

Kendal Town Council

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



15 October 2024

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 A Finch	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)
Cllr E Hennessy	
Cllr L Hendry	
Cllr R Sutton	

You are invited to a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on Tuesday, 22 October 2024, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bagshaw'.

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 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 23 July 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record (see attached).

5. Minute Action Sheet (pages 7 to 8)

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

6. Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25 (page 9)

To note the Committee's spend against budget (see attached).

7. Budget Review 2025/26 (page 10)

To consider the budget requirements for the next financial year (see attached).

8. Kendal in Bloom Working Group (page 11)

To note an update report from the Kendal in Bloom Working Group.

9. Participation in Cumbria in Bloom 2025 (page 12)

To consider whether to participate in the Cumbria in Bloom initiative in 2025.

10. Civic Planting (page 13)

As requested by the Committee, to note a montage of images of the 2024 Summer Civic Planting.

11. Composting (page 14)

To note a report from the Townscape Officer on composting.

12. Kendal in Bloom Grant Application (pages 15 to 17)

To consider an application from Kirkbie Green Community Group for the sum of £500 towards ongoing work/maintenance of their Kendal in Bloom project.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 23 July 2024, at 6.00pm 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	Present	Cllr E Hennessy	Present
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Apologies

Co-optees

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

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

B1/2024 Chairman's Announcements

The Chair welcomed two new Members, Cllrs Finch and Hennessy, to the Committee and introduced them to Toni Yates, Co-optee. For the benefit of the new Members, he explained that now was usually the busiest time of the year for the Committee, with both Cumbria in Bloom and Kendal in Bloom looming. He pointed out that this year was different for various reasons, including the current flood relief scheme works, which was affecting the overall aesthetics of the Town. This had resulted in a decision to cease the Kendal in Bloom initiative for 2024 and to withdraw the application for Cumbria in Bloom.

B2/2024 Apologies

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

B3/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B4/2023 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B5/2023 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 19 March 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B6/2023 Minute Action Sheet

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

Ref. No.4 –Police Yard Installation – To explore the installation of a metal display arch ensuring costings are included. In response to a query, it was reported that this had not gone ahead due to cost and planning implications.

Ref. No.5 –Civic Planting Maintenance – The Town Clerk to liaise with the Environment Agency on the planting at Beezon Fields. In response to a query, it was reported that there had been a delay on this project and that the plants had been purchased but were beginning to die. It was further reported that the sculpture which had due to be erected at Beezon Fields had been deemed unsuitable due to health and safety reasons. Discussion turned to the need to find alternative locations as soon as possible for siting of those plants which continued to thrive. Suggestions included the bed at the corner of Dowker Lane by the entrance to Abbot Hall. This did not belong to the Town Council, however, required a thorough overhall, and could benefit from advertising on Facebook for volunteers for a gardening group; funding would be available. Other locations suggested were Gillinggate Park and Bowling Fell; Cllr Hendry was due to attend a meeting at which Bowling Fell would be discussed and would raise the potential at that meeting.

Resolved: Cllr Hendry to report back by email to Committee Members regarding the potential to plant the remaining plants originally purchased for Beezon Fields at Bowling Fell, with the second option to be for the plants to be planted at Dowker Lane.

Toni Yates referred to other plants at Kendal Conservation Society which were waiting to be used. Attention was further drawn to a corner at Blackhall Road which required attention.

Resolved: Toni Yates to come back to Committee with recommendations for the Blackhall Road corner.

The Council Services Officer reminded the Committee that Lakeland Gardens were currently carrying out a survey on all planting areas within Kendal, the results of which were due to be reported at the next meeting.

Ref. No.9 –Kendal in Bloom – To post a call out for volunteers for a Bloom Gardening Group on Facebook. The Council Services Officer reported that this had not yet been actioned.

Resolved: To note the report.

B7/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 7 July 2024. She explained that the £15,716 remaining for Floral Displays was sufficient. She pointed out, however, that the Council was currently out of contract, and that the current supplier would now need to order £5,000 to £6,000 for winter plants. She further anticipated additional expenditure in next year's budget. The amount of funding required would be informed by the findings of the survey being carried out by Lakeland Gardens; this survey would form the basis of the civic planting strategy. With regard to the Projects and Grants Budget, the Council Services Officer undertook to get back to Members with details around the committed expenditure of £3,131.

