**INTRODUCTION to KENDAL and its TOWN COUNCIL.**

Kendal has regularly featured in The Sunday Times’ [‘Best Places to Live’](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sunday-times-best-places-to-live-2017-3qkwjnvrm#/) list, a calculation that takes into account factors such as jobs, exam results, broadband speeds, culture, community spirit and local shops. Its top ranking comes as no surprise to people who already call the ‘Auld Grey Town’ home.

One of the things Kendal residents love is the mix of town and country. There’s plenty to see and do in Kendal all year round including the thriving Brewery Arts Centre, complete with cinema and theatre, Abbott Hall Museum and Art Gallery and Kendal Castle with its views across the whole town and beyond to the fells of the Lake District. Sporting tastes are well catered for with Kendal Rugby Club, playing out of its new Mint Bridge facilities, two Northern League Cricket Clubs, Kendal CC and Netherfield CC, as well as Kendal Football Club and both Men’s and Women’s Hockey teams playing to a high standard. There are also Tennis, Squash, Judo, Crown Green Bowling and Shooting Clubs in the town.

Kendal also hosts a variety of festivals throughout the year including the world-renowned Lakes Comic Arts Festival and the Kendal Mountain Festival (formerly Kendal Mountain Film Festival).The annual Kendal Torchlight Carnival has been going for 50 years constantly evolving to ensure it remains culturally relevant to the local community.

With both the Lake District National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National park on its doorstep all this is set against wild backdrops of spectacular Lakeland and Dales scenery that is there for everyone to enjoy whenever they choose.

**A town with a history**

Over the years, it has been wool, leather, snuff and shoes that have made Kendal famous nationally and internationally. K Shoes, founded by the [Somervell](http://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk/a-z-of-industries/footwear/k-shoes/) family in the 19th century, was one of the town’s prime employers until its manufacturing base was moved elsewhere. Today, the town is home to a diverse range of industries – not least a burgeoning design and digital community – and is famous for [Kendal Mint Cake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kendal_Mint_Cake), beloved by adventurers the world over.

Kendal is very accessible being served by ‘Oxenholme and the Lake District’ Station on the West Coast Main Line and within easy reach of the M6.

For more information on the delights of Kendal go to <https://visit-kendal.co.uk>

**The 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.

Kendal Town Council is the third tier of Local Government for Kendal. Immediately above the Town Council is [South Lakeland District Council](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/) and above this is [Cumbria County Council](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/).

Town Councillors are unpaid public servants and the 28 councillors of Kendal meet in full Council on the first Monday of each month. These evening meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall and are open to the public and the press.

Management Committee meetings are held monthly and Planning Committee meetings are held fortnightly. The majority of other Committee meetings are held every quarter. The Committee structure is currently under review to make it more effective and efficient.

The Council is served by a team of Officers, working from its offices in the Town Hall, led by The Town Clerk consisting of a Treasurer, Assistant to Town Clerk, Project Manager, Project Officer/Mayor’s Attendant, Administrative Assistant, Council Secretary and Townscape Manager.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about significant changes to the working patterns of the Council and its officers. Currently, Full Council and Committee meetings are held virtually and the officers are working from home.

In addition, the Town Hall is undergoing extensive refurbishment and even when lockdown arrangements are ‘loosened’ the Council and its officers will be experiencing temporary arrangements for its meetings and day-to-day business.

For more information on the influence and impact of the Council on the town please take time to read copies of KTC Annual Reports which can be found at <https://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk> .