



**KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019 – 2020**

**MARCH 2020**

# CONTENTS

CONTENTS	Page	2
FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR OF KENDAL	Page	3
INTRODUCTION TO KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL	Page	5
YOUR COUNCILLORS 2019/20	Pages	6
ATTENDANCE RECORDS FOR COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES	Pages	8
COUNCIL OVERVIEW	Page	10
ALLOTMENTS	Page	11
AUDITS, GRANTS & CHARITIES	Page	12
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS	Page	14
ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS	Page	16
KENDAL IN BLOOM	Page	18
MANAGEMENT	Page	20
MAYORALTY & ARTS	Page	21
PLANNING	Page	22
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019	Page	23
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019	Page	24
DEVELOPMENT FUND – 2019/20 PAYMENTS	Page	25
AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019	Page	26

# FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR OF KENDAL

**CLlr Alvin Finch, The Mayor of Kendal 2019-2020**

I am very proud and happy to be the Mayor of Kendal for 2019/20. It has been a privilege to serve my community and to meet lots of new people from all walks of life, who I may not otherwise have encountered.

I would sincerely like to thank the following people for their help and support during my Mayoral year: My wife Lisa, my children Tania, Calvin, Elisha and Taylor, my father Brian, work colleagues at Cumbria County Council, Kendal Town Council staff members and my fellow Councillors. I would also like to thank the fantastic people of Kendal who have made me feel very welcome as their Mayor.

I've done my best to attend as many community events as possible and during this time I've been so impressed by how many people contribute in a positive way to improve the lives of others in our Town and beyond.

I am particularly proud of how our community continues to grow and work together, from sports teams, religious groups, charities and businesses to the people who bring fun and celebration to us through festivals and events.

Our community has fun and fantastic interests which have I have enjoyed seeing and being involved in. A highlight for me was being educated about bees on several visits to Heron Hill School and Jacqui Cottam's enthusiasm has encouraged me to become a beekeeper myself!

Another highlight was last November when I was invited to our Twin Town Rinteln to assist their Mayor in officially opening their Christmas Market. To anybody who has not visited this lovely part of Germany I would encourage you to do so. It has fantastic people, architecture and twinning events that you can get involved with. Many thanks must go to Roswitha Hoekstra and the Rinteln Twinning Committee who made me very welcome for my stay.

My choice of theme for my Mayoral year is 'Active Kendal' where my aim is to encourage people to be active both physically and mentally. Being 'Active' improves your sense of wellbeing, feeling of belonging and contributes to your personal growth. Our town has so much to offer, so much to see and so much to do with fantastic people to meet and I will continue to encourage everyone to get active and participate in any community events.

Of importance to me are the two charities that I am fundraising for this year:

Kendal People's Café & #TAG (Teenage Art Group).

Through my work as a Community Support Worker at Peatland House in Kendal and also the charity work I do in supporting the homeless, I have seen first-hand how these two charities are so beneficial to young and old.

#### Kendal People's Café:

The profile of the Kendal People's Café has been on the rise since winning the 'Wainwright Award' and also the 'Cumbria Life' magazine's 'Best Food Initiative Award' in 2018. Kendal People's Cafe served its first customers in March 2017. In the 2 years since then, it has prepared more than 5000 meals using food which would otherwise have been thrown away. It has turned waste into wellbeing.

Kendal People's Cafe, which now operates with South Lakeland Action on Climate Change, works with local supermarkets and wholesalers to rescue their unused food on a weekly basis. Other projects are growing alongside the café working with other charities and food retailers, for example with Kendal Parish Church, providing free lunches for children and their families during school holidays.

Kendal People's Cafe is helping Kendal not to waste. More important, by that same process, it is helping towards the wellbeing of our community. And that is what we as a Town Council are striving to achieve as well.

#### #TAG

#TAG is a group run by Space2Create aimed at teenagers. It is designed to use creative activity to boost mood, self-confidence, self-esteem and build resilience. It is committed to the belief that creative activity in a social and mutually supportive group has massive positive benefits to health and wellbeing.

TAG delivers weekly creative sessions aimed at teenagers in greatest need and they hope to expand upon this, to reach more vulnerable teenagers. They have years of experience in supporting those suffering long term mental or physical illness or any circumstances leading to isolation. Long waiting lists for psychological services leave teenagers with no support before they are seen. #TAG is intended to help fill that gap.

It has been a privilege to support these charities and to help raise the awareness of the outstanding and important work they both do.

Being the Mayor of Kendal has been such a brilliant experience and such an honour that I am sad my Mayoral year is coming to an end. I've enjoyed it so much and it's been a wonderful year. I hope that in the future I get the opportunity to serve the wonderful people of Kendal again as their Town Mayor.

# INTRODUCTION TO KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

The Kendal Town Council serves a community of approximately 30,000 residents (23,000 electorate). It consists of twenty eight Councillors elected for a term of 4 years. The Councillors elected in 2018 will hold office until May 2022.