Resolved: To provide Members with details relating to the committed expenditure of £3,131 in the Projects and Grants Budget.

Resolved: To note the report.

B8/2024 Bloom 2024 Update Report

It was reported that, following on from concerns raised by the Council Services Officer, a meeting had been held on 28 May 2023. Present at that meeting had been Councillor Blackman, Chair of Kendal in Bloom, Councillor Liz Hendry and the Council Services Officer. After a thorough discussion about the 2024 Bloom initiative, the decision was reached to cease the Kendal in Bloom initiative for 2024 and to withdraw the application for Cumbria in Bloom. Several factors had influenced this decision, namely:

- The ongoing installation of flood defences in Kendal. Resulting in traffic congestion and the building work affects the overall aesthetics of Kendal
- A key wildlife/biodiversity area which it was hoped could form a large part of the Cumbria in Bloom judging tour is behind schedule by approx. 18 months and would not be ready to be viewed by the Cumbria in Bloom judges
- Civic planting has been planted late due to the weather in spring. Thus, resulting in underwhelming displays in early July
- The contract for civic planting is currently being reviewed. This has resulted in Officers having no input into the planting scheme or design preferences of the civic planting
- Renovations to the Birdcage resulting in the removal of the 12 floral displays from a key area and unsure of the installation date
- The local Kendal in Bloom initiative struggled to attract entries this year
- Shortage of staff within the office resulting in a change in priority areas for the Council Services Officer

Kendal would still host the Cumbria in Bloom awards ceremony.

The Chair, in presenting the report, expressed disappointment and elaborated on some of the reasons outlined above. He further pointed out that it was likely that the flood works would not be completed before 2028. He suggested, therefore, that this was an opportunity to take a step back and to give some thought as to how to reimagine Kendal and Cumbria in Bloom. He suggested that a review should take place before Christmas in order to establish the appetite for people in Kendal, schools and organisations to become involved. The need for the fact that the planting strategy was in the early stages of development to be considered in future plans was stressed. The initial report on this was expected in September 2025.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which a number of suggestions were raised, as follows:

- The potential to carry out work around the SUDS drainage system at Meadow Rigg, Brigsteer Road and Strawberry Fields developments, along the same lines as at Hallgarth where wildflowers, trees and bulbs had been planted with the involvement of residents and schools.
- A flower festival at the Edington Centre.
- A flower bed to celebrate the Rinteln twinning initiative.
- The need to consider the distance between planting areas in order for a more simple judging trail as well as for easier watering and long-term maintenance.
- Developing a community-led approach, making more use of Facebook, creating community groups, inspiring, encouraging and empowering individuals to take ownership of specific areas.
- Tapping into allotment-holders' skills to take on board areas surrounding them.
- Offering support through the provision of bulbs, plants, equipment and storage.
- Litter picking.

- Bearing in mind the fact that not all people use Facebook, to also produce leaflets promoting community involvement.
- To look at the survey carried out earlier by the Environment Committee which identified local groups involved in various projects, as well as asking Town Council Members to identify groups within their wards.
- To identify community champions.
- Instead of the annual Kendal in Bloom celebratory event, to hold an open meeting and to invite friends of Fletcher Park to talk about the successful work carried out there.
- To bear in mind the availability of funding through the Westmorland and Furness Council Locality Board.

The general consensus of opinion was that there was a need to try to inspire local communities to adopt the Bloom Initiative and to give them a sense of ownership to take their community in their desired direction, with help from the Town Council.

Some discussion took place on the information pack which had been sent out with regard to both Cumbria in Bloom and Kendal in Bloom and to the fact that this may have caused confusion. Whilst Cumbria in Bloom had garnered more entries than ever before, Kendal in Bloom had attracted only eleven people.

Resolved: To hold a Working Party meeting at 10.00 a.m. on 20 August 2024 in the Mayor's Parlour, with all Members of the Committee welcome to be involved.

Resolved: To launch a Kendal in Bloom Facebook page in September, followed by a positive press release.

