

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Kendal in Bloom Committee

**Monday 4th February 2019 at 2.15 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT

Councillors Andy Blackman (Chair), Adam Edwards and Chris Rowley

Co-opted: Tony Rothwell (Kendal Civic Society), Caroline Stuart-Smith (Horticulture), Mandy Nicholson and Brian Harrison (BID)

Also in attendance were Terry Parr in respect of item 8 on the Agenda (Community Fern Project) and Councillor Doug Rathbone in respect of item 7 (Oxenholme Residents Association).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Richard Sutton and Carol Hardy

OFFICERS

Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Pierre Labat (Townscape Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)

831/18/19

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

832/18/19

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

833/18/19

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair proposed that the order of the Agenda be amended to bring forward items 7 (Community Funding Request from Oxenholme Residents Association) and 8 (Community Fern Project Update). This was agreed.

834/18/19

COMMUNITY FUNDING REQUEST – OXENHOLME RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Councillor Rathbone explained that he was also SLDC Councillor for the Oxenholme area and had helped the Oxenholme Residents Association form themselves approximately one year ago. The Association want to improve a small patch of unkempt land on Helmside Road and had approached KTC for funding for some planters to improve the appearance and give a sense of community involvement, participation and pride.

There was a general discussion regarding types of planters and watering requirements. It was noted that the request had also been discussed by the Environment & Highways meeting at their last meeting. The Chair commented that there was unlikely to be sufficient monies remaining in the budget for the current financial year and suggested the matter be revisited later in the meeting when the Budgetary Control Statement was considered.

835/18/19**COMMUNITY FERN PROJECT – UPDATE**

Terry Parr gave a presentation about a scheme which looks at the concept of using ferns in town centre planters. Alternatives for planters has been considered previously and the concept of using ferns has moved on to linking with a Kendal legendary landscape trail. This would look to provide the community with key messages about landscape change and sustainable development and provide a basis for education and learning as well as links with tourist information, parks and gardens, history and heritage. Terry Parr talked about George Whitwell, a Kendal man living in Serpentine Cottage, who, at the end of the reign of Queen Victoria, was responsible for looking after Serpentine Woods. He loved ferns and founded the British Ferns Society. A community project looked to re-create George Whitwell's Victorian Fern Garden in Serpentine Woods.

Members were briefed on 3 trial planters which had been set up in the town centre. Terry Parr explained how these could be used to present scientific facts in an interesting way, connecting plants to a certain period in time and providing an opportunity to link with schools. He explained the relevance of the project to the KIB Action Plan, highlighting horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. He also described ways in which planters could be linked to legendary stories of Kendal.

Next steps for the project included deciding what to do over the summer period, completing signage for planters (priority), completing the first year evaluation and evaluation of public response. Medium term plans were for a further 3 trial planters in the autumn, developing a longer 3 year plan and considering sponsorship, using businesses to sponsor centrepieces for the planters or themes.

Councillor Edwards supported the idea and commented that it would encourage people to think differently. He said it was important to remember legends and individuals such as George Whitwell who spent a large part of his life maintaining Serpentine Woods fern garden.

A general discussion then ensued. Members agreed the fern planters needed to form a 'trail'. The project should be a complimentary activity and not be used as an alternative to flowers. It was noted that feedback from Cumbria in Bloom competition organisers included a suggestion about tapping into Kendal's heritage and there was a feeling amongst Members that the project could address this. Councillor Rowley highlighted the storytelling element of the idea and said potentially it could be a good commercial project for the town. Brian Harrison suggested contacting Kendal BID for support and commented that it was a good way to present the story of Kendal. Signage for planters was highlighted as being a priority in order to explain the concept of the project to the public. It was noted that the idea is currently on trial and would need to be assessed again over the summer.

Councillor Blackman proposed that Committee continue to support the community fern project during the trial period and reassess early in the summer. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Committee continue to support the community fern project during the trial period and reassess early in the summer.

836/18/19**INTRODUCTION BY ED NELSON, CONTINENTAL LANDSCAPES**

It was noted that Ed Nelson had issued apologies and was unable to attend.

837/18/19**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND OCTOBER 2018**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2018, which had been approved by full Council on 5th November 2018.

Caroline Stuart-Smith pointed out that she had not been present at the last meeting. Her colleague, Jane Todd, had been in attendance.

Councillor Rowley proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Blackman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd October 2018 be accepted as a correct record.

838/18/19**MATTERS ARISING (Not on Agenda)**

It was confirmed that ex Councillors Oldham and Walker are now co-opted members of the Committee. The Assistant to the Town Clerk agreed to contact them to confirm.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant to the Town Clerk contact ex Councillors Oldham and Walker to confirm their appointment as co-opted members of the Committee.

839/18/19**KENDAL IN BLOOM AND CUMBRIA IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS 2019**

The Assistant to the Town Clerk sought approval from Committee to enter the Cumbria in Bloom competition for 2019. This was agreed.

Members were advised that the KIB working group had met at the end of last year. It was agreed at that meeting that there would be no allotments category this year. The community element would, however, remain the same. Community initiatives are to be supported and the budget has been increased in this respect. There would be an article in the Spring KTC newsletter.

Councillor Rowley referred to the Pollinator Project. He advised that the manager of the project had submitted a report regarding proposals for the next year. This included finishing the scientific

element, but also developing an understanding of the project in schools, as well as including an art element. Members discussed possible themes to embrace participation by schools and it was agreed this should be '*stories*'.

