

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Committee

**Monday 9th March 2020 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 and Susanne Long
- OFFICERS** Helen Moriarty (Project Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 893/19/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None.
- 894/19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.
- 895/19/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2020**
The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020, which had been approved by full Council on 3rd February 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor Archibald that the minutes be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried with 1 abstention.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th January 2020 be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 896/19/20 Kendal Experimental Traffic Order (Minute 608/19/20)**
Councillor Evans advised that the Traffic Order had been passed through at the Local Committee meeting. She is in possession of a set of photographs presented by a lady present at the meeting. The main problem relates to people parking in the disabled bays outside permitted times.
- 897/19/20 Items for the Newsletter (Minute 722/19/20)**
Councillor Evans remarked that a good newsletter had been produced and thanked those involved.
- 898/19/20 Environment Agency – Tree Removal**
Councillor Hennessy advised he had raised the matter of the use of wood following tree removal by the EA at a subgroup meeting. He had been advised that a document is in existence which details the hierarchy of how the wood should be used however this is not currently in the public domain.

899/19/20 SLDC Officer for Climate Change and Biodiversity (Minute 724/19/20)

A new officer has now been appointed – Hannah Girven.

900/19/20 Dark Skies Campaign (Minute 717/19/20)

Johanna Korndorfer's successor is now in post. The Project Manager will make contact and forward the extract from the minutes of the meeting attended by Johanna to her.

RESOLVED Project Manager to contact Johanna Korndorfer's successor.

901/19/20 **PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Project Manager presented the update for March 2020 which had previously been circulated. The following points were highlighted:

Defib at Oxenholme

The BT consultation is now complete and confirmation has been received that KTC can adopt the box at a cost of £1. The Project Manager has received the paperwork and is currently seeking an electrician to carry out the necessary wiring work.

Ivy Screening

Councillor Rowley commented that it would be helpful to have input from a nearby resident at Longpool. Project Manager to consider approaching households or the newsagents.

Councillor Evans raised concern regarding visibility issues that may be caused by the ivy screening. She commented that current poor sight lines may be made worse, especially for cyclists using the new cycle way. The Chair suggested that it may be possible to shunt the ivy back away from the junction of Wildman Street/Ann Street. Project Manager to liaise with CCC in this respect.

Asset Plaques

Councillor Archibald asked what would determine the success of the project. It was agreed to review the situation in April.

Members of the Committee thanked the Project Manager for the report and welcomed her back to work following her maternity leave.

RESOLVED

1. That the Project Manager consider approaching households or the newsagents at Longpool and liaise with CCC in respect of Ivy screening.
2. That success of the Asset Plaques project be reviewed in April.

902/19/20 **BIO BLITZ EVENT – DISCUSSION RE INTENDED OUTCOMES**

The Project Manager requested Members' opinion regarding the preferred format for the Bio Blitz Event before she contacted potential speakers.

A general discussion ensued. Members agreed the purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for speakers to talk about what

habitats exist around Kendal, why they are so important and how they may be improved. This would be followed by table time for discussion and a request for suggestions as to how the allocated biodiversity budget could be used. People attending will also be informed that KTC are open to grant applications for biodiversity projects.

Councillor Rowley asked whether subgroups of the Allotments Committee and Kendal in Bloom Committee would be permitted to apply for grants. He explained that that Allotments biodiversity subgroup is currently working on a proposal. It was agreed this would be permitted subject to the correct proportion of funding.

It was suggested by Councillor Cornthwaite that the Anglers Group may wish to be involved. He asked how Committee would cross over the Environment Agency. The Chair asked Councillor Cornthwaite to check whether the EA have an open grants programme.

It was agreed to use the Assembly Room rather than the Georgian Room for the event as it has greater capacity. Members also discussed the hard launch and it was decided this should take place after the elections (mid-May). Councillor Rowley requested that the event be advertised in the SLACC newsletter.

