

# KENDAL

Summer 2023

More than a market town – Your newsletter from Kendal Town Council

## KENDAL WELCOMES The New Mayor of Kendal

Councillor Julia Dunlop was elected Mayor of Kendal at Council's annual meeting on 2nd May 2023. Julia has been a Town Councillor since 2018, representing the people of Mintsfeet ward. Julia aims to champion local voluntary organisations – especially those which have a role in promoting wellbeing and help to spotlight groups who work to develop and celebrate the musical, dramatic and visual arts. Above all, Julia wants to support the community in which she lives.

Every year The Mayor of Kendal chooses a couple of specific charities for which to fund raise during their term in office. The Mayor's charities are Waste into Wellbeing – a volunteer-led, social project at the heart of Kendal's Food Community and Wave Forward – a charity supporting young people (aged 12 to 25) to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

To learn more about these charities, please use the following links:

[www.slacc.org.uk](http://www.slacc.org.uk)

[www.waveforward.org.uk](http://www.waveforward.org.uk)

To enquire about booking the Mayor for your event please contact [office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)



## New Council Plan

The Town Council has launched its new Council Plan. The pages of this newsletter link to its priorities.  
**Open to read more!**

# Kendal Town Council Plan



**Kendal Town Council launched a new plan in May 2023. It's a statement of what your Town Council intends to develop and deliver in partnership for the benefit of the people of Kendal.**

The Town Council is a group of 28 Councillors, each one a volunteer and elected by local residents, plus a small staff team.

We are committed to following our values and doing our best for the town. To deliver our Plan, the Council needs to work in partnership with other organisations and local people. There are several challenges to face, such as the flood protection programmes which are still underway, and the lasting impact

of covid on individuals, our community and the economy. Our civic pride is strong, and we are finding new ways of working together. Kendal's great strength is the compassion, creativity and commitment of its people. Kendal Town Council is harnessing the town's heritage, as it looks to Kendal's future. We are already working very closely with the unitary authority of Westmorland and Furness, our partners Kendal Futures and the Business Improvement District (BID), and key bodies such as the Police, Integrated Care Group, Lakeland Arts, Brewery Arts, Kendal College and schools, plus local businesses and the voluntary community and faith groups.

## Our priorities are based on our values:

- ✓ civic pride, heritage and sense of place
- ✓ innovation, enterprise and creativity
- ✓ cohesion, inclusion, equality and diversity
- ✓ collaboration, engagement and participation
- ✓ care and compassion
- ✓ environmental, social and cultural responsibility
- ✓ integrity, impartiality and transparency
- ✓ effective governance and financial responsibility

Kendal is already a great town, one of the most desirable places in which to live, work, invest and visit. This council aims to ensure all is done to sustain this for the future, by addressing challenges and building on our strengths. Kendal Town Council is working with partners to deliver this plan, based on our five priorities.

## The Plan prioritises:

- 1 Climate Change and Biodiversity** – The Town Council recognises that climate change and the depletion of biodiversity are emergencies that challenge the planet's wellbeing. We will address these challenges and enact the recommendations of the Kendal Citizens' Jury on Climate Change.
- 2 How Kendal Looks and Feels** – the Public Realm. The Town Council believes we have a role to play in meeting the high expectations of our community and visitors. We will work with partners to ensure Kendal is an attractive place in which to live, work, visit and invest.
- 3 A Thriving Town** – The economic vitality of the town requires partnerships of people and place to ensure its continued success. We will work with others to plan, finance and deliver a thriving town for everyone.
- 4 Supporting People and Community Wellbeing** – The Town Council knows that it is the people of Kendal that make it a special place. We will support them through networks of groups and organisations, to build capacity, cohesiveness and resilience in our communities.
- 5 Getting Around** – The Town Council believes that changing the way we move around the town is better for people and the planet. We will support initiatives to lower emissions, improve air quality and improve safety, creating a town that is cleaner, safer and friendlier.