Resolved: To look into holding an open event in Autumn, with a provisional date of 6 November 2024 at the Castle Green Hotel.

The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.

Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 15 October 2024

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 <u>costings</u>	JH		Ongoing	The Council Services Officer is awaiting a reply from the independent specialist.
9	19/03/2024	B35/2023	Kendal in Bloom 2024	To post a call out for volunteer for a Bloom Gardening Group on Facebook.	JH/CG		Ongoing	Admin Officer to put regular KIB posts on social media
10	23/07/2024	B6/2024	Minute Action Sheet	Cllr Hendry to report back by email to Committee Members regarding the potential to plant the remaining plants originally purchased for Beeson Fields at Bowling Fell, with the second option to be for the plants to be planted at <u>Dowker Lane</u>	LH		Ongoing	Cllr Hendry will provide verbal feedback.
11	23/07/2024	B6/2024	Minute Action Sheet	Toni Yates to come back to Committee with recommendations for the <u>Blackhall Road corner</u> .	TY/JH		Ongoing	Council Services Officer has sought permission to use the land, no reply received to date
12	23/07/2024	B7/2024	Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25	To provide Members with details relating to the committed expenditure of £3,131 in the Projects and Grants Budget.	JH		Completed	Council Services Officer will provide a verbal update of the spend.

Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
13	23/07/2024	B8/2024	Bloom 2024 Update Report	To hold a Working Party meeting at 10.00 a.m. on 20 August 2024 in the Mayor's Parlour, with all Members of the Committee welcome to be involved.	JH		Ongoing	The working party have met twice since the last meeting and plan to meet on a monthly basis.
14	23/07/2024	B8/2024	Bloom 2024 Update Report	To launch a Kendal in Bloom Facebook page in September, followed by a positive press release.	JH		Ongoing	The Admin Officer is regularly posting Bloom activity.
15	23/07/2024	B8/2024	Bloom 2024 Update Report	To look into holding an open event in Autumn, with a provisional date of 6 November 2024 at the Castle Green Hotel.	JH		Ongoing	This has been discussed in the working group and they are now looking towards Spring for an event.

10/10/2024

Kendal Town Council

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 01/10/2024

Month No: 7

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>Kendal In Bloom</u>							
KIB Floral Displays	(19,045)	(14,243)	(30,000)	15,757		15,757	
KIB Projects & Grants	(8,621)	(221)	(6,000)	5,779	(3,000)	2,779	
Other Expenses	(84)	0	0	0		0	
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0	0			
Expenditure	27,750	14,464	36,000	21,536	3,000	18,536	
Net Income over Expenditure	(27,750)	(14,464)	(36,000)	(21,536)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(27,750)	(14,464)	(36,000)	(21,536)			

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 22nd October 2024
From: Town Clerk	Agenda No. 7
Description: Draft Budget 2025-26	

Summary: *The committee is asked to consider the Draft Budget, amend as required and submit it to the full Council for consideration.*

DRAFT Budget 2025-26

The Committee must consider its expenditure aims for the next financial year, and make recommendations to the Council. Expenditure should be in keeping with the aims of the Council Plan.

The following shows the current budget and estimated outturn. The next column shows the estimated amount required in the next financial year to complete the Council's actions. The final column shows the percentage variance on the previous year's budget.

Item	Current year	Expected outturn	Proposed 25-26	% variance
Floral Displays	30,000	28,500	30,600	+2%
Projects and Grants	6,000	6,000	6,000	0
Total	36,000	34,500	36,600	+1.67%

In 2024 we anticipated that there would be a change in the grounds maintenance contractor at Westmorland and Furness, which would coincide with our own contract terms. This hasn't taken place in a practical timescale, so it is likely that we will extend our contract with the existing supplier for another year, and then deal with the new contractor/organization next winter. There are some ambitious plans for improvements in the planting regime which we anticipate will be met by the major uplift in the Floral Displays budget last year. It is proposed to increase this line by a small allowance for inflation. Projects and Grants remains at the same level as last year.



Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 22 October 2024
From: Council Services Officer	Agenda No.: 8
Description: The Kendal in Bloom working group update report.	

