

# Kendal Town Council

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



17 February 2026

To Members of the Kendal in Bloom Committee

Kendal Town Council Members	Co-optees
Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Rachel Eardley (Horticulture)
Cllr D Brown	Toni Yates (Kendal Civic Society)
Cllr E Hennessy	
Cllr L Hendry	
Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	

You are invited to a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee on Tuesday, 24 February 2026, 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](http://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 emailing the council at [office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk).

### 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 5)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on 21 October 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

**5. Minute Action Sheet (pages 6 to 7)**

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 8)**

To note the Committee's spend against budget. The Committee may be required to vire any underspend from the Planting budget to the Projects Budget, to assist in the cost of Grants and Projects.

**7. Cumbria in Bloom Award (page 9)**

To consider a proposal that the Council hosts the annual Cumbria in Bloom Awards for South Cumbria.

**8. Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project (pages 10 to 12)**

To consider the update report on the Council's project to improve Civic Planting in Kirkland and to make any necessary decisions.

**9. Litter picking (page 13)**

To consider a proposal to reinstate monthly community litter picks.

**10 Civic Planting Update Report (page 14 to 15)**

To consider an update report on the Civic Planting for 2026 and make any necessary decisions.

## Kendal Town Council

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Kendal.**

### Kendal Town Council Members

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

### Co-optees

A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Not present
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**In attendance:** Janine Holt (Council Services Manager), Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk) Becca Hewitson (Projects Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer).

### B10/2025 Apologies

No apologies for absence had been submitted.

### B11/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

### B12/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

### B13/2025 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 June 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### B14/2025 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Manager reported that she was meeting Shelagh Todd in November, but the Town Clerk had already had a preliminary session.

Some of the summer planters will be removed and re-used a Town View Community Garden – this project was just awaiting formal approval from Westmorland and Furness Council.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

### **B15/2025      Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26**

The Council Services Manager presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 30 September 2025. She explained that she was expecting an underspend in the Displays budget, some of which she would like to vire to the Projects budget to ensure there were sufficient funds for the Projects Officer to make good progress in the current financial year at Kirkland.

**Resolved:** To vire £2,000 from Displays (440 4900) to Projects and Grants (440 4905).

**Resolved:** to note the report.

### **B16/2025      Kendal in Bloom Grant Application**

The Committee considered a grant application from Manna House to support the maintenance of their Memory Garden. The application had been passed to in Bloom from the Culture & Communities Committee, who felt the KIB Grant was a better fit. It was noted that the organisation had also applied to several other funders.

**Resolved:** To award a grant of £500 from the Projects and Grants budget.

### **B17/2025      Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project**

The Projects Officer presented a report on the progress of the Kirkland Project. She would be facilitating the first community group meeting tomorrow (22 October) at the Abbot Hall Social Centre and was expecting 8 from the 16 volunteers who have expressed an interest so far to be present. Also in attendance would be Astrid Mohr from Lakeland Arts and Nicola Metcalfe from W&FC.

The new sign at the Peace Garden was now in place and further advice was being sought from Shelagh Todd about next step maintenance.

The report included an update on the Dowkers Lane beds, and there was some discussion on the merits of retaining ivy on trees, or removing it. The W&FC tree officer had recommended removing the ivy to better support the tree. Cadent Gas had agreed to fund the cost of new plant, as a community contribution after they had been carrying out disruptive works in the area recently. The Clerk reminded the Committee that there was also an Active Travel scheme progressing through the area which might also impact on the planting.

The report requested approval for three specific actions from the Projects budget and these were resolved as follows

**Resolved:** To approve £200 for additional plants at the Peace Garden.

**Resolved:** To allocate up to £2,900 for improvement works on the Dowkers Lane bed

**Resolved:** To allocate the £500 from Cadent Gas to the Dowkers Lane bed.

The Chair thanked the Projects Officer for the exciting progress being made in this area and the Committee noted the report.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

#### **B18/2025 Horticultural Advisor**

The Committee received a report from the Council Services Manager on the contracting of a Horticulturalist to improve the Council's knowledge of horticultural matters.

**Resolved:** To allocate £640 in the current year and £720 in the next year to engage Shelagh Todd as horticultural advisor.

#### **B19/2025 Draft Budget 2026/27**

The Clerk presented a report on the proposed Draft Budget for 2026/27. It suggested lifting the Floral Displays budget by 4.6% to deal with inflation, volatility and the engagement of the horticultural advisor, and splitting the Projects and Grants headings, with a £2,000 allocation to Grants and £6,000 to Projects. The total budget requirement would be £40,000, a 9.3% increase on the previous year.

