

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Environment and Highways Committee

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 6.00 pm  
(Via teleconferencing)**

- PRESENT** Councillors Jonathan Owen (Chair), Eamonn Hennessy (Vice Chair), Giles Archibald, Susanne Long, Shirley Evans, Jonathan Cornthwaite, Adam Edwards and Chris Rowley
- APOLOGIES** Councillor Julia Dunlop
- OFFICERS** Helen Moriarty (Project Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
- 124/20/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- None.
- 125/20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- None.
- 126/20/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**
- The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, which had been approved by full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.
- It was proposed by Councillor Rowley that the minutes be approved as a correct record. This was seconded by Councillor Evans and carried unanimously.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be accepted as a correct record.
- 127/20/21 MATTERS ARISING (Not on Agenda)**
- None.
- 128/20/21 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**
- Councillor Rowley raised the matter of Statutory Powers in Appendix 1. He felt there was lack of clarification of KTC powers and CCC powers. The Chair considered KTC as the “tier of last resort” who pick up elements of work which are not CCC/SLDC matters. Councillor Evans made the point that KTC act as first resort when residents make contact with an issue and KTC find out who is responsible. It was noted that KTC have the power to facilitate, not implement, and do not have primary authority for many items on Appendix 1. It was decided not to sign off the Terms of Reference. Helen will contact CALC for a benchmark and the Terms will be reviewed again at the next Committee meeting.
- RESOLVED** Helen to contact CALC for a benchmark. Terms of Reference will be reviewed again at the next Committee meeting.

**129/20/21****CLIMATE CHANGE CITIZENS JURY UPDATE**

The first jury session has been held since the last meeting. All recruitment targets have been hit, except recruiting a member of the public who didn't have concerns about climate change which has proved hard to recruit. Chris Stark, Chief Executive of UK Committee on Climate Change, will be speaking to members at the next meeting. The presentation will be available on the website after the meeting. Further presentations will be made by Becky Willis and Mike Berners-Lee. Following these the Jury will decide who else they wish to invite to present, depending on what themes they wish to explore. The Oversight Panel have been working to decide who the three commentators should be, ensuring the recruitment is fair and transparent and the targets have been set correctly. There has been good representation and attendance. The Support Group have been managing the evaluation process and communications and a creative strategy has made the whole process more engaging for the general public. Stacy Hurley has also been supporting the process via a fixed term contract. A website and Facebook page have been launched.

Councillor Rowley added that the Support Group is looking at how the findings of the jury are carried forward. They are working closely with the Torchlight Group. There is a current discussion about having banners displayed around town each with a question raised by the Jury and possibly a large banner outside the Town Hall. He advised that it may be necessary to consider reopening the crowd funder for a small boost to funds to enable the good ideas generated by the Support Group to be carried forward. Following a general discussion Members agreed to the crowd funder being reopened.

Councillor Rowley also advised that a number of national groups are interested in what Kendal is doing. Kendal is the first Town Council to hold a Citizen's Jury and it is the first Jury to be held online. He commented that a good publicity opportunity existed. It was agreed Helen will approach national media in an attempt to create a greater awareness.

**RESOLVED**

Helen to approach national media in an attempt to create a greater awareness of the Citizen's Jury.

**130/20/21****DARK SKIES & BIODIVERSITY UPDATE**

Helen has received an updated from the new officer at the Friends of the Lake District, Jack Ellerby. The scope of the project has been identified. There will be four communities in total and Kendal has been identified as the large town pilot to pilot a lighting audit and action plan. The purpose is to celebrate and raise awareness of the value of dark skies, try and prevent more light pollution and reduce existing levels of light pollution. There will be work with Planners, Highways and Crime Prevention Officers and consultants will be hired to audit current levels of pollution. KTC are being asked to support the Dark Skies Cumbria Project as an active supporter, agree, support and take part in the action plan and contribute funding for the audit and action plan and Dark Skies festival.

A general discussion ensued. Councillor Rowley commented that he had spoken to Jack Ellerby on behalf of KTC Planning Committee and the Friends of the Lake District Planning Officer had been very helpful.

The Chair made the point that some residents may not consider dark skies as a good thing. Councillor Evans agreed more education and factual information may be required to present to residents. Councillor Rowley said it is about lighting places effectively (making sure flood lights are turned off at certain times, using low energy lighting etc).

It was agreed Helen will request more information from Jack Ellerby and circulate the link to the website and Action Plan document to Members.

