that will continue to protect and enhance the dark skies of the area for future generations.

Johanna talked about light pollution and the problems artificial light presents to the environment. It has a negative impact on human health and wellbeing, wildlife and opportunity for stargazing. The 21<sup>st</sup>-Century generation of LED technology has been lauded for its efficiency and low-cost, but these gains have not benefitted the environment, minimised our carbon footprint or changed consumer behaviour; we are simply buying and using more than ever before. Each year, 2% more of the earth's surface is covered in light pollution. Light pollution is disruptive to all animals and therefore the entire living system. It increases carbon emissions, wastes energy and money and can also trap air pollution. There is no proven link that more lighting reduces crime.

Johanna described the accreditation process and informed Committee that there would be a Dark Skies Festival, 21-23 February 2020, organised by Friends of the Lake District in partnership with the LDNPA, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission and Cumbria Tourism.

Ways in which the problem could be addressed were explained, including education and awareness raising activities, alerting communities to the issue of growing light pollution and the issues with various types of LED's, advocating simple yet effective ways to reduce outside lighting in commercial and domestic settings and organising festivals and other events.

A general discussion followed the presentation. Councillor Archibald expressed some concerns, for example street lighting and the need to ensure safety of the general public by ensuring adequate lighting. Johanna commented that it was a matter of balance, there are some sensible improvements such as the use of dimmers, sensors and timers. Consideration of the positioning and shielding of lighting, colour temperature and reducing Kelvin (the measurement of colour temperature) to below 3000k (most street lighting is 4000k).

The Chair asked Johanna in what ways KTC could assist with the campaign. Johanna explained that educating people and raising awareness would be the first step to creating a culture change. The Chair suggested information about the Dark Skies Festival in February 2020 could be published in the KTC newsletter.

Councillor Archibald said he is very sympathetic with the cause, however there are currently other very serious issues which are of concern to KTC, such as biodiversity and wildlife loss. He commented that there are likely to be some particularly bad light polluters within the town and wondered whether there may be some way of approaching them to raise awareness. He added that light pollution is a very large scale issue and suggested starting with 3 or 4 small steps which KTC could take to assist the campaign.

Councillor Cornthwaite made a point that there are a large number of businesses in town that have lights on 24/7 and could be educated to reduce the lighting they use.

Councillor Rowley asked whether, if Dark Sky accreditation was granted, it would carry any additional regulatory weight in terms of Planning, ie. Could applications be turned down if they involved particularly bright light. Johanna replied that it is a voluntary sign up so no, however she agreed it was a valid point which should be considered further.

The Chair thanked Johanna for attending the meeting. He requested that KTC be kept informed as plans for accreditation progressed. Councillor Archibald requested that she consider simple steps which all tiers of Government can do to assist the campaign and advise accordingly.

**601/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**602/19/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, which had been approved by full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

It was proposed by Councillor Cornthwaite that the minutes be approved a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be accepted as a correct record.

**603/19/20 MATTERS ARISING (Not on Agenda)**

None.

**604/19/20 PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE**

The Project Manager presented the update for November 2019 which had previously been circulated. The following points were highlighted:

Castle Directional Signage and Walkway

The signage is due to be installed this week. The contractor will attend site January to assess repair works needed to the walkway adjacent to the Ski Club.

Tree Cladding

A further quotation of £350 per planter has been obtained from a new contractor. This is from a reputable company in Penrith and is significantly lower than the previous quote. There are practical issues to address due to the works needing to be undertaken with the planters in-situ, however there is scope in the cost to help with these matters and the Project Manager is pursuing.

Hallgarth Playground

There is still no confirmation of the installation date for the gate.

**605/19/20 SIGNAGE FOR KENDAL FELL TRIANGLE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Members were asked to consider a request from residents that maintain the community garden on Kendal Fell. They feel people are not aware that it is open to the community and wish to encourage more people to use the space. The proposal is to paint in white lettering "Triangle Community Garden – All Welcome" along the backrest of the bench which KTC previously donated to the residents.

Councillor Archibald proposed that approval be granted. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED** That approval be granted for signage for Kendal Fell Triangle Community Garden.

**606/19/20**

### **IVY SCREENING PILOT PROJECT**

At the last meeting the Project Manager was tasked with seeking answers to some of the points raised by Members. She updated Committee as follows:

SLDC has confirmed that they would be supportive, in principle, for £3k of the Green Wall LIP funding allocation to be match funded by KTC to support a pilot project. A proposal will need to be submitted once the location and spec has been determined.

A budget of around £6k would produce a 12m stretch of ivy screening installed in steel planter boxes fixed to railings.

Members were provided with details of possible locations for the pilot project and asked to consider the options. It was agreed to focus on known 'grot spots' and areas requiring Air Quality Management.

