

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the meeting of the Kendal in Bloom non-statutory Working Group held on Monday, 28 Ju 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	C Stuart (Horticare)	Not present
Cllr A Edwards	Absent	M Nicholson	Not present
Cllr C Hardy	Apologies	L Johnston (Kendal BID)	Apologies
Cllr C Rowley	Present	T Yates (Civic Society)	Present
Cllr R Sutton	Present*	P Walker	Not present

* arrived late

In attendance: Council Services Officer, Townscape Manager, Town Clerk

Also present: Cllrs E Hennessy (VC, Environment and Highways Committee), J Cornthwaite
J Rushworth (Local Democracy Reporter)
G Harrison
C Russell (Torchlight)

B1/21/22 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from L Johnston (Kendal BID)

B2/21/22 Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations were made.

B3/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

B4/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council received the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021. The Chair noted that he had inspected the planter on Sandgate, the tower planter and the display on Shap Road, and felt these issues were now resolved.

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

B5/21/22 Kendal Torchlight

Craig Russell gave an update on the Kendal Torchlight Festival for 2021, and its role in promoting a 'Green Gathering' in Kendal the same week. The Chair welcomed the development and hoped that Kendal in Bloom could be involved at any level appropriate.

Members asked how they could volunteer to assist in the programme, and how Kendal in Bloom could support it. It was noted that the next KiB meeting was scheduled for after the event, so there was no obvious opportunity to discuss it further, after this meeting. Craig shared various links for individuals to follow.

Resolved: That Kendal in Bloom offer whatever support it could to Green Week and Torchlight, and hoped to be more involved in subsequent years.

B6/21/22 Somervell Garden

The Council Services Officer explained how the Council's Environment and Highways Committee (E&H) had earmarked a grant for the planting of wild flowers in the grass lawns at Somervell Gardens. The Vice Chair of Environment and Highways confirmed that this was aimed at improving the biodiversity of the riverside area, and was the result of the Committee exploring grant-funding options to promote biodiversity. The Council Services Officer further explained that the Townscape Manager had agreed that the scheme could be supported within his workload, but that it was felt the continued management of the site should be through Kendal in Bloom Committee, rather than E&H. It was noted that the land was the subject of a licence from Cumbria County Council, which had now been renewed from a previous initiative dating back to 2008. The main threat to the planting of wildflowers was the mowing regime from Continental Landscapes.

Resolved: That Kendal in Bloom assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the site, once the capital work of planting was complete.

Resolved: That the Townscape Manager liaises with Continental Landscapes to ensure that the wildflower crop is cut at the right times and in the right way to enhance and promote the site's biodiversity.

B7/21/22 Kendal in Bloom and Cumbria in Bloom 2021

The Council Service Officer confirmed that Kendal in Bloom would continue to be low key this year due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. A Blooming Businesses scheme was launching on Facebook, and some of the civic planting was being augmented by lavender this year, to improve its bee-friendly credentials, and reduce the loss through annuals. Councillors asked if the Blooming Business scheme could also be promoted by handouts which they would distribute.

The Townscape Manager explained the current Horticulture planting colour scheme, which was softer than in previous years, with pastels to the fore.

The Council Services Officer proposed that several projects be submitted for In Your Neighbourhood judging, including schemes at Castle Higgs and Rinkfield allotments, Legendary Landscapes and Briary Meadows. It was thought that the Somervell Garden scheme would not qualify because it was a direct council initiative. It was suggested Nobles Rest planters might also be a good entrant. The Chair observed that the Subscription Bowling Club on East Banks might wish to be involved in future years.

The public were encouraged to submit samples of quirky planters.

Resolved: To note the report.

B8/21/22 Funding Criteria

The Committee considered a report from the Council Services Officer on the criteria for future grant funding. It was suggested that categories d) (the requirement for match funding) and b) (the requirement for measurable outcomes) be switched, so as to emphasise the importance of matching the council's support with funding from other sources.

Resolved: That the Criteria be adopted with these amendments.

B9/21/22 Newsletter

The Committee suggested longer term projects should be highlighted in the newsletter - the legendary landscapes, Rinkfield community allotment and the dedication of the Sandgate planters to the NHS.

B10/21/22 Review of Expenditure and Funding Requests

The Committee reviewed the expenditure against the budget so far and considered a number of requests for funding. The Rotary Club was seeking £450 plus additional delivery costs for 10,000 crocuses. It was suggested that the Townscape Manager liaise more directly with Continental Landscapes over the planting of the crocuses and daffodils which did not complement each other. There should also be an article in the Newsletter, or at least some publicity around the cause of the purple crocuses.

Resolved: To approve the request for £450 plus delivery cost.

There was a request from Sandgate School for two signs to accompany their planters, at £50 each

Resolved: To approve £100 for signs.

The Council Services Officer requested an allocation of £950 from the planting budget to allow her to assist the Townscape Manager in watering through the summer. Continental Landscapes had offered to supply this service.

Resolved: To approve this expenditure.

Manna House had requested £543 towards a variety of costs associated with their sensory garden, including £250 for a greenhouse. It was noted that the application did not include any mention of matched or additional funding from elsewhere.

Resolved: To offer up to £500 to support this project.

The meeting closed at 20.14.