#### Biodiversity Funding

Helen was previously tasked with investigating whether there was an opportunity to combine SLDC's Climate Change Community Fund Grant with KTC's Biodiversity Fund. She has spoken to Simon Blythe at SLDC who has suggested KTC use the processes they have set up. She advised there is £3,500 remaining in budget and Members were asked how they wished to utilise this. The Chair suggested a working group be set up to consider the matter further. Councillors Hennessy, Rowley and Helen will form the group.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. Helen to request further information from Jack Ellerby. Also circulate the link to the website and Action Plan document to Members.
2. Councillors Hennessy, Rowley and Helen to form a Working Group to consider biodiversity funding further.

#### **131/20/21**

#### **IVY SCREENING UPDATE**

Helen will be meeting with a possible contractor on site on Thursday. Funding has been allocated and Longpool is the chosen pilot location.

Councillor Evans highlighted her concern previously raised regarding the effect of the ivy screening on sight lines and will attend the meeting.

#### **132/20/21**

#### **20MPH AND SPEED INDICATORS UPDATE**

##### 20mph Project

Helen advised that Mott McDonald did not submit a quote for the 20mph scheme. She has received two quotes from alternative companies, one via Kendal Vision and the other via a link from Councillor Rowley. The two quotes are in the sum of £9,595 plus VAT and £7,500 plus VAT. Both are well within the total budget of £12k. She reported that both companies have submitted very similar proposals.

Councillor Hennessy asked whether the proposals would encompass the two options previously discussed (1) a blanket 20mph limit across

the whole town and (2) exclude some key arterial routes. It was noted that the companies have quoted for both options.

Councillor Evans referred to the Department of Transport Covid Active Travel Fund. She made the point that if this project can be put into place it may support a bid to that Fund.

It was proposed by the Chair that the quote in the sum of £7,500 plus VAT be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Hennessy and carried unanimously.

#### Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Committee were informed that the SID on Milnthorpe Road has broken again. It was previously fixed in Germany in November 2019 at a cost of approximately 419 Euros. Following a general discussion it was agreed the device should be sent back to Germany for repair. Councillor Rowley suggested it would be useful to purchase an additional device as they are useful in many areas around town. It was agreed Helen will obtain a quotation for a further device.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the quote in the sum of £7,500 plus VAT for the 20mph project be accepted.
2. That the broken SID be returned to Germany for repair. Helen to obtain a quotation for a further device.

#### **133/20/21**

#### **OXENHOLME DEFIB UPDATE**

Helen is still awaiting a quotation from the company recommended by First Responders which is expected this week. The budget has been approved. Helen will purchase the defib case and an electrician to fit it once the quote is received.

#### **134/20/21**

#### **HIGH STREET TREE TUBS UPDATE**

Helen reported that the tubs have now been installed. Thanks were extended to SLDC for storing and fitting, along with KTC's Townscape Manager and Continental Landscapes. She also advised that there is now a spare planter and requested ideas of where this could be installed. Councillor Edwards suggested asking residents for ideas via a request in the KTC newsletter/Facebook page.

Councillor Hennessy commented on the potential for such items of work to go unnoticed by residents. He suggested that the spare planter could be used for a further edible planter at a suitable location.

The Chair mentioned a plan he is working on for a plot of land between the BT building and Stramongate School. Attempts were previously being made to establish contact with the BT/Open Reach Estates Manager to ascertain ownership of the land. He commented that it would lend itself well to an edible street scene. Helen will follow up establishing the name of the contact.

Councillor Cornthwaite put forward Shap Road and Gooseholme as possible locations for the spare planter.

**RESOLVED** Helen to follow up establishing the contact at BT/Open Reach.

**135/20/21**

**SCOUT SCAR MUSHROOM INTERPRETATION**

Helen reported that Underbarrow Parish Council are responsible for the mushroom on Scout Scar. They are aware of its need for attention and are currently replacing missing interpretation panels. Work is expected to be complete in 4 weeks and the panels will be welded in place. She has thanked them for the update and left the door open for future collaborative work. Helen will update Councillor Dunlop who raised the matter at the last meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Helen to update Councillor Dunlop on progress.

**136/20/21**

**BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Helen updated Committee on bus shelter maintenance. It has been difficult to secure a contractor for repairs to the shelter on Sandylands due to it being a small job. Members discussed the option of purchasing or hiring the required tools to enable the Townscape Manager to carry out such items of repair. Helen will feedback the options to the Townscape Manager.

