

Kendal Town Council

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



15 July 2025

To Members of the Kendal in Bloom Committee

Kendal Town Council Members	Co-optees
Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	J Cottam
Cllr D Brown	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)
Cllr E Hennessy	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)
Cllr L Hendry	
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	

You are invited to a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on Tuesday, 22 July 2025, at **6.00 p.m.**, in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal. Details of the meeting can be found on the Town Council's website. www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk.

(Distributed to other Members of the Council for information only.)

Yours faithfully

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

Public Participation

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should apply to do so before the commencement of the meeting. Information on how to make the application is available on the Council's Website - <http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/kendal-town-council/statutory-information/guidance-on-public-participation-at-kendal-town-council-meetings/> or by contacting the Town Clerk on 01539 793490.

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, S.85.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations by members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes from the Last Meeting (pages 3 to 7)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 25 March 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

5. Minute Action Sheet (page 8)

To consider a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

6. Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26 (page 9)

To note the Committee's spend against budget.

7. Civic Planting Strategy

To note that the Strategy will be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

8. Civic Planting Update Report and Winter Planting Proposal (pages 10 to 11)

To consider the summer planting update and winter planting proposal.

9. Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project (pages 12 to 17)

To consider the update report.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, at 6.03 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.

Kendal Town Council Members

Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Present	Cllr D Brown	Present
Cllr A Finch	Absent	Cllr E Hennessy	Apologies
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present

Co-optees

J Cottam	Absent	C Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Apologies
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

Also present: Rachel Eardley (Horticare Supervisor).

In attendance: Janine Holt (Council Services Officer), Inge Booth (Democratic Services Assistant) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

Public Participation

Graham Harrison, representing the community of Aynam Road, addressed the Committee. He referred to work which had been carried out in order to save the historic fountain on Aynam Road. He expressed thanks to all those involved in this effort, including the Kendal in Bloom Committee and, in particular, Cllr Sutton, for their help in progressing the project to move the fountain from Aynam Road to Abbot Hall. The matter now lay with officers at Westmorland and Furness Council. Mr Harrison displayed an artist's impression of the fountain in its new situation at Abbot Hall.

Mr Harrison was thanked for his hard work and commitment in relation to the relocation of the fountain.

B21/2024 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept an apology for absence from Cllr Hennessy.

B22/2024 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Blackman, Chair, declared an interest in Agenda Item No.9 (Kendal in Bloom Grant Application) by virtue of the fact that he was Chair of Netherfield Bowling Club. He indicated that he would leave the Chamber during the discussion and voting on that item.

B23/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B24/2024 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 22 October 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B25/2024 Minute Action Sheet

The Committee considered a report on actions taken by officers on resolutions or recommendations made at previous meetings.

Item Ref. No.3 – B8/2023 – Development of Civic Planting Strategy and appointment of independent specialist to undertake a review – This appeared as an item later on in the agenda.

Item Refs. Nos.9, 10, 11 and 14 could now be deleted from the sheet.

Item Ref. No.15 – Bloom 2024 Update Report and open event – It was felt that, with a three year plan in place, an open meeting could now be held to encourage the local community to become engaged with the project. It was suggested that a speaker may be invited to the event, and Toni Yates, who was a member of the Westmorland Horticultural Society, undertook to see if she could approach someone suitable. It was pointed out that the recently-appointed Projects Officer would be taking on this project and that a date could not, therefore, be set until they had settled into their role.

Resolved: To update the Minute Action Sheet, as discussed at the meeting and outlined above.

Resolved: Toni Yates to seek to find a speaker for the Kendal in Bloom project event.

Resolved: To note the report.

B26/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 10 March 2025, explaining why funds remained. She drew attention to one call on the budget which was for replacement planters outside the Town Hall, at a cost of £780 which could be ordered prior to the close of the financial year on 31 March 2025.

Resolved: To approve the purchase of four replacement planters to be situated outside the Town Hall, at a cost of £780, to be purchased prior to the close of the financial year.

Resolved: To note the report.

B27/2024 Civic Planting Strategy

The Kendal in Bloom Committee had commissioned Lakeland Gardens to produce a sustainable planting report, as a review of current civic planting and to inform a civic planting strategy. A full copy of the report was attached to the report.

The Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) had, together with officers, identified the following key requirements:

- The need to apply sustainability to the entire lifecycle of planting.
- Reconsideration of the planting displays:
 - Creation of larger planted spaces, planted in the ground where possible.
 - Review of planters – tiered, wall troughs, hanging baskets.
 - Drought resistant and lower maintenance plant mixes.
 - Perennial planting, with annual ‘top ups’.
- Additional tree planting.
- Greenery in the town centre, including the Birdcage and Market Place.
- Sustainable practices – water collection.

The report would be reviewed for specific suggestions that could be incorporated into future planting plans. It would further be used to inform principles for planting moving forwards, to be integrated into the strategy. To progress with the development of a planting strategy, officers would seek additional advice and bring a proposal to a future meeting of the Committee. This would also outline implications for the civic planting plans, where required.

In response to a query, the Council Services Officer explained that civic planting would be carried out in-house in 2025, with an appropriate plan having been developed by herself and the Townscape Officer. The Chair thanked the Council Services Officer and the Townscape Officer for taking on this additional work. Watering would continue to be carried out by the previous contractor who would also assist in transportation of plants during planting up.

The Townscape Officer referred to a problem which had developed over the past few months in that plants had been damaged or taken, and he suggested that this may be something for the Working Group to look at moving forward.

The Chair looked forward to the Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) coming back with further information on how the Strategy would be developed. The Council Services Officer indicated that her role would be to manage the contract.

Resolved: To note the report.

B28/2024 Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project

The Committee had previously approved that the Kendal in Bloom initiative should focus efforts on the Highgate/ Kirkland Area, over a three-year period. Officers had been working on defining the scope of the project to enable it to progress.

The report from the Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) outlined the objectives of the project which were to:

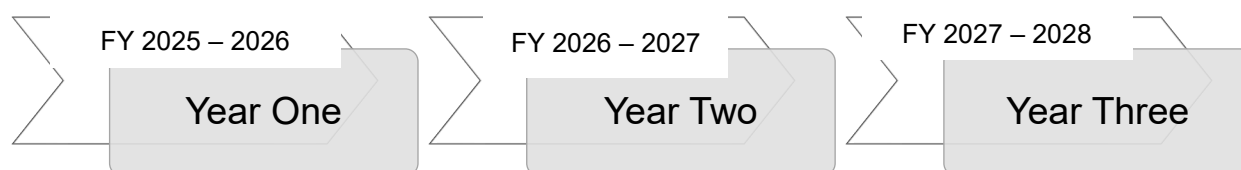
- develop a Cumbria in Bloom competition route through the Kirkland ‘Triangle’ Area, focusing on the area in and around Abbot Hall Park; and
- encourage community involvement by engaging local groups and businesses to undertake their own projects within the area.

The report outlined the scope of the project, with the area being defined as ‘Kirkland Triangle’: Abbot Hall Park (Dowker’s Lane to Nether Bridge, East of Kirkland.)

Within this, the project would only focus on specific areas, namely:

- (1) Gillinggate Park
- (2) Dowker's Lane Bed and Planter
- (3) Dowker Lane 'entrance'
- (4) Abbot Hall Park - Radial Beds
- (5) Abbot Hall Park - Peace Garden
- (6) Abbot Hall – river side
- (7) Kirkland Curb Planters
- (8) Coronation Bed
- (9) EA planting area (area of awareness)

Following the recommendations of the working group, the project would be developed over a three-year period. This would allow management of budget and resources and allow Kendal Town Council to develop sustainable community engagement. It was proposed that the project be divided as follows:



2. Dowker Lane Bed and Planter
4. Abbot Hall Park - Radial Beds
5. Abbot Hall Park - Peace Garden
7. Kirkland Curb Planters

3. Dowker Lane Entrance
6. Abbot Hall – river side
8. Coronation Bed

1. Gillinggate Park

If approved, the next steps would be to confirm permissions, develop specific plans for each area in line with stakeholders and begin community engagement. Once in post, the Projects Officer would be assigned as the project lead.

The civic planting strategy would be developed alongside the project and would inform decision making as and when appropriate.