Meetings of the Council are held in The District Council Chamber at the Town Hall on the first Monday of every month (except where there is a Bank Holiday) at 7.30pm and the public are welcome to attend. Public Participation is held at the start of the meeting and members of the public wishing to speak to Council are requested to give prior written notice to the Town Clerk. Planning Committee meetings are held fortnightly on Monday evenings. The majority of other Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis. Please consult the Town Council's Calendar of Meetings produced monthly for details. Again members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Council Offices based at Kendal Town Hall are open to the public from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Town Clerk is Mrs Liz Richardson, who with her Town Treasurer, Mrs Judith Lomax; Assistant to the Town Clerk, Mrs Janine Holt; Project Manager, Ms Helen Moriarty; Project Officer & Mayor's Attendant, Simon Unsworth and Administrative Assistant, Mrs Flo McMahon provide the day to day running of the Council. The Town Council's Christmas lights, allotments and bloom displays are looked after by the Townscape Manager Pierre Labat. There is also a Council Secretary Ms Nicky King. All staff, with the exception of the Townscape Manager, are part-time.

Kendal Town Council offers the following from its Offices in the Town Hall:-

Bookings for the Mayor and Mayor's Parlour.

Allotments administration and information and advice on Kendal in Bloom.

Information and advice on Council functions (and those of the higher tier Authorities South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council).

You can contact the Council at:

Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 4DL

Tel 01539 793490 (outside opening hours please leave a message on the ansaphone)

E mail – [office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)

Website – [www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)

## YOUR COUNCILLORS 2019/20

COUNCILLOR NAME	PARTY	WARD	TELEPHONE NUMBER
The Mayor of Kendal Cllr Alvin Finch	Liberal Democrats	Kirkland SLDC Councillor – Kendal West	01539 735505
The Deputy Mayor Cllr Douglas Rathbone	Liberal Democrats	Heron Hill SLDC Councillor - Kendal South & Natland	07505503965
Cllr Giles Archibald	Liberal Democrats	Fell SLDC Councillor – Kendal Town and Leader of SLDC	07415000765
Cllr Tina Becker	Liberal Democrats	Stonecross	07455178493
Cllr Andy Blackman	Liberal Democrats	Heron Hill	01539 724712
Cllr Jonathan Brook	Liberal Democrats	Heron Hill SLDC Councillor – Kendal South & Natland	01539 722540
Cllr Stephen Coleman	Liberal Democrats	Strickland SLDC Councillor – Kendal North and Chair of SLDC	01539 729049
Cllr Geoffrey Cook	Liberal Democrats	Highgate CCC Councillor - Kendal Highgate	01539 740133
Cllr Jonathan Cornthwaite	Liberal Democrats	Mintsfeet	01539 728428
Cllr Julia Dunlop	Liberal Democrats	Mintsfeet	01539 723365
Cllr Adam Edwards	Liberal Democrats	Nether	01539 730810
Cllr Shirley Evans	Liberal Democrats	Nether CCC Councillor – Kendal Nether	01539 737068
Cllr Pat Gibson	Liberal Democrats	Fell	01539 295080
Cllr Carol Hardy	Liberal Democrats	Nether	01539 723237

<b>COUNCILLOR NAME</b>	<b>PARTY</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER</b>
Cllr Eamonn Hennessy	Liberal Democrats	Castle SLD Councillor – Kendal East	07587054482
Cllr Chris Hogg	Liberal Democrats	Heron Hill SLDC Councillor – Kendal South & Natland CCC Councillor - Kendal Castle	01539 583759
Cllr Rachael Hogg	Liberal Democrats	Castle SLDC Councillor – Kendal East	01539 583759
Cllr Helen Ladhams	Liberal Democrats	Nether SLDC Councillor – Kendal East	01539 728158
Cllr Susanne Long	Liberal Democrats	Stonecross SLDC Councillor - Kendal West	07730 300939
Cllr David Miles	Liberal Democrats	Highgate	01539 241116
Cllr Michelle Miles	Liberal Democrats	Kirkland	01539 241116
Cllr Jonathan Owen	Liberal Democrats	Strickland SLDC Councillor - Kendal North	07917190991
Cllr Chris Rowley	Green Party	Strickland	01539 732556
Cllr Matthew Severn	Liberal Democrats	Kirkland SLDC Councillor - Kendal West	07794858017
Cllr Kate Simpson *	Liberal Democrats	Strickland	07470403694
Cllr Richard Sutton	Liberal Democrats	Kirkland	01539 733453
Cllr Guy Tirvengadam	Liberal Democrats	Oxenholme	07778564563
Cllr Graham Vincent	Independent	Stonecross	01539 725402

SLDC – South Lakeland District Council

CCC – Cumbria County Council

\* – Councillor co-opted 02/03/2020

# ATTENDANCE RECORD 2019/2020 OF COUNCILLORS AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE SHOWN FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN MAY 2019 (WHEN THE NEW MAYOR IS ELECTED) AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM JUNE 2019 (COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE DETERMINED AT THE JUNE COUNCIL EACH YEAR).