Maintenance work to the shelter on Burton Road opposite Kirkbie Kendal School has been on hold due to Coronavirus. Helen advised that permissions were in place prior to lockdown and the chosen contractor is now no longer an approved CCC contractor. She will kick start the project again before the next meeting.

**RESOLVED**

1. Helen to feedback the options of purchasing or hiring tools to the Townscape Manager.
2. Helen to kick start work to the bus shelter on Burton Road prior to the next meeting.

**137/20/21**

**BENCHES MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Ten benches along the Kendal in Bloom route have now been painted. Before/after pictures have been taken. The plaque prototypes have worked, however they are too big for the Stramongate benches (former CCC benches) and a new quote is needed. The Townscape Manager requires the correct tools to be able to fit the plaques. Helen will order further plaques and concentrate on Stramongate benches initially. She will check on the spending threshold with the Treasurer.

Councillor Archibald requested that the before/after pictures of the benches be publicised in some way. Councillor Evans suggested the new planters also be publicised.

Councillor Archibald also recalled a previous discussion regarding swapping responsibility for benches and lighting with CCC/other parties so that KTC owned all benches. Helen to check previous minutes.

**RESOLVED**

1. Tools to be ordered for the Townscape Manager to fit plaques on benches. Helen to order further plaques after checking the spending threshold with the Treasurer.
2. Helen to check previous minutes in respect of responsibility for benches and lighting.

**138/20/21****SIGNAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Painting for Castle signage on Tanners Yard and at Allhallows has been completed. The Lowther Street sign has also been reinstated.

Councillor Archibald asked whether work has been carried out to signage on entry to the town. Helen advised that boundary signs have all been repainted.

Helen advised that Officers have recently undertaken Facebook training and commented that such items of work would make good posts on a KTC Facebook page.

Councillor Archibald referred to some organisations withdrawing advertising on Facebook, as reported in the press recently. It was not considered by the Committee that this should affect KTC's proposed use of Facebook.

Councillor Hennessy suggested the completion of small jobs such as those discussed being publicised via a press release to the Westmorland Gazette, along with photographs.

**139/20/21****ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

The summer edition of the newsletter is due out this week.

Items for the autumn edition:

- Citizens Jury
- Criteria for Biodiversity grants
- 20mph project
- Flood group update
- Biodiversity (as per earlier discussion)

An article on Swifts in Kendal was suggested by Councillor Archibald. It was agreed to include this in the Spring edition.

**140/20/21****REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2020/21**

Councillor Evans advised she intended to request an additional litter bin and asked how much emptying costs are per bin. Helen to find out from SLDC.

It was noted by Councillor Cornthwaite that there is £3.5k remaining for support for biodiversity. The Chair understood this was the amount remaining after requesting further monies for the Citizen's Jury. It was clarified that £3.3k remains for the call for applications.

Councillor Archibald asked what falls under the 'New Infrastructure' heading which has budget remaining of £3.5k. This was confirmed to include bins, benches, bus shelters etc. As there are no current proposals it was suggested Ward Councillors be invited to put forward suggestions, as not every Ward is represented on the Committee. It was agreed suggestions should be predominantly for bins and benches.

Helen advised that costs for the Kendal leaflet series need to be confirmed with Aha Marketing. There may be a cost saving resulting from lockdown.

Councillor Evans advised that a number of people on Castle Crescent and from St George's Church carry out a lot of tidying up work to the area and would appreciate a litter bin. She will wait until September before submitting a formal request to allow Ward Councillors to put forward their suggestions for expenditure from the New Infrastructure budget. Helen to research unit cost of litter bins and annual maintenance costs.

**RESOLVED**

Helen to request New Infrastructure project ideas from Ward Councillors. Also research unit cost of litter bins and annual maintenance costs.

**141/20/21****ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Nobles Rest - Library Road Footpath

Progress was queried by Councillor Cornthwaite. Councillor Archibald understood the work had been approved and was progressing. Helen to check progress with the Civic Society.

Flood Relief Scheme Working Group

Councillor Cornthwaite talked on behalf of the KTC Flood Relief Scheme Working Group. To date no funds have been requested, nor has there been any impact on Officer time. However Councillor Cornthwaite advised that the next stage of work involves looking at improving and enhancing pathways and cycleways from north Kendal (Mintbridge) to south Kendal (Scroggs Lane) which is likely to require significant input, architectural drawings etc. He asked whether funding could be allocated from the biodiversity or infrastructure budgets to facilitate this work.

