

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Kendal in Bloom Committee

**Monday 12th October 2020 at 7.00 pm
(Via Zoom)**

PRESENT

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

Co-opted: Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society), Mandy Nicholson and Brian Harrison

Also in attendance:

Jason Rushworth, Reporter, Newsquest

Terry Parr

APOLOGIES

Lynne Oldham

OFFICERS

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

324/20/21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

325/20/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

326/20/21

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2020

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2020, which had been approved by full Council on 5th July 2020.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th June 2020 be accepted as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING (Not on Agenda)

None.

327/20/21

UPDATE FROM TERRY PARR – NATURAL HERITAGE TRAIL

The Chair welcomed Terry Parr who updated Members on the progress of the Natural Heritage Trail.

The Heritage Trail, also called Kendal's Legendary Landscape Trail, is something which has been worked on over the past two years. The idea is to replant certain planters, or other areas around Kendal, with plants that reflect the landscape as it was in the past millennia for Kendal. Reflecting messages about the relationship of people with their environment whilst addressing topics such as sustainability, biodiversity and climate change. There is also an element of fun, although the messages are serious.

With the help of Pierre, Janine and Toni Yates good progress was being made until lockdown. Terry thanked Pierre for keeping things running during the difficult period after lockdown. At that stage there were seven planters and plans to put in signs to make it clearer for the public to read. Those signs have just been put in place. An interactive map was also on the agenda which would provide a single source for people to see where the other things are. This element still needs progressing. They were almost in the position of installing two new centrepieces to ensure these areas have a central feature. A Roman mosaic has just been installed outside Fish Express on Highgate. A Wild Boar in the Wild Boar planter will shortly be installed reflecting the Mediaeval period.

Next plans include bringing existing areas into the Landscape Trail to broaden its range. One idea is to link directly to the Victoria Fern Garden at the entrance to Serpentine Woods. There are also plans to consider a new area, with ongoing discussions about the area outside the cricket ground on Shap Road. The proposal is for a vertical structure along the theme of Kendal green cloth. This would be centred around tenter frames and hooks as a structure enclosing plants that are high and tall. The tenter frame will also provide the possibility of engaging with people interested in dyeing, as cloth could be dyed and draped on the structure. Another aspiration for the future is to widen the project out to a broader community and engage with schools.

An area of Coppice woodland has been set up at Nobles Rest and is almost ready to be revealed.

Councillor Blackman thanked Terry for his hard work and commented that there was some very imaginative work in progress.

There was a discussion regarding the area at Shap Road outside the cricket ground. Terry Parr proposed that it be turned into part of the Landscape Trail along the theme of Kendal green cloth. Terry clarified the area as the circular plot of land in front of the seats (the town badge area). Mandy Nicholson had previously talked about the need to improve the town badge area in that location and was open to new ideas. Members agreed to support the proposal and Terry Parr will produce a planting plan for further discussion. Timescale would be planting up late Feb/Mar. Members discussed likely plants and flowering seasons. It was not proposed to change the shape of the town badge. Mandy asked whether it would still be ok to plant daffodils as she had planned and this was agreed.

Councillor Rowley commented that there was potential for the romantic period to be represented by using daffodils (Wordsworth's influence on landscape).

Another point raised was the problem of continuity of community events. Councillor Rowley talked about the vegetable planters and suggested a discussion regarding a community strategy and how we maintain continuity of these community projects. It was agreed to add this to the agenda of the next meeting.

Councillor Edwards was keen to talk to Terry Parr in respect of the Sandylands Residents Association. He commented that the Association would be interested in providing funding to bring part of the trail to Sandylands to encourage people to visit the area. He also suggested integrating the trail into Kendal Walking Festival which the Association is supporting.

Councillor Edwards proposed an extension of the Natural Heritage Trail to encompass the area outside the cricket ground on Shap Road with a theme relating to Kendal's cloth and dyeing industry. This was seconded by Councillor Sutton and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. Agenda item for next Committee meeting - discussion regarding a community strategy and how to maintain continuity of community projects.
2. That the Natural Heritage Trail be extended to the area outside the cricket ground on Shap Road.

328/20/21

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Blackman proposed that item 10 on the agenda be moved forward. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

329/20/21

COMMUNITY PROJECT – HEDGEHOG HOMES

Robert and Charlotte Wight and Dave and Jill Bell had attended the meeting to talk about a community project for hedgehog homes. Robert is in Year 10 at school and is working on a project to make Rinkfield the first allotment site in the UK to be hedgehog friendly. Members were referred to a presentation which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Robert wishes to see as many plots as possible have a hedgehog house and was looking for financial support from Committee for the hedgehog houses which cost £15 each to produce. He has produced a slug data collection sheet which will initially be used to measure the success of the project. Hedgehogs are good for allotments as they eat slugs, which in turn protects flowers. It is hoped to expand the project to other allotment sites in Kendal if successful.

The first stage of the project is time critical as hedgehogs will soon go into hibernation.

Charlotte Wight commented that the allotment site they took on during lockdown provided a huge sense of wellbeing for Robert. She hoped Committee would be able to support the hedgehog project.