COUNCILLOR	ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS			
	Number of Council Meetings Attended	Total Number of Council Meetings	Number of Committee Meetings Attended	Total Number of Committee Meetings
The Mayor of Kendal Cllr Alvin Finch	11	11	8	15
The Deputy Mayor Cllr Douglas Rathbone	11	11	23	32
Cllr Giles Archibald	8	11	5	7
Cllr Tina Becker	7	11	2	3
Cllr Andy Blackman	9	11	11	12
Cllr Jonathan Brook	9	11	3	3
Cllr Stephen Coleman	9	11	10	12
Cllr Geoffrey Cook	10	11	11	13
Cllr Jonathan Cornthwaite	11	11	18	21
Cllr Julia Dunlop	9	11	8	10
Cllr Adam Edwards	8	11	8	10
Cllr Shirley Evans	11	11	14	16
Cllr Pat Gibson	7	11	16	23
Cllr Carol Hardy	4	11	1	6



COUNCILLOR	ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS			
	Number of Council Meetings Attended	Total Number of Council Meetings	Number of Committee Meetings Attended	Total Number of Committee Meetings
Clr Eamonn Hennessy	9	11	4	4
Clr Chris Hogg	6	11	4	6
Clr Rachael Hogg	5	11	1	3
Clr Helen Ladhams	9	11	17	18
Clr Susanne Long	7	11	7	13
Clr David Miles	10	11	18	20
Clr Michelle Miles	11	11	19	20
Clr Jonathan Owen	6	11	7	13
Clr Chris Rowley	9	11	20	24
Clr Matthew Severn	4	11	1	3
Clr Richard Sutton	9	11	5	6
Clr Guy Tirvengadam	6	11	4	12
Clr Graham Vincent	7	11	13	20

# COUNCIL OVERVIEW

## **Cllr Stephen Coleman, Chair of Management Committee**

Kendal Town Council represents a population just under 30,000 people (approximately a third of the population of South Lakeland District Council and indeed the largest settlement within the district). The Town Council has retained most of its traditions and works with other tiers of government and local organisations on behalf of the residents of Kendal. All of its meetings are open to the public, the dates of which are posted on the Town Council's website and notice-board adjacent to the Town Hall office.

The majority of the work is carried out within Committees:

- The Management Committee
- The Audit Grants and Charities Committee
- The Allotments Committee
- The Kendal in Bloom Committee
- The Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee
- The Environment and Highways Committee
- The Mayoralty and Arts Committee
- The Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee is the only Committee which has delegated powers, the remaining Committees discuss and then make recommendations to Full Council for decisions to be made by all Councillors. All Councillors are provided with all Committee agendas and encouraged to attend and comment on items, if they so wish. Recommendations from each of the Committees are taken to Full Council on the first working Monday of every month.

The Council works in partnership with the other two tiers of local government (South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council), and with other organisations such as the Kendal Civic Society and Cumbria Association of Local Councils in order to deliver services more effectively for the local community. We look forward in the future to taking on wider responsibilities.

Kendal Town Council has supported Kendal Futures financially with its work, and we hope to see this relationship developing even further over the coming years. A representative from the Town Council attends the BID (Business Improvement District) monthly board meetings and the Council is very keen to continue to work with the BID to support the economic vibrancy of the town.

We support a range of organisations through grants and often our financial support helps to demonstrate local commitment, leveraging more funding from other funders. A number of festivals and events in Kendal are supported financially. Through our Development Fund the Council also supports one off projects as well as more long-term ones, further details of which are included in this Annual Report.

# ALLOTMENTS

**Cllr Alvin Finch, Chair**

The principal function of the Allotments Committee is to administer, with the help of the Town Council officers and staff, the maintenance, improvement and use of the Town Council statutory allotment sites and those managed on behalf of South Lakeland District Council. The Committee is also aided by several co-opted members drawn from our site representatives who give assistance with day to day problems and advice to plot holders and our allotments officer.

This year we have faced some challenges. We have encountered an unprecedented number of rabbits on allotments, and one site in particular has been over-run. This is very disappointing for our allotmenters who take great pride in their plots - to return to your plot and find all your produce eaten is very disheartening. We have also faced a rise in anti-social behaviour and trespassing on one particular site and we are working with the local police and allotment holders to find a solution to the problem.

On a positive note, we have started to improve our sites, working towards bringing each site up to a minimum standard. This programme of works is being over-seen by the Allotments Committee with the Townscape Manager as lead co-ordinator.

This is the first full year of using the specialised allotments database and it has definitely improved the service we provide, making it much easier to extract information and to monitor waiting lists. The annual newsletter and invoices were circulated as always in December. This year has seen the highest number of invoices and information being circulated electronically and we will continue to strive towards a paperless system.

Once again, this year the waiting list was manageable, mainly due to what appears to be annual plot relinquishments following the new seasons rent invoices. There does seem to be an upsurge in interest in allotments over the last year. The Committee agreed not to increase the rent this year.