To download the full plan visit the Town Council's website and or contact [office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk)



# Supporting People and our Community

Kendal has an impressive number of sports and wellbeing activities and clubs for our older community members. Thanks to the Community Officers of Westmorland and Furness Council, we've created this handy guide to showcase everything that's available – if just one newsletter reader, or their family member or carer, picks up the phone or emails an organiser to join in and give their body and mind a wellbeing treat we'll be really pleased!



## SPORTING ACTIVITIES via Age UK South Lakeland (01539 728118)

- ✓ Seated exercises – Tuesday mornings – Kendal Leisure centre – book via Age UK
- ✓ Walking netball and football – Tuesday evenings – Kendal Leisure Centre - book via Age UK
- ✓ Snooker, pool, darts & dominoes – Thursday afternoons – The Albion Social Club - book via Age UK
- ✓ Aquarobics for the over 50s – Monday mornings & Tuesday afternoons – Kendal Leisure Centre - book via Age UK
- ✓ Squash and racketball – open daily – Kendal Squash Club – more info via [secretary@kendalsquash.com](mailto:secretary@kendalsquash.com)
- ✓ Crown Green Bowling – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons – Abbot Hall Bowling Green



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| <b>Manna House Women's Group</b> | The Stephenson Centre, Ann Street, Kendal    | Every Monday<br>10am – 12noon                            | Join us on Monday mornings for a bit of crafting, sharing, stitching, and tea drinking! Drop in to 'Sew What?' and create something new or bring in a project you've been meaning to finish. All materials are provided.  | www.manna-house.org.uk;<br>clare@manna-house.org.uk   |
| <b>Chatter Matters</b>           | Kendal Leisure Centre                        | Fridays<br>12noon – 3pm<br>in 'The Gallery'              | Refreshments and a light lunch. Optional games / gentle exercise classes commence around 1:30pm. £2 per person payable by card at Reception.  | Danielle.houghton@gll.org   |
| <b>Coffee and Cake</b>           | Kendal Parish Church                         | Wednesdays<br>10 – 12noon                                | No charge (donations if desired), warm welcome, new friends, conversation and great cake.   | www.kendalparishchurch.co.uk<br>01539 721248  |
| <b>Community Hub</b>             | Kendal Town Hall                             | Every Wednesday<br>from 10am<br>until 1pm                | Free refreshments.<br>Board games on offer.<br>Monthly drop in by Dr Amy Lee.<br>Befriending.<br>Signposting and referral to other organisations.   | Jonny Gios<br>Community connector<br>07584 052102<br>GatewayChurchKendal.org<br>Find us on social media |
| <b>Connect Café Kendal</b>       | Salvation Army Building, Gillinggate, Kendal | Every Tuesday<br>12.30pm<br>(for 1pm lunch)<br>until 3pm | No costs involved but people can contribute if they want to. We do a simple lunch at 1pm followed by activities for those who want to join in or people often just sit and chat. It's a community space so people can join in what is happening or bring along activities to share. We try to create a community feel and include anyone who wants to help with the cafe as we are able.  | Anne Underwood<br>07355 292318<br>FB: ConnectCafeKendal   |
| <b>Companionship Café</b>        | Morrisons Café, Kendal                       | Tuesday<br>10th October<br>10:00 – 11:30am               | Often a good chat and a cup of tea are all it takes to turn somebody's day around.<br><br>Home Instead South Lakes host Companionship Cafés with Kendal Morrisons. Join the Companionship Café to meet other people in our community for a chat. Whether you come alone, with a friend or family member, they would love to see you.<br><br>FREE scone and tea or coffee and an opportunity to win a prize! Home Insteads 'Community Angels' will also be on hand to advise on local support and activity groups in the area. | For more information and of future dates call Rachel at Home Instead South Lakes on: 01539 267220.      |



# Thriving Town & Public Realm



## Kendal Torchlight Gathering 2023

Save the date for this year's Kendal Torchlight Gathering on the 23rd of September! The town centre procession that has been the heart of the event since its inception in 1970 will return this year to the delight of many!