The 80th Anniversary of VJ day was to be commemorated in August this year. Kendal Town Council would hold an event to mark the anniversary, and the current proposal was that the event would be centred around the Peace Garden in Abbot Hall. To prepare for the event, there were improvement works required at the Peace Garden, including updating the planting and treatment of the peace pole. It had been requested that the planting be led by the Kendal in Bloom Committee, due to its expertise as well as connection to the wider Kirkland project. There would be budget available from the Anniversary funding. This would be provided once approved by the Culture and Communities Committee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Horticare were offering to help with the works required at the Peace Garden. The need to engage volunteer groups was also raised. The Committee would work together with the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee through the Events and Civic Officer and the Culture and Communities Committee through the Development and Development Manager (Deputy Clerk) or Projects Officer, but would lead on the planting work.

Resolved: To approve the proposed focus areas for year one.

Resolved: To agree to lead the improvement works at Abbot Hall Peace Garden following provision of budget from the Culture and Communities Committee.

Resolved: To meet as a Working Group on Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 11.00 a.m., in order to discuss plans for the Peace Garden.

Note – Cllr Blackman, Chair, declared an interest in the following item by virtue of the fact that he was the Chair of Netherfield Bowling Club. He left the Chamber during the discussion and voting on the item. In his absence, Cllr Sutton, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

B29/2024 Kendal in Bloom Grant Application

The Committee considered an application from Netherfield Bowling Club for the sum of £500 towards enhancing the spectator area around the bowling green by the creation of flower beds and positioning of appropriate planters; the funding would be used to purchase robust large outdoor planters.

Resolved: To award a grant of £500.

Note – Cllr Blackman resumed the Chair.

B30/2024 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: To cancel the meeting of the Committee due to be held on 22 April 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.46 p.m.

Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 15 July 2025

Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
3	25/07/2023	B8/2023	Development of Civic Planting Strategy	To support the proposals for the appointment of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the civic planting in Kendal, the Council Services Officer to bring a further report detailing a firmer plan with costings.	JH/NW		Ongoing	Town Council Officers are currently working on developing a proposal that will be brought to the next meeting for approval.
18	25/03/2025	B28/2024	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To agree to lead the improvement works at Abbot Hall Peace Garden following provision of budget from the Culture and Communities Committee.	BH		Completed	
19	25/03/2025	B28/2024	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To meet as a Working Group on Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 11.00 a.m., in order to discuss plans for the Peace Garden.	BH/JH		Completed	
20	25/03/2025	B29/2024	Kendal in Bloom Grant Application	To award a grant of £500 to Netherfield Bowling Club.	JH		Completed	

15:31

Kendal Town Council
Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 4)
Note: Full Budget Statement

		<u>24/25</u>		<u>25/26</u>			<u>26/27</u>			
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
440	<u>Kendal In Bloom</u>									
4900	KIB Floral Displays	30,000	21,094	30,600	4,376	0	10,908	0	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	6,000	2,486	6,000	2,017	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	36,000	23,580	36,600	6,393	0	10,908	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>(23,580)</u>	<u>(36,600)</u>	<u>(6,393)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		
	Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	36,000	23,580	36,600	6,393	0	10,908	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>(23,580)</u>	<u>(36,600)</u>	<u>(6,393)</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		



Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 23.7.25
From: Council Services Manager	Agenda No.: 8
Description: Civic Planting Update Report and Winter Planting Proposal	

Summary: *The committee are asked to consider the Summer Planting Update and Winter Planting Proposal*

Overview of 2025 Civic Planting

The 2025 civic planting has been successfully delivered, with all scheduled planting completed on time. The work undertaken in-house by Kendal Town Council officers has gone very well, with the team demonstrating strong coordination and attention to detail. Additional help with the planting was provided by a local independent contractor.

While most aspects of the planting ran smoothly, there is some room for improvement with the hanging baskets. The process would be smoother if the installation contractor collected the baskets before installation, which would help prevent delays and confusion.

Feedback from the public has been positive, and the planting has enhanced the town's appearance throughout key areas during the spring and summer months.

Planter Locations

As part of our planning and resource evaluation, the committee are asked to consider removing certain planters from the scheme to reduce the overall scope and allow more focused maintenance. Suggested areas for removal include:

- Blackhall Road
- Near the Asda roundabout
- Windermere Road (barrier baskets)
- Longpool
- Dowker Lane
- Nobles Rest

This selective reduction would help streamline planting efforts and potentially improve impact in higher-visibility areas.

Winter Planting Proposal

As we look ahead to the winter season, we require a decision from the committee regarding the next steps for planting.



