

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 7pm in the Mintworks, Highgate, Kendal.

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present
Cllr A Edwards	Apologies	M Nicholson	Present
Cllr C Rowley	Present	T Yates (Civic Society)	Present
Cllr R Sutton	Present		
Cllr P Walker	Absent		

In attendance: Council Services Officer (Janine Holt), Townscape Manager (Pierre Labat), Town Clerk (Chris Bagshaw).

B35/21/22 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Edwards.

B36/21/22 Declarations of Interest

None

B37/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

B38/21/22 Notes of the Previous Meeting

The Committee received the notes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022. There was some confusion concerning the note relating to Hallgarth. It was re-written to reflect that Hallgarth Residents had provided a plan for the Committee's approval.

Resolved: To accept them as a true record, with this amendment.

B39/21/22 EA Beezon Fields Project

Lana Grindley from the Environment Agency was unable to give a presentation on their work at Beezon Fields due to political sensitivity during the pre-election period ('purdah'). She will present to a future meeting, after the May elections.

B40/21/22 Kendal in Bloom

The Council Services Officer updated the Committee on the plans for Kendal in Bloom. Torchlight had agreed to allow us to use their 'Scrapheap Legends' theme and this would be the focus of the schools competition. There will be a Front Gardens competition focussing on traditional planting and biodiversity, and also a Jubilee themed competition. Publicity posters were being prepared for these.

Permission for the bed on Aynam Road, by Weavers Court, had been given by the District Council and this would be planted in Jubilee colours on 5-6 May. The Townscape Officer confirmed that the bed opposite had already been planted with wildflowers surplus to need from Somervell Garden.

The Council Services Officer confirmed that judging dates could need to tie in with the meeting dates and the Jubilee. Entries could be by photograph.

Resolved: To note the report.

B41/21/22 Cumbria in Bloom

The Council Services Officer confirmed that an entry had been made in the Large Towns category for Cumbria in Bloom. Judging was expected in early July, by which time she will have compiled the necessary portfolio, including current pictures of displays from around the town. Special Awards this year were for Biodiversity, and a Woodland Copse, and members were asked to consider whether appropriate schemes existed which could be incorporated. It was noted that the Environment & Highways Committee was supporting a number of initiatives, particularly in Fellside, and that the Council Services Officer should liaise with the Town Council's Project Manager to get further details. Other schemes to include were the hedgehogs at Rinkfield, green waste and composting at Sedbergh Road and Nobles rest and the wetland scheme at Town View Field.

The Chair expressed a wish that the Council hosts a 'gathering' to celebrate Kendal in Bloom in the autumn, in the way that was the practice before Covid.

Resolved: To note the report, and seek a date for the gathering.

B42/21/22 Somervell Garden

The Townscape Manager updates the committee on the development of the wildflower planting at Somervell Garden. This was completed with a few rolls to spare which had been planted at Aynam Road. The Townscape manager will maintain both beds. There was some discussion about the prospect of a themed artistic garden at the rear of the site but it was suggested that more traditional planting was more appropriate. Any further planting would require a site visit.

Resolved: To note the report.

B43/21/22 Other Townscape Issues

The Townscape Manager reported that the tower planters which formerly went in front of the town hall were due for replanting. The Committee felt their current location on Blackhall Road was preferable. The planting outside the Town Hall would be confined to window boxes currently, though inquiries could be made to the District Council about the prospect of some trailing planting being possible – subject to access agreements being made.

Continental are no longer planting their hanging baskets and mangers immediately prior to deployment, but allowing them to grow a little longer in their containers, first. This should reduce damage to young plants and avoid the low-growth straggly stage of the planting. The majority of planting should be in place by 6 June. Primroses removed from existing beds would be composted appropriately.

There was some discussion about the Shap Road planters and whether they should be for colour or for edibles. It was noted that the leisure Centre edible bed was struggling, but that this was a matter for GLL. Some of the lavender at Noble's rest was damaged over winter and would require replanting.

The tidying up of Woolpack Yard with Welcome Back funding was complete, litter-picking was continuing to be successful, with Hallgarth residents particular effective.

Resolved: The Town Clerk to talk to SLDC about the possibility of planting on the front of the Town Hall.

Resolved: Shap Road planting to be a mix of herbs and colour.

Resolved: Nobles Rest lavender bed to be replanted for around £30.

Resolved: To note the report

Resolved: That the Townscape Manager has an agenda item for his report.

B44/21/22 Funding Requests

The Rotary Club has requested £500 to add 10,000 more crocuses to the town's displays. Following discussion, it was suggested that the impact is softened by the addition of daffodils in places. Advice on the work of the Flood Scheme would be required before any planting took place by the river.

Resolved: To grant £500 to the Rotary for crocuses.

Resolved: To allocate £50 for adding daffodils.

Resolved: To allocate an additional £50 for daffodils on Shap Road.

B45/21/22 Review of Spend against Budget

The Council Services Officer gave a brief account of expenditure so far, and year end figures from the previous year. A query was raised whether this included sufficient funds to expand the Windermere Road planting, where the E&H Committee was intending to renovate the railings. It was suggested that this could be done in a limited way this year.

Resolved: To obtain and plant four new troughs on Windermere Road railings, subject to site assessment and costing.

Resolved: To note the report

B46/21/22 Horticare

The Committee received a brief report on Horticare's planting around the town. There was discussion about the replating of the crest on Kirkland, but this was subject to ongoing work by the Environment Agency. This would have to be checked before any new planting commenced. There were very positive reports from the boundary bed planting, and more volunteers may be required to assist in due course.

Resolved: To note the report.

The meeting closed at 20.15