Summary: *The committee are asked to note the report.*

In the last Kendal in Bloom Committee meeting, it was agreed to undertake a thorough review of the Kendal in Bloom initiative and that a working group would meet to develop a strategy and report back to the Committee.

The working group meet every month. Taking into account the ongoing flood works in Kendal, the group thought it was appropriate to develop a 3-year strategy.

Aims

- Help to develop a community who are empowered and have a sense of pride in their locality
- Create an attractive town centre
- Ensure partnership involvement – W&F, Kendal Futures, BID
- Focussed promotion of Bloom, using social media platforms
- Develop a structure to identify and support community Champions and groups,
- Develop a sustainable civic planting strategy
- Provide funding support for community groups

It was suggested to host an open event in the first quarter of 2025. The event would aim to outline the priorities and new direction of the Kendal in Bloom Committee. The event will provide community groups, businesses, stakeholders etc the opportunity to put forward ideas.

Supporting a Community Initiative

The group identified specific locations within Kendal which would benefit from some 'TLC'. The group's aspiration is to support existing community groups to develop specific areas within their locality. The Town Council could provide support by liaising with landowners for permission to develop, providing small funding support, creating interest and promoting the community group's activity on social media platforms.

Recommendation

That Committee members are asked to note the report.



Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 22 October 2024
From: Council Services Officer	Agenda No.: 9
Description: Participation in Cumbria in Bloom 2025	

Summary: The committee are asked to decide if they want to participate in the Cumbria in Bloom Initiative next year.

For many years Kendal Town Council has participated in the annual Cumbria in Bloom competition.

The ongoing flood works have caused significant disruption across Kendal and does result in challenges co-ordinating a route for the Cumbria on Bloom judges.

The Committee are asked to decide on participating in the 2025 CIB competition.

Recommendation

The Committee to decide on participating in the CIB 2025 competition.



Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 22 October 2024
From: Townscape Officer	Agenda No.: 11
Summary: The committee are asked to note the report.	

I have a special interest in composting and incorporating this into my role at the Town Council.

What are the Benefits of Composting

- Prevents Soil Erosion.
- Assists in Stormwater Management.
- Promotes Healthier Plant Growth.
- Conserves Water.
- Reduces Waste.
- Combats Climate Change.
- Reduces Project Maintenance Costs.
- Improves Soil Health.

Compost enriches and builds healthy soil. Conserves water and reduces water use by helping soils retain moisture. Helps prevent soil erosion by reducing soil compaction and runoff. Reduces reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Improves plant growth and promotes higher yield.

Composting ensures that we return all the valuable compounds stored in materials back into the soil. This creates rich topsoil much more quickly than otherwise possible.

Decomposition will be complete anywhere from two weeks to two years depending on the materials used, the size of the pile, and how often it is turned. Compost is ready when it has cooled, turned a rich brown colour, and has decomposed into small soil-like particles.

Cost of Compost for 2023

56 bags of Multipurpose 80ltr Total Net £359.20

Savings

KTC will be able to save this amount annually. Composting also eradicates the need to spend any more money on green waste disposal (approximately £160)

Labour for the processing.

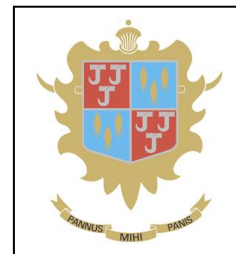
It is difficult to set an exact time for the processing. I do it in between other jobs when I have a bit of time to spare. The site and the compost bins are situated behind the recycling compound at Canal Head.

Usage

The compost is used in the planters around Kendal and the boundary signs for the summer and winter planting.

Kendal Town Council

Kendal in Bloom Grant 2024-2025



Please use this form to apply for a Kendal in Bloom Grant from Kendal Town Council. You must complete all the boxes on the form and submit it along with the required paperwork. On receipt of this form you will be given a date when your application will be considered by the relevant committee. You can use additional pages if you require.