Councillor Hennessy raised a matter for consideration. Following a meeting with Cumbria Wildlife, the potential for ivy attracting bees and wasps was noted. For this reason, heavily populated areas might not be the best location for ivy screening.

Following a general discussion Councillors decided the Project Manager should pursue a pilot project at Longpool (12 metres), Blackhall Road Bus Stop (5 metres) and Blackhall Road Bus Station (7 or 12 metres). The Project Manager will speak to CCC regarding permissions and organise site visits with the contractor.

Committee agreed they were happy for the Chair and Project Manager to proceed with either of the locations agreed.

**RESOLVED**

That the Chair and Project Manager pursue a pilot project for ivy screening in either of the agreed locations.

**607/19/20**

### **RADIAL BEDS, ABBOT HALL**

SLDC have requested feedback from Committee on the five long radial beds on approach to Abbot Hall Park under the archway from Dowkers Lane. KTC paid for the beds to be put in and worked alongside SLDC who took over maintenance.

SLDC have raised that the beds are in a poor state and are proposing one of three options:

- 1) Remove plants and transplant to the edges of the park, turf over beds. £1,700.
- 2) Remove plants and transplant to the edges of the park. Turf over the middle bed. Rotovate the soil and sow wild flower seed. £408.
- 3) Turf over middle bed, rearrange existing plants, straighten up and re-edge the beds and fill in gaps with additional planting. £1,140.

Members were requested to consider the options. Councillor Evans commented that planting of the beds has always been a challenge. Councillor Hennessy proposed that option 2 be recommended to Council as Committee's preferred choice. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried. Councillor Rowley also suggested that some of the top soil be removed. Members agreed there would need to be a sign explaining the work being carried out to the beds and potentially some fencing around it.

The Project Manager will feedback Committee's comments to SLDC.

**RECOMMENDATION** That option 2 be recommended to Council as Committee's preference for improvement work to the radial beds at Abbot Hall.

**608/19/20 KENDAL EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER – LETTER OF SUPPORT**

The Project Manager explained that CCC were in the process of gathering feedback on the experimental traffic order and had requested a letter of support from KTC as to whether it should remain, or revert back.

A general discussion ensued during which Members discussed the parking provision for disabled people. There was a general feeling that disabled people remained unhappy, but the volume of the issue was unknown. It was felt that CCC needed to investigate further in this respect.

Members agreed it was difficult to provide the feedback CCC were requesting. They wished to be sure CCC have consulted on the issue and required details of what the consultation had been and what feedback was received before being able to comment further.

Councillor Hennessey raised a problem with the number of taxis parking on the pavement by the Bird Cage, prior to the designated taxi rank.

**609/19/20 CARBON NEUTRALITY – CITIZENS JURY**

Councillor Rowley updated Members on progress. He confirmed that support for Crowdfunding has now been obtained from full Council. The Town Clerk has suggested that he pursue a proposed format and put this back to her once done. The subcommittee are due to meet again later in December.

**610/19/20 ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Spring Edition  
Dark Skies Campaign - Festival  
Summer Edition  
News/update re glass wall.

**611/19/20 REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20**

The Committee reviewed the spend against the current budget up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Councillor Hennessy raised the request from Kendal Community First Responders for KTC to take on the cost of moving the defibrillator currently held at Oxenholme Stores to a disused BT phone box. Following a representation at the last meeting there had been outstanding questions in terms of liability and ownership and a need to clarify insurance implications if KTC are to be liable for the phone box. The matter was not finalised and he asked whether agreement could be given in principle subject to budget availability.

The Project Manager then advised that several additional requests for funding had been received since the agenda had been issued and summarised all the requests as follows:

- Repairs to bus shelter ceiling on the Castle Estate – quotation from Brackens for £942.
- Work to bus shelter opposite the Leisure Centre.
- Repairs to speed indicator device.
- Order for 10 tonnes of grit.
- Defibrillator at Oxenholme.

Councillor Archibald proposed that approval be granted for all those items highlighted. Project Manager to consider which budget lines could be utilised. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

Councillor Rowley queried the procedure for requesting a change of location for a speed indicator device. The Chair replied that Ward Councillors can liaise with the Town Clerk in this respect.

Councillor Rowley raised the problem of vehicles parking on pavements which had been discussed at a previous meeting. He advised that pictures of cars parking on Windermere Road had been taken and submitted to the community policeman. They had issued letters to local residences explaining guidelines for parking which appeared to be having a positive effect.

#### 2020/21 Budget – Development Fund Bids

The Chair raised a discussion regarding the development fund bids for 2020/21. Bids for the following projects had been put forward to Council and some had been scored down on deliverability and lack of detail:

- Biodiversity
- Riverside corridor environment projects
- Re-invigorating the 20's Plenty initiative
- Continuation of the Kendal Leaflet series.