In the future, the Committee want to continue to focus on improving the current sites and also adopting a biodiverse approach to allotment management. Historically we have only encouraged tidy, traditional looking allotment plots. The Committee have acknowledged that this view is probably outdated and would like to encourage biodiversity, if the Tenant is interested. A small working group has been developed to look at biodiversity on allotments.

The Committee and Officers, continue to do their best on behalf of current and future tenants to provide good workable plots for their gardening ambitions.

# AUDIT, GRANTS & CHARITIES

Cllr Matthew Severn, Chair

The Audit, Grants & Charities Committee meets quarterly to carry out its principal tasks which are:

- To appoint the Internal Auditors, to receive the Internal and External Auditors' reports and to ensure that their recommendations are implemented.
- To receive quarterly and annual budgetary control statements for the Council and to monitor the financial performance of each of the Council Committees.
- To review the Council's Risk Assessments.
- To oversee and make recommendations to Council on its investments.
- To consider and make recommendations on all general grant applications received by the Council according to the criteria we have developed.
- To review the accounts of the Schools of Art & Science Charity and consider all applications for assistance from it and make recommendations to Town Councillors.

The Auditors' reports have stated that the Council's governance arrangements are sound, we are in a good financial position and they have not made any recommendations for improvements or changes this year which reflects the hard work of our Treasurer and the financial awareness of our Councillors.

This year the Council has made £38,490 worth of grants available to a wide variety of local causes and worthy charities. This is one of the most important roles of the Council and helps us to safeguard, develop and improve the town and community in which we live. The Committee gives grants to enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents and to enhance the town fabric itself including activities for young people and cultural events in addition to charities and similar worthy causes.

This list of general grants paid out to date in 2019/20 can be found on the next page.

I would like to thank all the Councillors and staff involved with the Committee for all their hard work over the year.

**TABLE SHOWING THE RECIPIENTS OF GRANT AWARDS FY 2019/20 (as at 31/12/2019)**

**Awarded for 2019/20 - paid in Financial Year 2018/19**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
South Lakes Citizens Advice Bureau	5,000
The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,000</b>

**Awarded for 2019/20 - paid Financial Year 2019/20**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Kendal Scouts	500
Abbot Hall Public Bowling Club	50
Brewery Arts Centre	10,000
Dance Ability	100
Fairoak Housing Association	500
Great North Air Ambulance	750
Growing Well	500
Kendal & South Lakes Centre for Independent Living – One Voice	1,500
Kendal Air Training Corps – 1127 Squadron	1,000
Kendal Community Theatre	500
Kendal Lads & Girls Club	450
Kendal Millennium Playing Fields	500
Manna House	3,000
North West Air Ambulance	750
Outside-In	2,000
Right2Work	290
Riversiders Trust	750
South Cumbria Breastfeeding Support Group	1,000
South Lakeland Equality & Diversity Partnership	100
South Lakeland Hydrotherapy Pool	3,000
The Birchall Trust	750
The Lakeland Arts Trust – Abbot Hall	3,000
With Singing in Mind	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£31,490</b>

# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & FESTIVALS

**Cllr Shirley Evans, Chair**

Kendal Town Council's Christmas Lights and Festivals Committee aims to support, sustain and, where possible, enhance the many events and festivals which make Kendal such an enjoyable and vibrant place to live.

I would like to thank all my fellow Committee members for their hard work and support in making some difficult decisions this year.

Despite even more challenges than last year we were still able to hold a Christmas Lights Switch On event. A huge 'thank you' must go to Kendal Lions who provided an escort and transport for our very special guest, Father Christmas. He delighted all the children and families as he listened to their hopes and wishes for a Happy Christmas. Also, as always, our very own Town Crier kept things moving along.

Thanks to our wonderful performers from the Sea Cadets, Stagecoach, the Riversiders and Kendal Concert Band. They kept families entertained despite the increasingly wet weather.

The New Union pub served up some delicious and vitally warming mulled wine and Morrisons provided some scrumptious mince pies. Thanks to everyone's generosity, nearly £300 was raised for the Mayor's two charities, The People's Café and TAG (Teenage Art Group).

As promised, we were able to enhance our Christmas lights with some new motifs in the centre of Kendal and, very importantly, motifs and extra lights in Wildman Street and lights in the trees at Kendal Museum. This is an important area for Kendal as it is the gateway to our town for anyone arriving from a northerly direction or by train. We hope it helped to create a colourful and welcoming impression of Kendal.

We always value feedback from our residents and, with this in mind, we shall be seeing how we can enhance the decorations on our Christmas tree in 2020.

Many of our festivals are going from strength to strength, thanks to the dedication and commitment of many, many volunteers who are such a huge part of what makes Kendal such a fantastic place to live. Do get involved as more volunteers are always needed. You will have such fun and maybe you too will, for example, see your handiwork shine in the Torchlight parade, your charity benefit from representation at the Unity Festival or the Christmas Tree Festival, or just know that you have contributed to the enjoyment of your family and friends as they experience all that Kendal has to offer.