Name of Organisation	Principal Contact
Kirkbie Green Community Group (KGCG)	Bob Gibbs
██████████ Kendal ██████████	██████████ ██████████
Date of application	15/08/2024
Telephone	██████████
E-mail	██████████hotmail.co.uk
Description of organisation	
<p>KGCG was established in 2021 as a residents' network and embraced the concerns and interests of over 47 households and residents, producing a newsletter every 4 months, organising social events, addressing social isolation and encouraging active citizenship. More recently, it became a focus for action and a platform for creating exemplars of rewilding 'best practice' on the Greens at either end of the estate. With helpful funding from Kendal Town Council (KTC), the Kendal in Bloom project was established in October 2023. In September 2024, KGCG was nominated for the BBC Radio Cumbria 'Making a Difference Award' and featured in a BBC TV Northwest programme exemplifying this effort.</p>	
How much funding do you require in total? £1,000 (one thousand pounds)	
How much funding are you requesting from the Town Council (maximum £500)	£500 (five hundred pounds)
Have you approached other funding sources? If so, please list them and the amount you have applied for.	No
Tell us what you will do with a grant from Kendal Town Council?	

This grant will go toward ongoing work/maintenance of Kendal in Bloom Project – this project had an excellent start but will require tending and nurturing in future years as plants/shrubs become established – see attached overview. This work will include:

- ongoing work parties in autumn and spring each year;
- further tree trunk procurement and placement on S Green;
- site management on N + S Greens, with support from Persimmon;
- purchase of bulbs including daffodils, tulips, bluebells, lilies, gladioli and canna lilies;
- grass and wildflower seed to promote new growth;
- and restocking specific areas.

How will your activity benefit the people of Kendal?

It will raise awareness of eco-diversity as well as bringing pleasure and delight to residents and passers-by. During this time, KGCG has invested approximately £750 in these projects and over 30 neighbours have given over 300 hours of time planning and working on the two greens. We have produced three editions of KGCG Newsletter that were distributed to over 50 households and partners; and received generous donations from local businesses and neighbours amounting to over £1k in cash and ‘in kind’. This project helped create valuable habitats for pollinators and other insects as well as wildlife havens for birds, bats, hedgehogs and small animals. A magnificent effort by neighbours and all our partners to tackle climate change through our community effort, whilst supporting and encouraging eco diversity for the enjoyment and well-being of residents and the numerous passers-by.

How will your activity help to reduce Kendal’s Carbon Footprint?

Massively! It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land. Measurements of the average temperature at the Earth’s surface show it has risen by about 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period. Each of the last 3 decades have been hotter than the previous one and the 7 warmest years on record have occurred between 2015 and 2021. Here in Kendal, we must face this climate crisis actively – thinking globally and acting locally by encouraging and supporting small scale projects that reduce the carbon footprint. Nature is our life support system and small-scale initiatives are needed to help nature heal itself and to heal us. Danger of species extinction, particularly bird, insect and amphibians, alongside catastrophic climate change threatens all life on earth. In a small but significant way, we wish to create an exemplar of rewilding ‘best practice’. We aim to do this by encouraging a positive approach to biodiversity and restoring ecosystems.

Do you have a constitution?

Please send a copy with your application

Yes – see attached

Bank Details – How does the name of your organisation appear on your bank account? Include your account number and sort code. This is who we will transfer funds to, should your application be successful.

Details of KGCG bank account

Lloyds Bank

A/C [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Name [REDACTED]

KGCG is a cooperative and run successfully by a small group of volunteers. In the second year of operation, small scale funding has come through personal contributions; inviting sponsorship from local service providers/businesses; and 'in kind' support from Kendal Conservation Volunteers, Persimmon, Volker Stevin and the Environment Agency. Our small-scale funds are held by a senior, trusted neighbour which, with the relatively small amounts, accounts are audited internally by 3 residents.




Please include the following documents with your application

- **Most recent bank statements and last audited accounts**
- **Constitution of group. This must include a statement on how you promote equality**

Declaration

- **I/we understand that grant money from Kendal Town Council must be used for the agreed purpose.**
- **I/we will abide by the conditions of funding.**

Please note that we do require 3 signatures in order to present your application to Committee.

Signature		Name	R E Gibbs	Position	KGCG Coordinator
Signature		Name		Position	KGCG Coordinator
Signature		Name	T W H Keegan	Position	KGCG Treasurer

Please return completed forms by e-mail or post: Kendal Town Council, Town Hall, Kendal, LA9 4DQ. Email: office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk

Form ref KTC KiB1 2024