Councillor Archibald commented that he had been disappointed to note at the Budget Council meeting that the Committee's biodiversity ambition had not been suitably prioritised, particularly in light of KTC's

declaration of climate emergency. The Chair replied that he too shared this concern. He advised that he has spoken to the Chair of the Management Committee, Councillor Coleman, with a proposal to amend the scoring system to incorporate an environmental criteria and he was receptive to the suggestion.

A general discussion ensued during which Members talked about the potential for projects to be threatened due to lack of clarity. With regards to the flood defences project, the question was raised as to whether this funding bid should be deferred if it is unlikely any riverside corridor project will be delivered in 2020/21 given that the flood defence work won't be completed in this time. It was agreed the Project Manager should contact Lana Grindley of Love Arts Workshops following her presentation at a flood defence update meeting to determine timescales. Councillor Archibald commented that there has to be strong rationale if precept is to be increased. He said that biodiversity is potentially one such project and it is important KTC's support is given.

Councillor Hennessy suggested there should be a budget line each financial year for biodiversity projects.

Councillor Rowley suggested there should be a requirement for applicants of grants to consider biodiversity issues. It was agreed to pass this idea to the Audit, Grants and Charities Committee to consider.

## RESOLVED

1. That Committee approve expenditure on the additional funding requests highlighted.
2. Project Manager to contact Lana regarding the flood defences project.
3. Audit, Grants & Charities Committee to be requested to consider a requirement for grant applicants to consider biodiversity issues.

## 612/19/20

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were raised:

#### Sandes Avenue Railings

It was noted that the railings by Stramongate School are in need of painting. Project Manager to check on responsibility/ownership.

#### 20's Plenty Project

Councillor Hennessy was disappointed to see the low ranking of this project on the list of development fund bids. He expressed his opinion that it must be pursued and asked whether it could be raised.

#### Kendal Vision

Councillor Archibald queried the process for KTC to engage and feedback into the Kendal Vision consultation. Councillor Cornthwaite commented that it would be useful to know what the other tiers of Government are doing. Liaison with Paula Scott was suggested to determine next steps and it was agreed that the Project Manager would speak to the Town Clerk in this respect.

Councillor Rowley expressed his opinion that there is a fundamental problem within KTC procedures about how we engage with organisations/groups and the channels of communication that exist. There is the potential to miss activities of other organisations and the opportunity of engagement.

#### Gooseholme Footbridge

The Project Manager presented a plan from CCC for the Public Footpath Diversion Order and Public Path Modification Order at Gooseholme Bridge. She advised that the plan has not altered but the order has now gone in. There is an appeal period for anybody that wishes to comment.

#### Fletcher Park

Councillor Hennessy advised that Friends of Fletcher Park are utilising some of the funds put aside for Fletcher Park for a topographical survey. It is hoped that it will identify the reasons for the flooding in the Park.

#### Bench on Shap Road

It was confirmed by Councillor Cornthwaite that the bench on Shap Road will be getting an overhaul by the contractors carrying out the widening of the footpath with regard to the Shap Road cycleway work. It will be re-sited on a more user friendly surface. The memorial plaque has been retained for safe keeping and will be replaced when the bench is re-sited.

#### Cycling map

Councillor Archibald advised that there is a CCC meeting scheduled for Friday, to which the Chair has been invited. He hopes to see a map of Kendal cycleways produced and made available for the public to see following that meeting.

#### Wild Flower Planting

Councillor Evans showed a photograph of a swale of wild flower planting at the development above Kendal Parks. It was a good example of what can be achieved by developers.

### **RESOLVED**

1. Project Manager to check on responsibility/ownership of railings at Sandes Avenue.
2. Project Manager to liaise with the Town Clerk regarding the Kendal Vision Consultation and next steps.

### **613/19/20**

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.



**Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council**

<b>Min</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council</b>	
<b>605</b>	Kendal Fell Triangle Community Garden	<b>RES</b>	That approval be granted for signage for Kendal Fell Triangle Community Garden.
<b>606</b>	Ivy Screening Pilot Project	<b>RES</b>	That the Chair and Project Manager pursue a pilot project for ivy screening in either of the agreed locations.
<b>607</b>	Radial Beds, Abbot Hall	<b>REC</b>	That option 2 be recommended to Council as Committee's preference for improvement work to the radial beds at Abbot Hall.
<b>611</b>	Review of Spend Against Budget 2019/20	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Committee approve expenditure on the additional funding requests highlighted.</li> <li>2. Project Manager to contact Lana regarding the flood defences project.</li> <li>3. Audit, Grants &amp; Charities Committee to be requested to consider a requirement for grant applicants to consider biodiversity issues.</li> </ol>
<b>612</b>	AOB	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Manager to check on responsibility/ownership of railings at Sandes Avenue.</li> <li>2. Project Manager to liaise with the Town Clerk regarding the Kendal Vision Consultation and next steps.</li> </ol>