1. In-house Winter Planting

- Delivered by the Kendal Town Council team using existing resources.
- Would ensure year-round visual appeal and continuity across civic displays.

NB. If this option is agreed upon, the order for plants must be placed immediately to ensure timely delivery.

2. No Winter Planting

- Planters would be left unplanted during the winter months.
- Would reduce operational demands and cost but result in empty planters during the winter season.

Recommendation

- Committee members are asked to confirm whether to proceed with the in-house winter planting.
- Committee members are asked to confirm whether they approve the removal of some or all of the suggested planters.

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 15 th July 2025
From: Project Officer	Agenda No: 9
Description: Project Update - KTC014 Kirkland - Kendal in Bloom	

Background:

Project objectives: To develop a Cumbria in Bloom competition route through the Kirkland 'Triangle' Area, focussing on the area in and around Abbot Hall Park.

Encouraging community involvement by engaging local groups and businesses to undertake their own projects within the area.

Update:

Engagement

Over 250 letters have been delivered to the Kirkland area including businesses, residential and community and religious centres. From this we got only 3 contacts of interest, this has since grown a little through their word of mouth and we are up to 6.

They have presented the following ideas:

- Wildflower strips and patches along Blind Beck at Abbot Hall, the Waterside footpath, around trees near the new flood wall (by the Parish Church and former Parish Halls), and in less-used areas of Abbot Hall Park
- Allowing space for wildflower turf to support biodiversity
- Supporting "No Mow May"
- Planting a pot-grown wisteria to climb the Environment Agency's wall by Kirkland Hall (subject to permission)
- Tree or wildflower planting on the grassed area between the upper and lower car parks at the Parish Church (subject to permission)
- Adding flowering and fruit-bearing trees—such as cherry, crab apple, pear, and rowan—along paths and by Blind Beck, to offer seasonal interest and edible fruit
- Enhancing the green space in front of the Parish Church with plants and trees (subject to permission)

They remain primarily interested in the areas surrounding their properties or buildings and not so much in the areas promoted in Year 1 by the KIB committee.

To keep their interest, comply with KIB ideals and support their great ideas, Officers could encourage the creation of a 'Friends of Kirkland' group and application to KIB grants.

Peace Garden

The Peace Garden has been rejuvenated with the help of Shelagh Todd's ideas and the Veteran's Working Group CIC. There is still some work to be done on installing an information sign and some extra plants. Officers are also awaiting predicted costs from the veterans to guild the writing on the Peace Pole, fill the crack and place copper on the top to prevent further weather damage.

The Peace Garden to date has cost £2083 with £800 quoted for the sign. This budget has come from the Anniversaries Events budget which includes VE Day, VJ Day and 450. There is budget remaining for the further proposed improvements.



Dowker Lane

A free planting plan has been drawn up by Cath's Plants of Heaves Hall (as we purchased plant through them for the Peace Garden). The premise of this plan is that it adds colour, particularly on the corner of Highgate, covers the brown areas of the fir trees, and is easily maintained. These plans have been created in consultation with W&F Council. The first quote for plants is £500, further quotes will be obtained. The planting report is added as an appendix.

The Veterans Group made a start at clearing the bed, but the roots of the weeds were too deep and difficult to remove.

Officers would like to investigate the cost of clearing these with mechanical tools, planting and putting in measures to reduce regrowth of the weeds.

The building owner that borders this bed is in support of the maintenance and Officers are in contact.

Radial Beds

The beds are well established and have good cover in the Summer but look sparse in the winter. Having spoken to W&F Council, Officers would like to propose that we move the

plants contained within these to the edges of Abbot Hall Park and return this area to grass. This will have multiple benefits:

- a) The 'playing' area will be larger for those wanting to picnic, kick a ball etc.
- b) The line of sight as you enter Abbot Hall may draw your eyes to Kendal Castle ahead instead of down to the beds.
- c) Festivals that take place on Abbot Hall will have the ability to grow (Kendal Mountain Festival has currently reached its limit on the park).
- d) The beds at the edges will have a greater number and variety of plants

