

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of the non-statutory working group meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at 7pm via Zoom.

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	Present
Cllr A Edwards	Apologies	M Nicholson	Present
Cllr C Hardy	Withdrawn	L Johnston (Kendal BID)	Resigned
Cllr C Rowley	Present	T Yates (Civic Society)	Apologies
Cllr R Sutton	Present	P Walker	Apologies

A member of the public, Terry Parr was invited to speak to agenda item B27/21/22

In attendance: Council Services Officer (Janine Holt), Townscape Manager (Pierre Labat), Democratic Services Assistant (Ian Gordon).

B25/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues.

B26/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021.

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

B27/21/22 Parks and Open Spaces

The chair has attended several meetings with the EA and Terry Parr concerning Chancery Gardens where the EA have plans to improve this area following on from flood defence work. This led to the notion of developing Gooseholme to improve the biodiversity of this predominantly grass only area. The Chair would like to see a statement outlining the Town Council's view of what could be achieved in terms of biodiversity in parks and open spaces. This would provide a helpful tool to influence SLDC (or their successor) in seeking to strengthen requests to improve open spaces and park areas in Kendal. Councillor Rowley reported that Natural Kendal is working in this area initially mapping open spaces in Kendal and as they are meeting next week, Councillor Rowley agreed to raise this with them. The Chair invited Terry Parr to speak on this in relation to Gooseholme. Mr Parr expressed his disappointment that although different groups considering changes to Gooseholme were being active, nevertheless there appears to be very little initiative related to improving biodiversity. The Council Services Officer made members aware that there was a subcommittee of E&H considering anti-social behaviour on Gooseholme and it was felt that liaising with this group would be beneficial.

From feedback received at the meeting, the Chair suggested he draft a text that could form a policy statement.

Draft – Aspirational Statement

In response to the recommendations of Kendal's Climate Jury and the Vision of Kendal Futures, KTC's Kendal in Bloom Committee aspires to see nature brought back into town through engagement and discussion with like-minded organisations and relevant

landowners, in order to encourage the use of imaginative and innovative planting initiatives including Trees, Shrubs, Perennial Pollinators and Wildflowers in areas of Kendal's Parks and Open Spaces.

Resolved: To note the aspirational statement.

B28/21/22 Ghyllside and Bankfield Residents Bid

The Committee considered the application made by Ghyllside and Bankfield Residents. The Council Services Officer reported that the match funding was below the level required by the Town Council. Councillors felt that the resident's use of time met the match level of funding and the award of a grant could go ahead. Some concern was raised about planting a tree and that it may grow too large especially if not maintained. It was suggested that a dwarf tree was used which can be an improvement on biodiversity.

Resolved: To agree to the funding of £555. The Committee advised that careful consideration should be given to the species of tree and the recommendation that a dwarf tree should be used.

B29/21/22 Hallgarth

Additional Item agreed by the Chair.

Hallgarth Residents have provided a plan which was viewed, immediately before the start of this meeting, with updated information on their bid as requested from the last meeting.

Resolved: To approve the match funding of £500 subject to them using peat free compost available from the Townscape Officer.

B30/21/22 Kendal in Bloom

The Committee approved the proposal of the KIB working group which had been previously circulated.

Members discussed honouring the Platinum Jubilee and the Council Services Officer suggested developing the unused bed on Aynam Road. Members supported this idea and it was agreed that the Council Services Officer will seek permission from the land owners to develop the bed.

Resolved: To approve the proposal to participate in Kendal in Bloom and speak to the Torchlight Carnival to seek their support in using the same theme as Torchlight.

Resolved: To seek permission to develop the unused bed on Aynam Road for the Platinum Jubilee.

B31/21/22 Cumbria in Bloom

The Committee considered whether to participate in Cumbria in Bloom for 2022 and they agreed to participate in the initiative.

Resolved: To participate in the 2022 Cumbria in Bloom initiative.

B31/21/22 Extension of Watering Service

The committee considered a request to extend the watering service to include all the civic planting and not just the hanging baskets. A price of £3,950 was quoted from Continental, representing an additional £3,000 expenditure. There was concern that this additional spend may fall outside of the budget for 2022/23 and may result in other areas being cut. The Council Services Officer believed funds could be found to support this change which would free up some of the Townscape Manager's time which would be important given the ambitious plans to extend the number of allotments in Kendal.

Recommendation: To refer the proposal to use Continental for watering services (subject to confirmation that this additional cost could be identified within the budget for 2022/23) to Management Committee to approve.

B32/21/22 Review of Spend against Budget

The Committee considered the spend against budget. The Chair asked if the remaining budget of £11,392 was likely to be spent. The Council Services Officer needs to clarify all the expenditure with the Finance Officer but reported that it was likely there will be an underspend this financial year.

Resolved: To note the report

B33/21/22 Funding Request for Replacement Planter

The committee considered a request from the Townscape Officer for an additional planter to be placed on Stramongate. Members suggested Right2Work supply the planter.

Resolved: To authorise the purchase and installation of an additional planter at the Herdy Shop in Stramongate. The cost is to be determined by the Townscape Officer and he will contact the Right2Work to see if they can construct a suitable planter.

B34/21/22 Other Discussion Items

The Working Group discussed a number of other issues of concern, with a view to bringing issues to future meetings for decisions, or enabling officers to make delegated decisions.

The Townscape Officer reported on the movement of planters and trees at Jennings Bridge. The Council Services Officer is currently working in partnership with the Environment Agency and Friends of Fletcher Park about the possible relocation in of the trees to Fletcher Park. It was agreed that the 4 tier planters could be moved to the grass verge near Asda as it was acknowledged that there is no planting at that end of town.

It was noted that Somervell Garden would be planted up with wildflower turf this spring, and this would make an interesting addition to the CiB portfolio. There was a discussion about possible fern planting at Somervell, it was suggested that £200 would cover the purchase cost of the ferns. The Council Services Officer requested she check the ownership of Somervell Garden before any further plans for expanding the planting in that area.

The meeting closed at 20.30