
Kendal Town Council

2023 Annual Report

www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

MAYOR OF KENDAL

Cllr Doug Rathbone talks about his year in office.

It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as Kendal's Mayor for a second term. The past year has seen us re-emerge in a new post-Covid world. Some things are different, many things are the same. We've reinvented some aspects of our proud civic traditions. I'm not sure many of my 274 predecessors would have danced quite so enthusiastically as we did at the head of a Torchlight parade last year. Somehow just being allowed out seemed like a cause to celebrate. But we have many more such causes in the coming year. I leave office in the knowledge that our Twinning relationship with the lovely town of Rinteln in Germany is strengthened through the efforts of our volunteers.

We've put in place the funding to ensure the flood wall on Aynam Road is built in state-of-the-art glass. We've secured the riverbank access at Mintsfeet for future generations, and helped our world-famous festivals programme to weather the storm and thrive. For my two chosen charities, the challenges have been immense, but my admiration for their dedication to the causes of debt relief and recovery from addiction has only grown. I tip my Mayoral hat one more time to Kendal Debt Centre and the Well Communities.

Cllr D Rathbone, Mayor 2021-23



A YEAR OF CHANGE

Cllr Stephen Coleman, Chair of Management Committee

This has been a turbulent year for local authorities in Cumbria, as the upheaval of Local Government Reorganisation came hard on the heels of Covid and all that entailed. But Kendal Town Council emerges in the new landscape with renewed vigour. We have new offices in the Kendal Business Hub and a new plan, to guide us to what we hope will be a bright future for our town. This year saw us put into practice some of our longer term aims to reduce the impact of Climate Change.

From new allotments to pushing forward plans to reduce vehicle speeds, and from planting wildflowers to helping people find access to solar power, we're responding to the recommendations of our Citizens' Jury. But as you'll see elsewhere in this report, we've also continued to invest in our local community, its groups, festivals and environment. Our new Plan has five priority areas. We've been making headway on many of these already and we anticipate that much more will follow in the coming year.

Over 20 new allotment plots were created on derelict land at Canal Head



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Climate Change and Biodiversity

Following the success of the Council's Kendal Climate Citizens' Jury initiative, the Council has worked hard to keep Climate Change at the top of its list of priorities. In 2022-23 this meant:

- **Expanding allotments to provide more local growing space:** We've extended Canal Head allotments to create additional plots, doubling allotment provision and bringing derelict land back into cultivation.
- **Creating a 'one stop shop' for Climate Action:** We've committed £30,000 and supported funding applications to generate additional money for partners like Waste into Wellbeing, to create an advice hub for people to learn how they can take their own Climate Action.
- **Raising awareness:** We created the Zero Carbon Kendal website and instagram page to share information (£2,500 plus staff time).
- **Planting more trees and improving biodiversity:** The Town Council created a Biodiversity grant and project fund of £16,000 (and staff time) to support and initiate community initiatives including Wildflower planting at Somervell Garden, Aynam Road and Kendal Green and over £5,000 funding Biodiversity projects across Kendal.
- **Solar Made Easy Kendal:** In partnership with CAfS the Town Council has allocated £5,000 to support this initiative.
- **Make it easier to walk and cycle:** The Town Council has allocated £54,000 towards 20mph and improving footpaths throughout Kendal following a footpath audit which focuses on school routes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

How Kendal Looks : A Thriving Town

How Kendal Looks

- Improving natural play at Serpentine Woods.
- Repairing historic walling and improving paths at Noble's Rest.
- New signage and planters at Woolpack Yard.
- Gold in Cumbria in Bloom for our award-winning floral displays and the town's vibrant community projects.
- Safeguarding open spaces at Mintsfeet riverside and Vicarage Drive.
- Investing £150,000 over four years to improve the floodwall plans at Waterside and Aynam Road with best-in-class glass panels.

A Thriving Town

- The Town Council invested £20,000 to keep the Christmas lights twinkling in the run up to Christmas, and formed a great partnership with Kendal Mountain Festival to deliver an exciting Switch-on, which included a dramatic Dark Skies 'Switch-off'.
- The Town Council supported 15 local festivals with over £40,000.
- The Town Council continued to support visit-kendal.co.uk, now with over 11,000 page hits, monthly.
- Supported partners to bid for Levelling Up Fund.
- Maintained banners and bunting throughout the town centre.
- Opened up the Mayor's Parlour for monthly public talks.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Supporting People and Communities

The Town Council supports:

- 21 local community groups with over £40,000 worth of funding.
- The Council led the Town’s celebrations of the late Queen’s Jubilee, and the ceremonies to mark her passing and the accession of the new King.
- The Mayor’s Charity Fund raised over £3,000 for his Kendal Debt Centre and the Well Communities.