The Committee concurred with the recommendations in the report.

**Resolved:** To accept the Draft budget as set out in the report, and forward it to the Budget Working Group for incorporation into the Council's full budget.

#### **B20/2025 Civic Planting Report**

The Committee received a report from the Council Services Manager updating them on the Civic planting. The winter plants arrived today and would be planted up over the next few days. Compost will be drawn from the Canal Head composting facility. The Townscape Officer reported that many of the geraniums from Windermere Road would be rehomed through Waste into Wellbeing, rather than composted. Cllr Hendry offered to supply some of her surplus pots to assist in this process.

Planters from Dowkers Lane, Nobles Rest and Natland Mill Beck Lane would be re-purposed at Town View garden for growing vegetables.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

**Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 24th February 2026**

<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Action (Resolution)</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline, if any</b>	<b>Date Actioned</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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/ST		Ongoing	The Council Services Manager is working with the Horticultural Advisor on developing the Civic Planting Strategy. It is anticipated that a first draft of the document will be available at the KIB meeting in April.
4	22/07/2025	B8/2025	Civic Planting Update Report and Winter Planting Proposal	To proceed with the in-house winter planting.	JH/PL		Completed	Work Completed
5	22/07/2025	B8/2025	Civic Planting Update Report and Winter Planting Proposal	To approve the removal of the planters at Asda Roundabout, Dowker Lane and Nobles Rest.	JH/PL		Completed	Work Completed
6	22/07/2025	B9/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	Officers to encourage the creation of a 'Friends of Kirkland' group to apply for grants.	BH		Ongoing	There is a small group of volunteers who have met and agreed to undertake the planting on the Dowker Lane bed.
7	22/07/2025	B9/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	Officers to obtain a quote for clearance of Dowker Bed, re-planting and weed reduction with cover and mulch.	BH		Completed	The Dowker Lane bed will be planted up in the next few weeks, the original date of 11th February had to be cancelled.
8	22/07/2025	B9/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	Officers to obtain a quote for removal of the Radial Beds to re-plant on the edges of Abbot Hall and to return the area to turf.	BH		Ongoing	Westmorland & Furness Council are obtaining this through Nicola Metcalfe. They will pay for the Radial Bed removal and relocation of plants. I have offered to assist with comms.

Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
9	21/10/2025	B15/2025	Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26	To vire £2,000 from Displays (440 4900) to Projects and Grants (440 4905)	SD		Completed	Funds moved into Project and Grants budget.
10	21/10/2025	B16/2025	Kendal in Bloom Grant Application	To award a grant of £500 to Manna House from the Projects and Grants budget	CG		Completed	Grant paid to Manna House.
11	21/10/2025	B17/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To approve £200 for additional plants at the Peace Garden	BH		Ongoing	Plants ordered, awaiting rescheduled planting date.
12	21/10/2025	B17/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To allocate up to £2,900 for improvement works on the Dowkers Lane bed	BH		Ongoing	Plants ordered, awaiting rescheduled planting date.
13	21/10/2025	B17/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To allocate the £500 from Cadent Gas to the Dowkers Lane bed.	BH		Completed	Funds moved into Project and Grants budget.
14	21/10/2025	B18/2025	Horticultural Advisor	To engage Shelagh Todd as horticultural advisor.	JH		Ongoing	Shelagh Todd was appointed and is working with Council Officers.

12:26

**Kendal Town Council**  
**Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 11)**  
**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
<b>440</b>	<b><u>Kendal In Bloom</u></b>									
1999	Other Income	0	0	0	500	500	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Income</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
4900	KIB Floral Displays	30,000	21,094	30,600	16,471	30,600	240	0	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	6,000	2,486	6,000	4,157	6,000	750	0	0	0
	<b>Overhead Expenditure</b>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>23,580</u>	<u>36,600</u>	<u>20,628</u>	<u>36,600</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>(23,580)</u>	<u>(36,600)</u>	<u>(20,128)</u>	<u>(36,100)</u>		<u>0</u>		
	<b>Total Budget Income</b>	0	0	0	500	500	0	0	0	0
	<b>Expenditure</b>	36,000	23,580	36,600	20,628	36,600	990	0	0	0
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(36,000)</u>	<u>(23,580)</u>	<u>(36,600)</u>	<u>(20,128)</u>	<u>(36,100)</u>		<u>0</u>		

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 24. February 2026
From: Council Services Manager	Agenda No 7
Description: Cumbria in Bloom Awards Ceremony	

*Summary: The committee is asked to consider continued support for the annual Cumbria in Bloom Awards Ceremony 2026.*

#### Background

Kendal Town Council has previously supported the Cumbria in Bloom Annual Awards Ceremony by hosting the event at the Town Hall. The ceremony, held each year in early October, celebrates achievements across the region in community gardening, environmental enhancement, and horticultural excellence.