903/19/20

ABBOT HALL BEDS – DISCUSSION RE WILDFLOWER PLANTING

Committee had previously stated a preference for wildflower planting in the Abbot Hall beds. The Project Manager explained a concern had been raised that the beds would look bare at certain times of the year. Following discussion Members agreed to continue with the wildflower option with a grass seed mix and create an explanatory sign to be erected explaining why the beds may look bare (ie. wildflower planting to encourage bees etc).

RESOLVED

That the Project Manager draft an explanatory sign in partnership with SLDC to explain why the beds at Abbot Hall may appear bare at certain times of the year.

904/19/20

RAILING QUOTE APPROVAL

The Project Manager advised that the quote for railings at Prospect Terrace and Rosemary Hill on Fellside was £539.22. Councillor Hennessy proposed the quote be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Cornthwaite and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the quote for railings on Fellside be accepted in the sum of £539.22.

905/19/20

EXPLORE KENDAL SIGNAGE – DISCUSSION RE INSURANCE

The Project Manager explained that this related to an SLDC asset transferred to KTC. At the last meeting Committee had been asked to consider whether they wished to insure the Explore signs against damage. SLDC had taken the decision not to insure in the past due to cost. There would be a £200 increase in premium with an

insurance excess of £100. Each sign costs £3,000. Taking into account the cost of the signs, Committee considered the increase in premium to be reasonable. Councillor Rowley proposed that the signs be insured. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the Explore signs be insured against damage.

906/19/20**20'S PLENTY – ACTION CONFIRMATION**

The Chair explained that Full Council approved a budget of £12k from April 2020 for the 20's Plenty initiative. The approval came with a mandate to explore two costed options; (1) blanket 20mph across town and (2) blanket across town excluding arterial roads. Residents had shown the most support for the latter option. Members were advised that Councillor Thornton of CCC wished to explore the two templates of implementation. It was agreed that the next steps would be to engage with CCC. The Project Manager will set up a meeting with Councillor Thornton. The matter will then be brought back to Committee for further discussion before making a presentation to Full Council.

Councillor Rowley suggested that minutes of the Active Travel Group be presented to Committee and this was agreed.

RESOLVED

1. Project Manager to set up a meeting with Karen Johnson and Councillor Peter Thornton, CCC and present an update at the next Committee meeting.
2. Minutes of the Active Travel Group to be presented to Committee.

907/19/20**CITIZEN'S JURY UPDATE**

Councillor Rowley updated Members with regard to the Citizen's Jury. The crowd funder has gone beyond the target (currently standing at £6,770) with a couple of days left to run. Crowdfunder fees are estimated to be between £300 and £500, leaving £6,250. Further funding from other sources including SLDC, KTC and the Locality Budget will take the total to £17,250. There is also potentially a further £2k from CCC which would increase this figure to £19,250, just short of the full cost of the Citizen's Jury of £19,820.

The crowd funder has been very useful from an engagement point of view, with 182 donations. Councillor Rowley advised that he has received approximately 80 comments which are very powerful and he has these recorded on a spreadsheet. The contract has been written for the Citizens Jury facilitator, Shared Planet CIC and approximately 60% of invitations to the Oversight Panel have been received.

He proposed seeking a further £1,500 from a suitable source for design work such as pull up banners. Councillor Archibald asked for clarification of what the additional £1,500 would be used for. Councillor Rowley clarified that £1,000 would make up the shortfall for the complete cost of the Citizens Jury and £500 would be for incidental costs such as the design work mentioned. It was noted

that SLDC are potentially offering free use of the Mintworks, otherwise this would incur a room hire charge of £75 per meeting.

Councillor Archibald proposed that £600 be allocated from the Committee's biodiversity budget and additional funds be sought from other supporters as and when it is clear how much is required. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

A general discussion ensued regarding pull up banners and Councillor Rowley requested agreement to utilise approximately £150 for this purpose. These would be seen by the oversight panel, the Jury, at the launch and follow up event. There will also hopefully be some presence at Torchlight. Councillor Archibald commented on the need for a process of managing additional spends.