Following a general discussion Councillor Blackman proposed Committee support the project, the exact financial contribution to be discussed later in the meeting under Review of Spend Against Budget. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously.

Councillor Rowley commented that it is a great project and fits the mood of the times. He suggested they might like to look for longer term funding from biodiversity funds from KTC and SLDC. Such an application may have to be made in the next few months.

RESOLVED

That Committee support the hedgehog homes community projects.

330/20/21**KENDAL IN BLOOM AND CUMBRIA IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS**

Due to Covid there have been no competitions this year. Janine reported that she has spoken to organisers of Cumbria in Bloom who are awaiting further guidance before making any plans for next year.

Janine advised that the KTC Facebook page is imminent which will provide a good medium for next year's events if they take place. This will also make a virtual competition possible if necessary. The civic planting has gone ahead as normal, winter planting will be carried out during the last week of October.

Pierre added that there has been a change in style of planting this year which is doing well. He acknowledged the work of Horticare on the boundary signs which has been very successful.

Councillor Blackman referred to a letter received expressing concern about the lack of pollinator plants within civic planting in planter tubs. Councillor Rowley commented that this is a challenge as pollinators tend to be much smaller flowers. Mandy Nicholson recalled a previous discussion about not using pollinators in the town centre as they attract insects and increase the risk of people being stung. A general discussion ensued about the use of pollinators. Councillor Blackman proposed that Committee explore the potential for increasing pollinator planting within the current contract specification. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

A further point raised by Councillor Blackman was the need to rake up grass cuttings as these provide nutrients into the grass which hinders the growth of wild flowers. Councillor Rowley commented that this was the main problem with the pollinator project on the Canal footpath. Councillor Blackman noted Continental leave grass cuttings on the Castle mound and suggested this area should provide a wonderful opportunity for wild flower meadows. He proposed Committee liaise with the Environment & Highways Committee and SLDC (who are responsible for the contract for grass cutting on the castle grounds) expressing the desire to use the Castle grounds and Canal towpath for wild flower meadows, which would necessitate a change the cutting regime. This was seconded by Councillor Rowley and carried unanimously.

Janine Holt reported on an item for consideration from the Environment & Highways Committee. It is proposed to install ivy screening on the railings outside the Citizens Advice Bureau. To facilitate this the Environment & Highways Committee have requested that barrier baskets currently in place be removed and relocated. Councillor Rowley explained the background to the ivy

screening project for the benefit of those present. Members voted unanimously to support the project by removing the baskets.

Councillor Blackman mentioned the idea of a Walking Trail which had previously discussed. This is a concept he is keen to pursue and intends to do so over the autumn. Councillor Rowley commented that the trail is quite long and suggested breaking down the route into 3 or 4 shorter walks. There might be a possibility for each section to take in part of the Natural Heritage Trail.

RESOLVED

1. Committee to explore the potential for increasing pollinator planting within the current contract specification.
2. Committee to liaise with the Environment & Highways Committee and SLDC to express the desire to use the Castle grounds and Canal towpath for wild flower meadows.
3. That barrier baskets on railings outside the Citizens Advice Bureau be relocated to facilitate the ivy screening project.

331/20/21**FUNDING REQUEST FROM MANNA HOUSE**

Committee considered a request for funding from Manna House for a sensory garden. Members agreed to support the request in principle, but would appreciate a specific plan and detailed costings.

RESOLVED

Committee support the request in principle, but request a specific plan and detailed costings

332/20/21**CROCUSES**

Members were requested to consider locations for the planting of crocuses.

It was proposed to plant some crocuses on the roundabout outside Kirkbie Kendal School. Janine commented that she would advise them in respect of the possible need to obtain permission from SLDC in this respect.

Options for the new bulbs supplied this year were either New Road Common or outside Kendal Cricket Club on Shap Road. It was agreed these should be planted outside the Cricket Club.

Mandy advised that Lynne Oldham has purchased 1000 bulbs which she will be planting along Shap Road.

RESOLVED

1. Janine to advise of the possible need to obtain permission from SLDC for planting on the roundabout outside Kirkbie Kendal School.
2. Bulbs supplied this year to be planted outside Kendal Cricket Club.

333/20/21**GHYLLSIDE PLANTERS PROPOSAL**

Committee considered a bid to KTC for a street planter scheme at Ghyllside. The proposal was for flower shrub and vegetable planters

and two small trees. KTC have been asked to fund the installation of the project and share yearly running costs with residents.

Following previous consideration of this request, the Project Manager contacted Highways who expressed agreement in principle but required confirmation that KTC will be responsible for maintenance and insurance. It was also noted that Committee had previously requested match funding.

It was agreed Councillor Rowley will make contact and discuss a way forward that might attract third party funding to match KTC funding.

RESOLVED

Councillor Rowley to contact and discuss a way forward that might attract third party funding to match KTC funding.

334/20/21

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items suggested were the hedgehog project and Kendal in Bloom Legendary Trail Project.

335/20/21

REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2020/21

Members considered the Financial Statement as at the end of September 2020.