Hosting the event in Kendal provides an opportunity to promote the town, support community pride, and strengthen its ongoing involvement in the wider Cumbria in Bloom network.

#### Proposal

The Committee agrees to continue supporting the Annual Awards Ceremony by:

- Hosting the event at Kendal Town Hall
- Providing light refreshments for attendees.

This commitment would ensure Kendal's ongoing partnership with Cumbria in Bloom and reinforce the town's role in championing community-led environmental activity.

Refreshments and room fees are charged at the Town Hall's standard rates and are usually covered by the Kendal in Bloom Projects and Grants budget, requiring up to £300.

#### Recommendation

That Committee members are asked to:

- Approve continued support for the Cumbria in Bloom Awards Ceremony.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 24/02/26
From: Project Officer	Agenda No: 8
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.

#### Project Update

The original project scope divided delivery into phases over three years, with defined areas allocated to each year. As we approach the end of Year 1, officers considered it appropriate to provide an update on progress across the identified areas.

#### Year 1 Progress

##### Dowker Lane Bed and Planter

- The planter has been donated to Waste into Wellbeing.
- The bed has been cleared using KTC project funds, and a volunteer planting event is currently being organised.
- A free planting plan was provided by Cath's Plants, and a £500 donation from Cadent Gas will enable the bed to be replanted with a colourful, sustainable scheme to enhance this well-used area of the town.
- Ongoing maintenance will remain the responsibility of W&F Council.

##### Abbot Hall Park – Radial Beds

- Following agreement with the Kendal in Bloom Committee, the radial beds are to be removed.
- W&F Council has agreed to undertake these works at their own cost using their contractors.
- Where possible, KTC are encouraging plants are being relocated to the edges of Abbot Hall Park, with any unsuitable plants being donated.
- W&F Council have updated that they have received a quote for the work, but currently don't have the budget to complete this. Their plan was to relocate the plants to the front arch to welcome people into the park.

##### Abbot Hall Park – Peace Garden

- Improvements have included:

- Cutting back overgrown plants
- Replacement of box hedge plants
- Introduction of new planting to provide winter interest
- Replacement of rotten posts and treatment of the peace pole
- Installation of white edging stones and an interpretation sign
- A further £200 contribution from the Kendal in Bloom Committee has been used to purchase additional box plants and coloured-stem dogwoods to fill gaps created by the cut back.
- Mulch will need to be added prior to spring to suppress weed growth.
- The Veterans Working Party has expressed continued interest in supporting further improvements and maintenance in the spring, as well as investigating and repairing damage to the peace pole.
- W&F Council remains the landowner and continues to carry out regular maintenance.

#### Kirkland Curb Planters

- These planters will be incorporated into the Civic Planting Plan currently being prepared by Shelagh Todd.

### **Year 2 Considerations**

#### Dowker Lane Entrance

- Quotes have been obtained to clear this bed; however, W&F Council does not wish to take on the maintenance of an additional planted area.
- Officers have sought a local group to take ownership of ongoing maintenance, but no interest has been secured to date.

#### Abbot Hall Riverside

- Areas beneath the large trees and adjacent to Abbot Hall car park have been offered to Kendal College, and a response is awaited.
- The long, narrow grassed area alongside the river presents an opportunity to create a scented planting area for people using Colonel's Walk.
- However, W&F Council does not support converting this relatively low-maintenance grassed area into a planted bed.
- Any proposal would require a third party to take on maintenance, along with an agreement with W&F Council to reinstate the area to grass should maintenance cease.

#### Coronation Bed

- This bed continues to be successfully maintained by Toni, and officers do not propose to alter this arrangement.
- Any learning from the Civic Planting Plan may be incorporated in the future, subject to consultation with Toni.

## Proposed Revised Focus for Year 2

While none of the Year 2 or Year 3 areas are being removed from the project, officers are proposing a revised focus for Year 2.

Greater attention is needed in the Kirkland main road area, as this is highly visible to residents and visitors and is currently the area most in need of biodiversity enhancement. By improving cleanliness, introducing colour, and enhancing biodiversity, it is hoped that these relatively small interventions will foster greater pride and generate momentum for further improvements.

Following the KTC letter drop and poster campaign, several local businesses expressed interest in improving biodiversity outside their premises. However, none have yet progressed to submitting grant applications. Officers therefore propose that Year 2 focuses on actively engaging with businesses by:

- Providing support with grant applications
- Offering guidance on suitable, sustainable, and safe planting options
- Supporting planting pot and pavement safety considerations

If taken up, this approach would complement the Civic Planting Plan and help create a more cohesive appearance along Kirkland Road.