Councillor Archibald proposed a modification to the proposal and suggested allocating £900 from the Committee's Biodiversity budget. From that a certain amount is available for incidental costs, subject to approval by the Chair, Councillor Rowley and the Town Clerk or Treasurer. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

It was noted that the dates of Jury meetings have been decided and the process should be complete by July, with a report available by the end of August.

Councillor Archibald queried the communications strategy. Councillor Rowley commented that this was a matter for the Communications Group whose next focus will be press releases. The Chair has been in communication with Mark Davis, the Lead Officer at Lancaster City Council who are a couple of months ahead with the process and commented that Committee could learn from their experiences. It was agreed that a small group would meet to discuss the best way to manage communication matters.

RECOMMENDATION That £900 be allocated from the Committee's Biodiversity budget to make up the shortfall of the cost of the Citizens' Jury.

RESOLVED That the Project Manager meet with Councillor Rowley, Councillor Owen and Councillor Archibald to discuss the best way to manage communication matters.

908/19/20 ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Summer edition:

Possible announcement from the flood group.

Autumn/Winter edition:

Citizens' Jury report

Bio Blitz

20's Plenty

909/19/20 REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20

Committee reviewed spend against the current budget up to 31st January 2020. It was noted that £1,171 remains in the litter bin

emptying budget line which was considered high for this point in the financial year. The Chair recalled increasing this amount, knowing it would not necessarily be spent immediately.

All Action Plan Projects will carry over into the next financial year and remaining budget will be spent on various projects.

910/19/20

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Town View

Town View is receiving a grant from the Rivers Trust for an exercise in River Fields to improve biodiversity on that field. It was suggested that Committee may wish to contribute some funding to further enhance biodiversity in that area. The Project Manager advised that she had received an update from SLDC who were keen to link with schools. A KTC contribution could assist in this respect.

Fletcher Park

Councillor Hennessy advised that there had been a meeting of the Friends of Fletcher Park group. Following a topographical survey the Rivers Trust had discovered a compaction issue rather than the assumed drainage issue. There is a boggy section and the group are looking at ways of making a feature of this area.

Bench on Shap Road

Councillor Cornthwaite highlighted a bench on Shap Road (opposite Whitestiles Garage) which has been refurbished by Thomas Armstrong, the contractors working on the new cycleway. Committee expressed their thanks to Thomas Armstrong in this respect. There was a plaque in memory of Brian and Terri Mattinson on the bench which has been replaced. Councillor Cornthwaite has made contact with the couple's family and is liaising with them to hopefully feature their story.

The Project Manager is investigating a missing litter bin on Mint Bridge.

911/19/20

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 11TH MAY 2020

The Project Manager requested that the meeting be held at the earlier time of 6pm.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
900	Dark Skies Campaign	RES	Project Manager to contact Johanna Korndorfer's successor.
901	Ivy Screening	RES	That the Project Manager consider approaching households or the newsagents at Longpool and liaise with CCC in respect of Ivy screening. That success of the Asset Plaques project be reviewed in April.
	Asset Plaques	RES	
903	Abbot Hall Beds	RES	That the Project Manager draft an explanatory sign in partnership with SLDC to explain why the beds at Abbot Hall may appear bare at certain times of the year.
904	Railing Quote Approval	RES	That the quote for railings on Fellside be accepted in the sum of £539.22.
905	Explore Kendal Signage	RES	That the Explore signs be insured against damage.
906	20's Plenty	RES	1. Project Manager to set up a meeting with Karen Johnson and Councillor Peter Thornton, CCC and present an update at the next Committee meeting. 2. Minutes of the Active Travel Group to be presented to Committee.
907	Citizen's Jury Update	REC	That £900 be allocated from the Committee's Biodiversity budget to make up the shortfall of the cost of the Citizens' Jury.
		RES	That the Project Manager meet with Councillor Rowley, Councillor Owen and Councillor Archibald to discuss the best way to manage communication matters.