It was highlighted that budget remaining is £15,851. Of that amount, budget headings for Community Projects and Kendal in Bloom Competitions are likely to remain at the end of the financial year. These will be returned to source and lost if not spent, therefore it may be necessary to consider utilising this budget elsewhere.

Community Projects

Councillor Rowley suggested a strategy for community projects such as the hedgehog project is required. It was agreed to form a subgroup comprising Councillor Blackman, Councillor Sutton and Janine Holt. Janine will organise a date to meet via Zoom.

Members then discussed a financial contribution towards the hedgehog project considered earlier in the meeting. It was felt a more realistic number of hedgehog houses would be 10. Councillor Sutton proposed Committee support 10 hedgehog houses at £15 each, totalling £150. This was seconded by Councillor Edwards and carried unanimously. Councillor Rowley suggested the possibility of Robert producing more hedgehog houses to sell to other allotment holders. It was noted that it is hoped to roll out the project across more sites. Janine confirmed that it will be on the agenda for the next Allotments Committee in December. Councillor Blackman suggested that Robert be encouraged to become involved with the Committee.

Manna House

It was agreed to await detailed costings and consider the request at the next meeting. Councillor Rowley requested that the need for security be pointed out to them if water features are to be considered in the proposals.

RESOLVED

1. Subgroup to be formed to discuss community projects strategy. Janine to organise a meeting via Zoom.
2. To provide financial support for the hedgehog homes community project in the sum of £150. Robert to be encouraged to become involved with the Committee.
3. Funding request from Manna House to be considered once detailed costings received.

336/20/21**2021/22 BUDGET – REVIEW OF BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR ONE-OFF DEVELOPMENT FUND BIDS**

Members considered the 2021/22 Budget Proposals paper. It was agreed to continue with the current financial year's budget for 2021/22.

RESOLVED

To continue with the current financial year's budget for 2021/22.

337/20/21**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Compost

Pierre raised the matter of compost and a warning from last year's supplier that they may not be able to source the core product to make the product used last year. Orders have been requested as soon as possible so they can attempt to fulfil customer's requirements. Pierre requested funding to purchase half the amount used last year (50 bags at a total cost of around £200). It was agreed to place the order. Janine suggested this become part of the yearly budget if it will be an ongoing annual cost.

Planters Outside Nobles Rest

Mandy Nicholson raised the subject of vegetable planters outside Nobles Rest which are not looking their best. Councillor Rowley advised that the lady involved with these planters would be unable to continue next year and these may have to be transferred to floral planters or moved to another location. Janine mentioned that she has discussed the idea of planting herbs/aromatic plants with Pierre which could be easily maintained by him. It was noted the vegetable planter at the Leisure Centre is also looking overgrown. The need for community projects such as these to have continuity was again highlighted.

Toni Yates offered to take on the planters outside Nobles Rest. Councillor Rowley will discuss with her further.

Co-opted Committee Members

It was agreed Janine will contact Lynne Oldham and Phil Walker to ask if they still wish to be involved.

Councillor Rowley thanked Toni Yates for the work she does around town, looking after areas which would otherwise be unkempt. Toni has taken over from Tony Rothwell as the representative for the Civic Society.

Planters

Pierre noted that there is a spare round planter available, along with cladding. Need to think about how this can be used.

RESOLVED

1. Pierre to order compost as agreed.
2. Councillor Rowley to discuss the planters at Noble Rest with Toni Yates.
3. Janine to contact co-opted Members Lynne Oldham and Phil Walker.

338/20/21

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting will be held in January 2021 (date to be advised).

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
327	Natural Heritage Trail	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda item for next Committee meeting - discussion regarding a community strategy and how to maintain continuity of community projects. 2. That the Natural Heritage Trail be extended to the area outside the cricket ground on Shap Road.
329	Hedgehog Homes – Community Project	RES	That Committee support the hedgehog homes community projects.
330	KIB and CIB Competitions	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee to explore the potential for increasing pollinator planting within the current contract specification. 2. Committee to liaise with the Environment & Highways Committee and SLDC to express the desire to use the Castle grounds and Canal towpath for wild flower meadows. 3. That barrier baskets on railings outside the Citizens Advice Bureau be relocated to facilitate the ivy screening project.
331	Funding Request from Manna House	RES	Committee support the request in principle, but request a specific plan and detailed costings
332	Crocuses	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Janine to advise of the possible need to obtain permission from SLDC for planting on the roundabout outside Kirkbie Kendal School. 2. Bulbs supplied this year to be planted outside Kendal Cricket Club.
333	Ghyllside Planters	RES	Councillor Rowley to contact and discuss a way forward that might attract third party funding to match KTC funding.
335	Spend Against Budget 2020/21	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subgroup to be formed to discuss community projects strategy. Janine to organise a meeting via Zoom. 2. To provide financial support for the hedgehog homes community project in the sum of £150. Robert to be encouraged to become involved with the Committee. 3. Funding request from Manna House to be considered once detailed costings received.

336	2021/22 Budget	RES	To continue with the current financial year's budget for 2021/22.
337	AOB	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pierre to order compost as agreed.2. Councillor Rowley to discuss the planters at Noble Rest with Toni Yates.3. Janine to contact co-opted Members Lynne Oldham and Phil Walker.