If you have any ideas for new events or festivals, please come and talk to us. While we know that we shall have to spend some of our budget on repairing and improving the infrastructure for our Christmas lights, we are always ready to listen to your suggestions. We are already looking to develop an Easter Egg Trail which will give us a lovely Spring event.

I would like to thank Janine Holt, Assistant to the Town Clerk, for all her hard work this year and also Stacey Hurley, our temporary Project Manager, who was so important in drawing everything together for the Christmas Lights Switch On.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020, including a special anniversary for Kendal Mountain Festival and Torchlight. We shall be working hard to make 2020 an exciting, fun packed and fascinating year for Kendal.

**TABLE SHOWING THE RECIPIENTS OF FESTIVAL GRANT AWARDS FY 2019/20**

**(as at 31/12/2019)**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
AWAZ Cumbria – Kendal Unity Festival	2,000
Christmas Tree Festival – Kendal Parish Church	500
Comic Art – Lakes Arts Festivals	5,000
Kendal Mountain Festival	5,000
Kendal Torchlight Procession	5,000
Kendal Windows on Art	750
Kendal Wool Gathering	2,500
Lakes Alive – Lake District National Parks Authority	5,000
Mary Wakefield Festival	500
Winter Festival – Kendal Rugby Union Football Club (incorporating Fireworks)	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27,750</b>

# ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS

Cllr Jonathan Owen, Chair

It is the aim of the Environment & Highways Committee to support environmental and highways initiatives that benefit and improve our town. Where improvements are required and agreed by the Committee, our Project Officer delivers the actions associated with those projects.

Example of some of the diverse range of projects that the Committee have been involved with over the past year are as follows:

- **Woolpack Yard.** Following on from the works carried out previously to improve the overall look of the Yard, the Project Officer has engaged with building contractors, businesses and Cumbria County Council to enhance the area further. CCC Highways have reinstated the bollards to eliminate through-traffic and have carried out ground works to repair broken paving and drainage channels. Advertising consent has been granted by SLDC for a signage project to promote the businesses and heritage of the Yard. The new sign is due to be erected in spring 2020.
- **Asset Enhancements.** This Committee is responsible for the maintenance of Kendal Town Council owned street furniture and the purchase and installation of new infrastructure. This year, new handrails have been installed based on resident requests; existing handrails, railings and benches have undergone maintenance and enhancements; and schedules have been prepared to continue this work on an ongoing basis.
- **Kendal Castle Directional Signage.** We have carried out an audit of signage directing visitors to Kendal Castle's numerous entrances. New signs, complementing the Kendal brand and the Castle's interpretation boards, have replaced the existing tired signage. Additional signs have been added on routes where wayfinding was seen to be incomplete.
- **Kendal Green Wall.** Based on new scientific data available nationally, Kendal Town Council took the decision to review the green wall project prior to commencement. Due to concerns regarding the level of positive environmental impact the approved location would provide, the Committee have investigated alternative projects that could provide greater results for the budget. Working with CCC, SLDC and external contractors, a pilot ivy screening project has been developed. Various roadside railings have been identified as potential sites and it is hoped installation will be completed in spring 2020. The impact will be measured to assist with future project planning.
- **Carbon Neutrality.** A sub-group of this Committee was set up to progress the Town Council's aim for achieving carbon neutrality for Kendal. The group were advised by Professors Mike Berners-Lee and Rebecca Willis that a Citizens' Jury would be an effective way of informing the change that is needed. As such, KTC intend to organise the UK's first ever Climate Change Citizens' Jury at town level. The Committee has received funding from partner organisations and a



crowdfunding campaign offered an opportunity for the area's residents and businesses to support.

- Kendal Promotion. This Committee is responsible for working with partners, including Kendal Futures, to promote the town to visitors. We do this predominantly through the Visit-Kendal website and the Kendal leaflet series. This year has seen developments to the website and the leaflets, and a reprint of the leaflets is now in circulation.
- Active Travel. A sub-group of this Committee was set up to consider opportunities for the town to encourage more walking and cycling, and to tackle some of the obstacles currently inhibiting a growth in active travel. The sub-group is made up of Councillors and individuals from the community which, alongside a Town Council Officer, has represented KTC at a Countywide active travel working group. The aim is to encourage a joined-up approach to enhancing the town's active travel infrastructure.
- Bus Users Infrastructure. Funding has been approved to carry out repair works to the Castle Drive bus shelter, to enhance the hardstanding area around the Burton Road bus shelter and to install a bench at a bus stop on Wattsfield Road. This is part of KTC's aims to improve facilities for bus users.
- Planter Cladding. KTC has contracted a local joinery firm to clad the plastic tree planters in the town centre. The aim is to enhance the overall look of the town's planting scheme. Installation is expected by summer 2020.