Supported Groups in 2022 included:

Bro Room
Autus
Growing Well
Kendal Windows on Art
Kendal Debt Centre
Kendal Youth Zone
Kendal South Choir
Abbot Hall Bowling Club
Wave Forward
Hallgarth Senior Citizens
South Lakes Citizens Advice
Lakeland Arts
Brewery Arts
North West Air Ambulance
With Singing in Mind
Fairoak Housing

The Well



christians
against
poverty



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Getting Around: The Coming Year

Getting Around

The Town Council has been campaigning for several years to introduce a 20mph speed limit across all of Kendal. It sees this as just one step in a process that transforms the way we move around our town. In 2022 we:

- Continued to support the lowering of speed limits in Kendal to 20mph.
- Surveyed the town's footpath network and developed a plan for improvement.
- Promoted cycling through support for the town's new Cycling Festival and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- Earmarked future investment for improvements and working with partners.

The Coming Year

- Securing access improvements at Mintsfeet Riverside.
- Developing a Sustainability Hub in the town centre.
- Supporting Torchlight and Kendal Mountain Festival and developing the Christmas Lights switch on.
- Representing Cumbria in Britain in Bloom.
- Exhibition on Slavery from Council Collections.
- Glass flood wall begins on Waterside and Aynam Road.

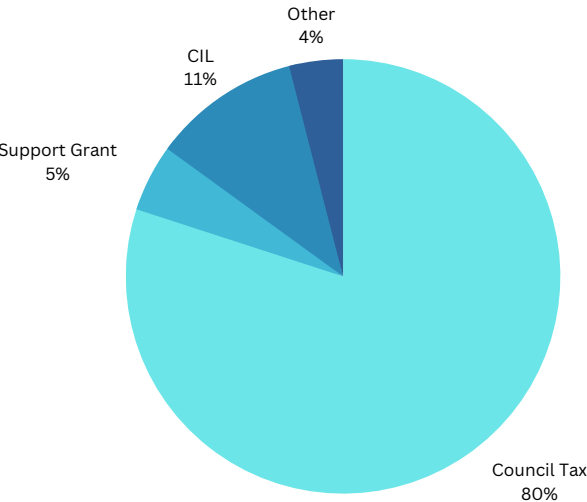
FINANCE

How is your Council Tax Spent?

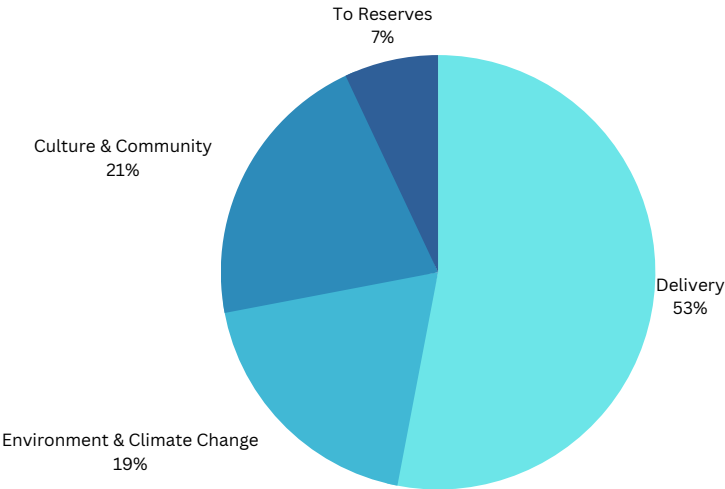
Most of the Town Council's income comes from the Council Tax, collected from residents within the civil parish of Kendal. Set alongside the tax collected to pay for other authorities, the Town Council share of the 'precept' accounts for around 2.2% of an average Council Tax bill. In 2022, we precepted £502,285 in an income of £629,446.

The Council raises a small amount through allotment rents and other sources of income, and is allocated a share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from developments in the town. A small team of staff deliver the Council's services. In 2022-23 we spent around £587,536 on delivery, grants and services, with the remainder being committed to Reserves.

Income



Expenditure



YOUR COUNCILLORS

Attendance 2022-23

Name		Meetings Required/ attended	%	Name		Meetings Required/ attended	%
G Archibald	Fell	11+3/15+3	73 (78)	M Helme	Highgate	19/22	86
A Blackman	Heron Hill	13/16	81	L Hendry	Strickland	11/14	79
K Blamire*	Nether	4/9	44	E Hennessy	Castle	17/18	94
S Blunden	Fell	9/12	75	H Ladhams	Castle	38/39	97
J Brook	Heron Hill	5/11	45	S Long	Stonecross	14/18	78
D Brown	Stonecross	12/15	80	D Miles	Kirkland	23/28	82
A Campbell	Heron Hill	17/28	61	T Perkins	Stonecross	3/11	27
S Coleman	Strickland	13/18	72	D Rathbone	Heron Hill	41/43	95
J Cornthwaite	Mintsfeet	35/37	95	C Russell	Highgate	25/28	89
J Dunlop	Mintsfeet	19/22	86	M Severn	Kirkland	5/11	45
L Edwards	Nether	32/34	94	K Simpson	Strickland	11/17	65
D Evans	Nether	32/39	82	R Sutton	Kirkland	14/15	93
A Finch	Kirkland	16/28	57	P Thornton	Strickland	9/12	75
C Hardy	Nether	1/11	9	G Tirvengadam	Oxenholme	13/17	76

* resigned mid-term

Kendal Town Council

Kendal Town Hall and Business Hub

Highgate

Kendal

LA9 4ED

www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

Photographs: S McMahon and Kendal Town Council