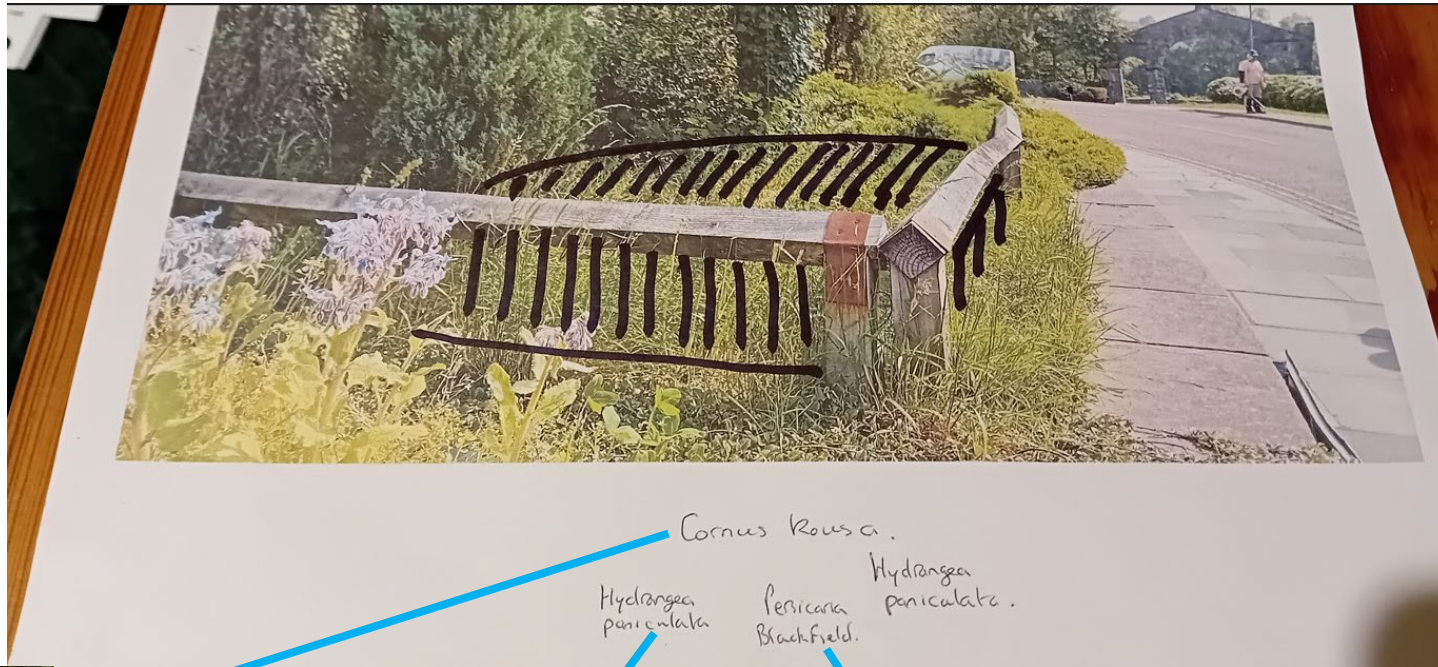
Officers could seek permission from W&F Council and obtain a quote.

Committee Decision:

1. Officers to encourage the creation of a 'Friends of Kirkland' group, to apply for grants.
2. Officers to obtain a quote for clearance of Dowker Bed, re-planting and weed reduction with cover and mulch.
3. Officers to obtain a quote for removal of the Radial Beds to re-plant on the edges of Abbot Hall and return the area to turf.

Planting Plan – Dowkers Lane Bed

- The brief:
 - Add colour particularly on the corner of Highgate – this may facilitate the removal of the Dowker planter in the future as it needs repair.
 - Add plants to hide the brown areas of the fir trees, as these will be hard to remove
 - Choose plants that are hardy and require little maintenance
 - Obtain approval from W&F for planting plan



- 1 Cornus kousa 10 litre pot or 15 litre pot
- 3 Hydrangea paniculata Phantom 3 litre pot
- 5 Persicaria Blackfield 3 litre pot £ 9-50 each





Baptisia.
 Crocosmia.
 Hosta.

Hamamelis.
 Hydrangea
 paniculata

Bapt.
 Crocosmia.
 Hosta.

1 Hamamelis Arnolds Promise 7.5litre pot or 25 litre pot

1 Hydrangea paniculata Phantom 3 litre pot

2 Baptisia Dutch Chocolate 3 litre pot

6 pots of Crocosmia Fever Pitch 2 litre pots

2 Hosta Diamond Lake 3 litre pot