# KENDAL IN BLOOM

**Cllr Andy Blackman, Chair**

The Kendal in Bloom Committee benefits annually by having the results of its endeavours, and those of the local community that supports it, being put under the microscope of the Cumbria-in-Bloom judges. In doing so we receive an objective judgement of the community's efforts to enhance the appearance of the town through the numerous horticultural and environmental initiatives taking place.

Following successive years during which we have been awarded 'Silver Gilt' awards, we can proudly report that 2019 saw us attain a Gold award. Following this success, we have been informed by Cumbria-in-Bloom that Kendal will be nominated to represent Cumbria in the Britain-in-Bloom competitions in the near future, most likely 2021.

In terms of the scores the judges gave us, they were:

Horticulture 34/40.

Environment 27/30.

Community 27/30.

Total 88/100.

So what was it that so impressed the judges? Here are extracts from their report:

## **Overall Impression:-**

Kendal's entry this year looked comprehensively good wherever we looked. The town has lots of different areas and we were impressed by the variety of displays and gardening activity in the widest sense. When moving around the town the contribution of all sorts of residential gardening was great and convinced us that Kendal's residents have pride in their surroundings.

The street scene was clean and vibrant while many pretty yards, nooks and alleys so typical of Kendal all showed very high standards. Many pubs and commercial premises were contributing to this – The Shakespeare pub's displays on Highgate was noticeable.

It was apparent that there is great awareness of the value of horticulture and looking after the environment throughout the community. Visiting Heron Hill school and Horticare were strong examples of this. Heron Hill's school activities are also encouraging and valuing wildlife. Some of many individual locations that will remain in our memories and in no particular order are The Old Brewery gardens, the Unitarian Church garden and Castle Green Hotel grounds.

## **Specific Feedback:-**

### **Horticulture.**

Of note is the development of the Fern Trail where the story of the amazing, and historical, fern garden at Serpentine Wood is being represented to the public in planters at each end of the main central routes.

One (residential garden) close to Fletcher Park, a delightful wooded town park, really caught the eye with a vibrant, packed display.

### **Environment.**

The town as shown was weed-free (although one or two alleyway entrances could have been better) and there was no evidence of graffiti, litter or general untidiness. Street furniture was excellently maintained.

### **Community.**

Many groups and bodies thrive in Kendal. Kendal Conservation Volunteers, Fellside Forum, North West Group of Pteridological (ferns) Society, are active in keeping history and events relevant for today and promoting what can be done to improve life in Kendal.

Anyone wishing to see a complete copy of the report should enquire at the Town Council Office.

So it was with immense gratitude that we attempted to recognise the achievements of the many organisations, groups and bodies that contributed in their different ways to the success of our Bloom campaign through our Kendal-in-Bloom Presentation Evening in September. Over 100 people attended this joyous occasion as school children, allotment holders, residential gardeners, community horticulturalists, business representatives and litter pickers alike received certificates in appreciation of their contributions to Bloom 2019. This followed a talk by Terry Parr, our resident 'fern' expert, on the Legendary Landscape Trail being established in the town inspired by the legacy of George Whitwell. As Superintendent of Serpentine Woods, living at Serpentine Cottage from 1875 to 1924, and as a founding member and Hon Secretary of the Northern British Pteridological Society, George developed his own collection of ferns in his garden next to his home.

In the context of this report it is important to echo the appreciation of all those in our community, as well as our sponsors, Gilkes, Cumberland Building Society, Lake District Estates, Boyes, Castle Green Hotel and South Lakeland District Council, who either 'in kind' or financially helped to make Kendal in Bloom 2019 such a successful enterprise.

So what are we planning for 2020, especially as we prepare for the possibility of being Cumbria's representative to Britain-In-Bloom in the near future? The short and comprehensive answer is to consolidate and build on the success of this year. We hope to do this by:

- Encouraging the continuity and development of the various successful community initiatives around the town.
- Developing more sustainable Civic planting, through the use of Perennials, alongside and amongst the fullness of bloom that Annuals produce.
- Initiating, developing and promoting a 'Kendal Nature Trail' that highlights the richness of biodiversity that exists within Kendal's immediate environs.

In doing so we hope the outworking of Kendal-in-Bloom contributes significantly to the attractiveness of our Town for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and appreciate thereby contributing to their personal well-being and the economic well-being of the town.

# MANAGEMENT

**Cllr Stephen Coleman, Chair**

The Management Committee meets once a month. This reflects its role in managing the “day to day” governance of the Council. Membership is drawn mainly from Chairs of Committees and provides a discussion forum for new ideas and strategic planning. This includes a more detailed review of the budget process, where development ideas from all Committees are ranked and discussed before they are presented at Full Council. The Committee has been proactive in keeping under review and implementing the various projects included in the Kendal Action Plan, which has included for example the continued management, with Kendal Futures Board, of the website to promote the town.

The Committee has continued to keep a roving eye on issues related to the previous flooding in Kendal and measures to prevent future flooding. We have been very involved in working with the Environment Agency on their Flood Relief Scheme. The focus more recently has been ensuring that the approved plans provide the best long-term solutions for Kendal, that will maximise the views and benefits for the River Kent running through our town.