RESOLVED

1. That Committee grant approval to enter the Cumbria in Bloom competition for 2019.
2. That the theme for schools be '*stories*'.

840/18/19**TREE PLANTERS – JOINT ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE PROJECT**

This project crosses with the work of the Environment & Highways Committee. The Assistant to the Town Clerk advised that obtaining funding to replace trees along Highgate had been successful. The Project Manager had also requested the Environment & Highways Committee support the project by updating the planters and £4k had been granted for this purpose. There would be sufficient monies to clad the existing planters in wood and there would be collaboration with Kendal College regarding design work by students. Committee were advised that there had been an issue in respect of transporting the existing trees for recycling. It had been agreed that SLDC would use their own transport with no cost to KTC and the trees would be re-used elsewhere. The Assistant to the Town Clerk will be speaking to Graham Nicholson to agree logistics etc. An alternative Hornbeam tree had been suggested to replace the existing Hornbeams and these would have an approximate lifespan of 10 years due to the size of the planters. The members agreed to change the variety of Hornbeam to the newly suggested one.

841/18/19**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Suggestions for summer edition:

- Legendary fern trail.
- Tree planters by Kendal College.
- Date of KIB presentation evening (Thurs 19th Sept at 7pm - guest speaker Terry Parr).

Suggestions for autumn/winter edition:

- Competition results.

842/18/19**REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2018/19**

Members considered the Financial Statement as at the end of December 2019.

An overspend in the Floral Displays (Winter Planting) heading was highlighted. The reason for this was due to the budget being set based on old contractor prices. In addition there had been an unexpected invoice from Horticare, which had been overlooked from the previous year.

It was noted that there was £1,013 budget remaining for the current financial year. Members considered what this could be spent on and

agreed signage for the fern planters project was a priority. There would be insufficient monies remaining to support the request by the Oxenholme Residents Association, however Committee agreed it was a worthwhile project. The Chair proposed that he respond to the Association advising that, although Committee were supportive, they were currently unable to support the project due to insufficient funds. Committee would revisit the request when they met next meeting and the new budget had been set. If money is left at the end of the current financial year approaches Committee will look to direct this towards the project. It was mentioned that Oxenholme is also part of Natland Ecclesiastical Parish and it may be worth the Residents Association making contact with them.

RESOLVED

That remaining budget be spent on signage for fern planters. Any budget left over to be directed towards the Oxenholme Residents Association project. Chair to contact the group to advise Committee are supportive, but currently unable to support them due to insufficient funds and will revisit the request next meeting.

843/18/19**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Horticulture – Choice of Plants for Beds

Caroline Stuart-Smith said Horticulture's brief for summer planting was for pollinator friendly planting. She advised that the badge bed would be challenging, this has traditionally be planted with begonias or geranium to give colour. Alternatives were discussed and it was agreed that colour was required for the badge bed. Councillor Rowley suggested a mix of plants to provide both colour and be friendly to bees and butterflies. This was agreed.

It was also mentioned that 3 trees on Aynam Road had been pruned this time last year. Caroline Stuart-Smith asked whether Committee wished this to be repeated this year. The Assistant to the Town Clerk noted that, bearing in mind budget remaining, a cost would be required. Caroline to obtain.

RESOLVED

That Caroline Stuart-Smith obtain a quote for tree pruning on Aynam Road.

BID

Brian Harrison advised that Christmas Decorations had plans to place small LED Christmas trees into brackets. If the work went ahead some of the older brackets would be replaced. There would be a facility to hang baskets but at this stage there was no plan for a provision to enable lowering. He commented that now would be the time to make contact if Committee wished to be involved.

Prices for window boxes were requested from Caroline Stuart-Smith as soon as possible as these were need for inclusion in the BID spring newsletter.

Community Christmas tree at Sandylands

Councillor Edwards said the decorations to the community Christmas tree at Sandylands had suffered damaged. The reaction from residents was to take ownership of the tree and consider how to replace the decorations. He suggested the concept could be a good way to encourage community engagement and suggested a competition for the best decorated community tree as an example.

Grass Cutting

The Townscape Manager informed Committee that he would not be cutting grass by the border at Shap Road and the border at Kendal College this year. These areas are SLDC maintained and contracted to Continental.

Agenda Item for Next Meeting

The Chair requested an Agenda item for the next meeting – Councillor nominations for gardens and community spaces.

RESOLVED

That an item for the next meeting be added to the Agenda - Councillor nominations for gardens and community spaces.

844/18/19**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.41pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
835	Community Fern Project	RES	That Committee continue to support the community fern project during the trial period and reassess early in the summer.
838	Co-opted Members	RES	That the Assistant to the Town Clerk contact ex Councillors Oldham and Walker to confirm their appointment as co-opted members of the Committee.
839	KIB and CIB Competitions 2019	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Committee grant approval to enter the Cumbria in Bloom competition for 2019. 2. That the theme for schools be '<i>stories</i>'.
842	Review of Spend Against Budget 2018/19	RES	That remaining budget be spent on signage for fern planters. Any budget left over to be directed towards the Oxenholme Residents Association project. Chair to contact the group to advise Committee are supportive, but currently unable to support them due to insufficient funds and will revisit the request next meeting.
843	AOB – Pruning of trees on Aynam Road	RES	That Caroline Stuart-Smith obtain a quote for tree pruning on Aynam Road.
	AOB – Agenda Item for Next Meeting	RES	That an item for the next meeting be added to the Agenda - Councillor nominations for gardens and community spaces.