During the day, the town centre will host a street festival with music, dance and street performances, craft activities and trails. In the evening the streets will once again host a huge street procession. The theme of the event is 'Old and New'. Torchlight organisers are planning to bring back some nostalgia to the event as well as some new additions. Carnival making workshops have been taking place in schools and community groups over the summer to create one large community entry for the parade named "make Kendal bloom", which is open for all as well as groups creating their own presence in the procession. To sign up your group and to find out more about this year's event visit [www.kendaltorchlight.co.uk](http://www.kendaltorchlight.co.uk).

## Visit Kendal

Thanks to funding from Kendal BID, Visit Kendal (led by Kendal Town Council and Kendal Futures) has supported additional businesses to benefit from the Visit Kendal website which attracts approximately 10,000 visitors per month reflecting substantial online engagement. This traffic demonstrates the growing interest in Kendal as a vibrant destination and is supported by our ongoing social media campaign; reaching an impressive audience of around 8,000 individuals each month across Instagram and Facebook.

242 Kendal businesses are listed in the directory, allowing visitors to explore and discover the diverse range of establishments that Kendal has to offer. Nearly 100 businesses were highlighted in our social campaigns and 57 businesses recently received complimentary professional photography by responding to adverts placed by Kendal BID.

Looking ahead, Kendal BID plan to continue supporting and collaborating with the business community to keep Kendal firmly on the map for current and potential visitors.

## Kendal Community Land Trust

Formed by Kendal residents in 2021 with a shared vision to address the lack of affordable homes in and around Kendal, the Kendal Community Land Trust aspires to create affordable homes that represent the needs and aspirations of the local community in and around Kendal. We are a not-for-profit, member-owned organisation dedicated to our vision.

Our homes will encourage community cohesion, will be innovative in design and construction and offer low energy living to combat fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions. We aspire to own homes to ensure they stay affordable for both existing and future generations. Our advantage is that, unlike Housing Associations, we are not subject to 'right to buy', and so can preserve affordable homes, prioritised for local people, in the long term. We can also manage local space for community access, recreation and biodiversity.

We are currently exploring a plot at Bushier Walk in partnership with Westmorland and Furness Council as they plan a programme of asset disposals and community asset transfer policy. If ownership is possible via a Community Asset Transfer we plan to access funding from a variety of partners to build sustainable homes, ideally achieving 'passivhaus' status, to support our guiding principle of reducing carbon and affordable running costs.

We would love the community to get on board by signing up to our mailing list and, for £1, becoming a member of the trust. Details are on our website [www.kendalcommunitylandtrust.co.uk](http://www.kendalcommunitylandtrust.co.uk)



# Climate and Biodiversity



## Biodiversity Projects

Huge thanks to residents who responded to our request for volunteer help to plant wild flowers on Kendal Green and to Westmorland and Furness Council providing the permission to create the Green's first wildflower area. The flowers are thriving and many residents have got in touch to say how much they appreciate the colour and variety of native flowers.

The Town Council has been supporting the Environment Agency with some planting at the new Beezon Field

Sensory Nature Trail, due to open in September. Look out for the sculpture to spot our planting contribution.

We've also recently obtained the land near Dockray Hall Bridge where horses have been kept for several years. The horses have now been removed and the Town Council will proceed to improve access and increase the biodiversity in this area as well, more news to follow as this project progresses.

## Biodiversity Grants

The Town Council has recently awarded a grant to Kirbie Green Residents Association who aim to increase the biodiversity in the green space near the Waste Disposal Site. We welcome applications at any time of the year, please get in touch if you have a project in mind that needs some funding to make it a reality!

## Britain in Bloom

Kendal represented Cumbria as the County's 'Large Town' in the national Britain in Bloom awards in August. Our entry was made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of Kendal's community groups who were featured on the 'Judges Tour' and included the Victorian Fern Garden at Serpentine Woods, the Community Triangle Garden, the Jubilee and Coronation Gardens, the Unitarian Chapel Garden and Kendal's beautiful green spaces including Nobles Rest, Kendal Green and Ford Park. The allotments were also on the tour as was Police Yard, lovingly maintained by Winnie Poaty. To read more about all of these spaces and the people behind them please download the 'Bloom Portfolio' from the Town Council's website.

## Council Meeting Dates

Please visit [www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk) for full details of all council meetings.



[www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk) | 01539 793490

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