We have continued to support the provision of Tourist Information services in our Town, through the work of Fantastic Kendal that is located on Finkle Street. To continue in the longer-term volunteers are needed to provide this excellent service for those visiting Kendal. We would encourage all Kendal residents to call in to see what they do and to consider helping its continued success.

In supporting and ensuring the efficient and effective running of the Council, the Committee is also the place in our Council where staffing issues are discussed. Our staff are very important to us and we do take a long time carefully considering any staffing issues. We are aware that as our Council grows in its aspirations, this puts more pressure on our staff. In 2020/21 it is our aim to bring in some new structures to the Council to make our work more effective and to ensure that we have a staffing structure that allows staff more time to carry out their work rather than being stuck in meetings.

# MAYORALTY & ARTS

**Cllr Alvin Finch, Chair**

The Mayoralty & Arts Committee meet quarterly and the current membership for 2019/20 is: Councillors Alvin Finch (Chair & Mayor), Chris Hogg (Vice-Chair), Jonathan Brook, Pat Gibson, Richard Sutton, Julia Dunlop, Guy Tirvengadam, Geoff Cook and Doug Rathbone (Deputy Mayor). Supported by Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Simon Unsworth (Mayor's Attendant) and Nicky King (Council Secretary).

Sadly, our Vice-Chair for many years Councillor Paul Bramham passed away in November. His knowledge of Kendal and his valuable input to this Committee will be sorely missed.

The main functions of the Committee are to look after Mayoralty, Mayor's Parlour presentations, ceremonies, civic occasions, Town Council's artefact collection, collection and retention policy, display and storage of our heritage. We also give a grant to Kendal Museum to support improvements to the display of their collections.

Conservation of our collection continues, such as a specially made storage box for Katherine Parr's Book of Devotions in the Mayor's Parlour and an insurance valuation exercise for the silver collection.

The Duke of Lancaster Regiment were formally awarded the Freedom of Kendal during their Regimental parade through Kendal in March 2019. This was a well-deserved recognition for the great service they have given and continue to give.

The Mayor's Parlour continues to be used for a variety of functions. Committee meetings are held in the room and I have had the pleasure of hosting a number of groups of visitors from both home and abroad, often with Simon Unsworth where he talks about the artefacts in the Parlour and the history of Kendal. If you are interested in taking part in a tour of the Mayor's Parlour do get in touch with Simon via the main office.

I visited our Twin Town Rinteln in Germany in November to the opening of the Christmas market and a Civic reception by the Mayor of Rinteln. A group from Rinteln visited Kendal College during September and attended the Torchlight event and K Shoes Male Voice Choir visited Rinteln in August for their music festival. Other activities are planned for 2020/21. It is great to see a strong partnership with both our Town's and a strong desire for this to continue, spearheaded by the Kendal-Rinteln Association.

Finally, may I thank the members of the Committee for their valuable contribution throughout the past year and the Council staff for their support.

# PLANNING

**Cllr Doug Rathbone, Chair**

KTC's Planning Committee considers planning matters within the town boundaries referred to the Council by the Local Planning Authorities (usually SLDC) & sometimes by statutory undertakers (e.g. for a sub-station, as we had this year), communications infrastructure or by others (e.g. DEFRA).

KTC is a statutory consultee in planning matters, which means that it does not have statutory powers itself but its views have to be taken into account by SLDC when they make their decisions. We cannot just agree with or dismiss an application as we like, as it has to follow central government legislation on what are "material" planning considerations. An opposition has to be on strictly outlined legal reasons. SLDC also has to be seen to have looked to help any developer over any obstacles it can, within its overall policy. All this is also the case for any Appeals that have been made to the Planning Inspectorate regarding a decision by SLDC. We had one large Appeal this year, with the Natland Mill Beck Lane application; the decision being upheld after SLDC refused and KTC Planning opposed it.

The Committee meets twice a month because of a 21 day deadline for replies, so it has full delegated authority to make these comments officially on behalf of the Council. Our comments form part of SLDC's Planning Officer's own delegated decision or their report to their SLDC Planning Committee.

The larger applications can add up to hundreds of documents. In practice, though, most applications considered are for small scale development. We look for their significant effect on the neighbourhood and Kendal as a whole, trying to take a nuanced approach to it all, treating every application on its merits.

The Committee strongly welcomes representations from members of the public, Town Councillors or developers at our meetings (as well as on the SLDC applications portal). We also pay close attention to those residents' comments already submitted to the SLDC portal. As always, this year there have been several individuals speaking at Committee on specific planning applications. These range from large developments, through amendments to those developments, to individual properties.