Following an in depth discussion during which several Members expressed their support for the work being undertaken by the working group, Councillor Archibald proposed the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to allocate up to £1,500 from areas identified within the budget as having spare monies, subject to Councillor Cornthwaite submitting a costed proposal. This was seconded by Councillor Evans and carried unanimously.

Greening our town

Councillor Archibald had been reading about towns that green themselves and commented that we need to keep pushing ourselves

to use our urban environment more aggressively. Councillor Edwards referred to the tiny urban forests initiative which has been taken up in Europe. He commented that it is very biodiverse, reduces carbon footprints and would fit well with Councillor Archibald's suggestion. He will circulate a link to Members.

Councillor Hennessy referred to an area of land off Vicarage Drive that he mentioned at the last meeting which has scope to become a biodiversity area. He has established the owner and is asking for ideas on how to approach the matter.

A general discussion then ensued regarding various areas with scope for biodiversity. The Chair commented that it is important to ensure a scrutiny stage exists to avoid committing time and money on an idea and then not being able to proceed further.

#### Use of Weed Killers

Councillor Hennessy raised the subject of the use of glyphosate weed killers. Councillor Rowley commented that many people are against its use and suggested alternatives should be researched further. Some companies offer a free trial of some of the alternatives and it was agreed to speak to the Townscape Manager to ascertain his thoughts on doing this. This could be a possible agenda item for the next meeting. Councillor Archibald suggested engaging with CCC at some point as they have also looked at alternatives.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. Helen to check progress of the Nobles Rest/Library Road footpath with the Civic Society.
2. That the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to allocate up to £1,500 from the budget towards the work of the KTC Flood Relief Scheme Working Group, subject to Councillor Cornthwaite submitting a costed proposal.
3. Liaise with the Townscape Manager on suggestion of trialling alternatives to glyphosate weed killer.

#### **142/20/21**

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

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.

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

<b>Min</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council</b>	
<b>128</b>	Review of Terms of Reference	<b>RES</b>	Helen to contact CALC for a benchmark. Terms of Reference will be reviewed again at the next Committee meeting.
<b>129</b>	Climate Change Citizens Jury Update	<b>RES</b>	Helen to approach national media in an attempt to create a greater awareness of the Citizen's Jury.
<b>130</b>	Dark Skies & Biodiversity Update	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Helen to request further information from Jack Ellerby. Also circulate the link to the website and Action Plan document to Members.</li> <li>2. Councillors Hennessy, Rowley and Helen to form a Working Group to consider biodiversity funding further.</li> </ol>
<b>132</b>	20mph and Speed Indicators Update	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the quote in the sum of £7,500 plus VAT for the 20mph project be accepted.</li> <li>2. That the broken SID be returned to Germany for repair. Helen to obtain a quotation for a further device.</li> </ol>
<b>134</b>	High Street Tree Tubs Update	<b>RES</b>	Helen to follow up establishing the contact at BT/Open Reach.
<b>135</b>	Scout Scar Mushroom Interpretation	<b>RES</b>	Helen to update Councillor Dunlop on progress.
<b>136</b>	Bus Shelter Maintenance and Improvement Update	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Helen to feedback the options of purchasing or hiring tools to the Townscape Manager.</li> <li>2. Helen to kick start work to the bus shelter on Burton Road prior to the next meeting.</li> </ol>
<b>137</b>	Benches Maintenance and Improvement Update	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tools to be ordered for the Townscape Manager to fit plaques on benches. Helen to order further plaques after checking the spending threshold with the Treasurer.</li> <li>2. Helen to check previous minutes in respect of responsibility for benches and lighting.</li> </ol>
<b>140</b>	Review of Spend against Budget 2020/21	<b>RES</b>	Helen to request New Infrastructure project ideas from Ward Councillors. Also research unit cost of litter bins and annual maintenance costs.
<b>141</b>	AOB	<b>RES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Helen to check progress of the Nobles Rest/Library Road footpath with the Civic Society.</li> <li>2. That the Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to allocate up to £1,500</li> </ol>

			<p>from the budget towards the work of the KTC Flood Relief Scheme Working Group, subject to Councillor Cornthwaite submitting a costed proposal.</p> <p>3. Liaise with the Townscape Manager on suggestion of trialling alternatives to glyphosate weed killer.</p>
--	--	--	--