Delivery would require engagement with:

- Shelagh Todd, for horticultural expertise
- W&F Council, to ensure compliance with safety and street furniture regulations

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## Committee Decision Requested

1. To amend the current Project Scope for Year 2, delaying:
  - Dowker Lane Entrance (Area 3 in the original report), and
  - Abbot Hall Riverside (Area 6 in the original report),

and instead focus Year 2 on engagement with businesses and the promotion of biodiversity improvements along the Kirkland Road area.

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 24 February 2026
From: Councillor Blackman	Agenda No 9
Description: Litter Picks & Community Involvement	

Summary: *The committee are asked to discuss re-establishing community litter picks.*

#### Background

The Town Council previously organised monthly community litter picks, however, these activities have not taken place since November 2024.

#### Proposal

That the Committee considers reinstating the monthly community litter pick programme, to be coordinated initially by Town Council officers. The initiative aims to support environmental improvement, encourage civic pride, and strengthen community involvement across Kendal. The longer term aim will be to identify volunteers to coordinate this activity.

#### Recommendation

That Committee members are asked to:

- Approve the reinstatement of the monthly community litter picks

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 24.2.26
From: Council Services Manager	Agenda No 10
Description: To note the civic planting update report.	

### Civic Planting Update Report

#### Background

At the previous meeting, the Committee agreed to engage specialised horticultural expertise to support the development of the civic planting strategy, to improve project outcomes and ensure long-term sustainability.

The appointed consultant (Shelagh Todd) was selected based on previous experience as a Cumbria in Bloom judge and successful work on the rejuvenation of the Peace Garden.

### Development of the Civic Planting Strategy

#### Research Phase

The initial task involved reviewing the existing report produced by Lakeland Landscapes, followed by a meeting with the Town Clerk on 11 September 2025. The meeting included discussions about the current planting scheme, future aspirations, and a walk-through of the town centre planters. The Town Clerk also provided a document detailing all current planter locations.

Over the subsequent weeks, Shelagh undertook multiple visits to Kendal to locate and review all 170 civic planters. Information was gathered regarding their history, locations, successes, and issues. Research was also carried out into sustainable planting designs and approaches. She engaged with Kendal residents to gather feedback and met with Toni Yates, one of the town's key horticultural volunteers.

Following a meeting in December with the Council Services Manager and Townscape Officer, the immediate priority was confirmed as developing the planting plan and schedule for summer 2026. A draft timetable was created, with the planting schedule and order due by the beginning of February 2026. A draft strategy document is scheduled for completion ahead of the KIB Committee meeting in April. Implementation of the strategy is anticipated to begin in Autumn 2026, supported by a funded three-year action plan.

## **Development of the Summer 2026 Planting Plan**

Shelagh has carried out nutrient and pH testing on the Town Council's homemade compost. The Townscape Officer provided further insights into planting successes, failures, vandalism, maintenance issues, and logistical considerations.

Extensive networking with local growers and suppliers has been undertaken to identify suitable sustainable plant species and secure a reliable professional grower capable of delivering the required volume. A meeting is scheduled for 12 February with the preferred supplier at their nursery, where plant suitability and requirements for summer 2026 will be discussed. Following this meeting, it is hoped that a plant order can be placed.

A key recommendation for this year is to reduce the overall number of planters and focus efforts on the town centre. This approach will reduce watering demands, concentrate visual impact, and help manage budget constraints, particularly in light of substantial plant cost increases over the past year.

## **Containers to Be Removed in 2026**

- West Street barrier baskets (4)
- Windermere Road barrier baskets (12)
- Long Pool four-tier planters (2)
- Cricket Club four-tier planters (2)

The new planting scheme will feature a mix of high-quality annuals and selected perennials at lower tiers. Although initial costs will be higher, ongoing maintenance and replacement costs are expected to decrease over time.

The number of hanging baskets will remain unchanged. However, Shelagh is exploring options for year-round displays by incorporating perennials and supplementing them with annuals during summer for added colour. This approach supports sustainability by reducing watering needs, plant costs, labour, and storage requirements.

## **Ongoing Expertise and Advisory Support**

Shelagh provided horticultural advice to Becca as she prepared the Peace Garden for Remembrance Day. A follow-up visit was conducted on 6 February 2026 to discuss ongoing maintenance and potential additional planting to enhance the area.

The planters at Woolpack Yard have also been assessed, and Shelagh is currently finalising a planting plan and maintenance schedule for this location.