The Planning Committee set up a Flood Relief Working Group this year, which reports to it, to work to improve any plans to do with Kendal flood relief that come from the Environment Agency (EA). Whilst we do not have any statutory powers in planning and the EA are the organising and planning institution for this application, we have attempted to suggest improvements in the plans for the centre of Kendal as well as upstream, including walkways and public areas. To this end the working group has met extensively with the EA, who are the ultimate decision makers in this plan. This group has also been instrumental in attempting to raise or release certain additional funds to enable this to be done.

Again, I'd like to thank all the Committee's members. We meet far more frequently than any other Committee, often have a great deal of paperwork to get through with tight deadlines and don't have the benefit of professional planning officers.

# AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2018/2019

## KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

### Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2019

	2019			2018	
	£	£		£	£
<b>Investments</b>		238,398.58			256,331
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	5,647.30			32,302	
Deposits	50.00			50	
Prepayments	2,218.25			2,345	
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>25,091.44</u>			<u>25,147</u>	
		33,006.99			59,845
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors	29,344.45			16,494	
Receipts in Advance	<u>16,351.76</u>			<u>16,153</u>	
		45,696.21			32,647
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>(12,689.22)</u>			<u>27,198</u>
		225,709.36			283,529
<b>Represented by:</b>					
<b>Reserves</b>					
Development Fund		57,628.20			130,737
Allotments		73,111.79			71,996
Arts & Heritage		5,644.73			5,193
Community Infrastructure Levy		12,166.89			3,958
Election		10,000.04			7,500
Environment		1,637.85			2,394
Wainwright		<u>11,508.31</u>			<u>11,628</u>
		171,697.81			233,407
General Fund					
Working Balance		54,011.55			50,122
		<u>225,709.36</u>			<u>283,529</u>

The above statement represents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Town Council as at 31st March 2019 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year then ended.

Approved by the Town Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Income and Expenditure Account

**Year Ended 31st March 2019**

INCOME	2018/19		2017/18	
	£	£	£	£
Precepts		376,232.64		359,526.01
SLDC Grant		30,148.62		29,880.30
Interest on Investments	3,682.95		3,523.84	
Allotment Rents	22,186.99		21,608.54	
Community Infrastructure Levy	8,208.85		3,311.85	
Miscellaneous	0.00	34,078.79	91.75	28,535.98
<b>Total Income</b>		440,460.05		417,942.29
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>General Administration</b>				
Staff (including travel & training)	96,919.45		86,231.73	
Premises	16,360.06		15,898.31	
Supplies & Services	5,290.52		4,819.86	
Audit, Insurance & Subscriptions	9,764.71		9,824.89	
Elections	-		1,455.14	
Newsletter, IT & Website	15,033.80		11,280.18	
Miscellaneous	9,916.12	153,284.66	2,322.49	131,832.60
<b>Civic Functions</b>				
Staffing	17,941.00		9,087.00	
Mayor's Allowance	5,148.67		5,093.00	
Mayor's Travel	213.04		147.27	
Functions	6,950.70		4,709.24	
Twinning Expenses	1,519.92	31,773.33	1,930.57	20,967.08
<b>Arts &amp; Heritage</b>				
Restoration of Heritage Items	1,548.67		2,678.14	
Exhibitions	172.45		-	
Kendal Museum	2,000.00	3,721.12	2,000.00	4,134.50
<b>Allotments</b>				
Staffing	19,456.00		14,824.00	
General Expenses	11,938.96	31,394.96	9,644.45	24,468.45
<b>Kendal Betterment Schemes</b>				
Bloom Activities	36,682.38		39,748.81	
Christmas Lights	33,923.99		23,137.58	
General Grants	35,395.00		35,955.94	
Festival Grants	27,306.21		34,760.00	
Environment & Highways	24,738.49		33,534.30	
Action Plan Schemes	119,759.06	277,805.13	62,461.17	229,597.80
<b>Wainwright Award</b>				
		300.00		320.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		498,279.20		411,320.43



## DEVELOPMENT FUND – 2019/20 PAYMENTS

1 APRIL – 31 DECEMBER 2019

<b>Action Plan for Kendal:</b>	<b>£</b>
Leaflet Reprint	229
<b>Kendal Futures Funding:</b>	
Support for Co-ordinator	7,750
Delivering the Action Plan – Kendal Futures Projects	3,500
<b>Tourism Support in Kendal:</b>	
Kendal Destination Website support (funded by Kendal Futures)	2,800
Support for Kendal TiC (Fantastic Kendal)	5,000
<b>Green Spaces Improvement Projects:</b>	
Fletcher Park Enhancements	500
South Lakeland Action for Climate Change – Pollinator Project	1,900
Kendal Castle Directional Signage (Community Infrastructure Levy)	2,185
<b>Other Schemes:</b>	
Hallgarth Youth Project Play Area	6,993
Christmas Lights on Wildman Street	1,518
Woolpack Yard Signage (Community Infrastructure Levy)	374
Additional Staffing Budget	849
Kendal in Bloom Community Budget (additional funding)	2,000
Grants Budget (additional funding)	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,598</b>
<b>COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£2,437</b>
<b>(Total received to date £14,604; Expenditure to date £2,559)</b>	





