

Kendal Town Council

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



17 March 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 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, 25 March 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A B' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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 22 October 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record (see attached).

5. Minute Action Sheet (page 7)

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 8)

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

7. Civic Planting Strategy (pages 9 to 21)

To consider the sustainable planting report produced by Lakeland Gardens as a review of current civic planting and to inform a civic planting strategy.

8. Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project (pages 22 to 23)

To consider the development of the project.

9. Kendal in Bloom Grant Application (pages 24 to 26)

To consider 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 will be used to purchase robust large outdoor planters.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To consider the date of the next meeting which is currently scheduled to be held on 22 April 2025.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 22 October 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	Apologies	Cllr E Hennessy	Apologies
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present*

Co-optees

J Cottam	Not present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticare)	Apologies
A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present		

Also present: Rachel Eardley (Horticare Supervisor).

In attendance: Janine Holt (Council Services Officer) and Pierre Labat (Townscape Officer), Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Natalia Williams (Deputy Town Clerk).

B9/2024 Apologies

Resolved: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Hennessy and Finch, and from Caroline Stuart-Smith.

B10/2024 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised under this item.

B11/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B12/2024 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 23 July 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B13/2024 Minute Action Sheet

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

The Council Services Officer reported that she was still discussing the first draft of a new planting strategy from consultants. The Chair offered to assist in the ongoing discussion.

It was noted that Claire in the KTC office was now posting In Bloom items to the Town Council Facebook page.

An event planned for 6 November was now pushed back into the new year.

Some crossover of concern with the Council's Environment Committee was noted, particularly for sites such as the BT building on Blackhall Road.

Resolved: To note the report.

B14/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 10 October 2024. It was noted that the Townscape Officer's plans for expanding compost production at Canal Head for the civic planting, expected to be in the region of £2,000 (max) would come from the Projects budget. This would be considered later in the meeting as an item.

Resolved: To note the report.

B15/2024 Budget Review 2025/26

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

The report included the following table which showed the current budget and estimated outturn. The next column showed the estimated amount required in the next financial year to complete the Council's actions. The final column showed 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, it had been anticipated that there would be a change in the grounds maintenance contractor at Westmorland and Furness Council, which would coincide with the Town Council's own contract terms. This had not taken place in a practical timescale, so it was likely that the Town Council would extend its contract with the existing supplier for another year, and then deal with the new contractor/organisation next winter. There were some ambitious plans for improvements in the planting regime which it was anticipated would be met by the major uplift in the Floral Displays budget in the previous year. It was proposed to increase this line by a small allowance for inflation. Projects and Grants remained at the same level as the previous year.

Resolved: To recommend the proposed budget requirements for the next financial year, as attached to the report and outlined above, for consideration by the Management Committee prior to presentation to Full Council.

B16/2024 Kendal in Bloom Working Group

The Committee had, at its last meeting, agreed to undertake a thorough review of the Kendal in Bloom initiative and to establish a working group to develop a strategy and report back to the Committee. It was noted that most members present were also on the Working Group.

The working group met every month. Taking into account the ongoing flood works in Kendal, the group had felt it appropriate to develop a three-year strategy with the following aims:

- To help to develop a community who are empowered and have a sense of pride in their locality
- To create an attractive town centre.
- To ensure partnership involvement – Westmorland and Furness Council, Kendal Futures, Kendal BID.
- Focussed promotion of Bloom, using social media platforms.
- To develop a structure to identify and support community champions and groups.
- To develop a sustainable civic planting strategy.
- To provide funding support for community groups.

It had been 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 would provide community groups, businesses, stakeholders, etc., the opportunity to put forward ideas.

The group had identified specific locations within Kendal which would benefit from some 'TLC'. This would be focused around the southern end of Highgate, Kirkland and Gillinggate. The group's aspiration was 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.

Resolved: To accept the recommendation of the Working Group to focus efforts on Highgate/Kirkland area

B17/2024 Participation in Cumbria in Bloom 2025

The Chair explained that for many years, Kendal Town Council had participated in the annual Cumbria in Bloom competition. The ongoing flood works had caused significant disruption across Kendal, resulting in challenges co-ordinating a route for the Cumbria in Bloom judges. To achieve the longer term aims of the In Bloom process, the Working Group recommended that the Council did not submit an entry into Cumbria in Bloom for the whole in 2025. It was noted that individual groups and areas would continue to enter the programme through 'It's Your Neighbourhood'. The Committee was asked to decide on the specific point of participation in the 2025 Cumbria in Bloom competition.

Resolved: To not enter Cumbria in Bloom for the town in 2025.

B18/2024 Civic Planting

Members were presented with a montage of images of the 2024 Summer Civic Planting.

Resolved: To note the montage of images of the 2024 Summer Civic Planting.

B19/2024 Composting

The Townscape Officer reported that he had developed an interest in composting and incorporating this into his role at the Town Council. The Council currently used 56 bags of Multipurpose 80ltr costing £359 pa. He proposed to save this, and the £160 pa for green waste disposal, by expanding composting capacity at Canal Head.

He proposed to expand the area of hardcore on the site, which would allow him to double the number of compost bins. The scheme was expected to cost less than £2,000 for hardcore, timber, materials and labour.

Resolved: To approve the scheme from Project funding.

B20/2024 Kendal in Bloom Grant Application

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

Resolved: To award a grant of £500.

The meeting closed at 6.53 p.m.

Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 17 March 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		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		Completed	Admin Officer has put regular KIB posts on social media, we have had 2 volunteers to date.
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 Dowker Lane	LH/JH		Completed	The plants have now been planted at Somervell Gardens.
11	23/07/2024	B6/2024	Minute Action Sheet	Toni Yates to come back to Committee with recommendations for the Blackhall Road corner.	TY/JH		Completed	Council Services Officer has still received no contact from the owners.
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?CG		Completed	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	The timescale has passed for this event, Committee to discuss.

07:46

Kendal Town Council
Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 11)
Note: Full Budget Statement

		<u>23/24</u>		<u>24/25</u>			<u>25/26</u>			
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
440	<u>Kendal In Bloom</u>									
4900	KIB Floral Displays	26,500	19,045	30,000	21,009	30,000	4,305	30,600	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	8,500	8,621	6,000	1,558	6,000	0	6,000	0	0
4910	Other Expenses	0	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	35,000	27,750	36,000	22,566	36,000	4,305	36,600	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(35,000)	(27,750)	(36,000)	(22,566)	(36,000)		(36,600)		
	Total Budget Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	35,000	27,750	36,000	22,566	36,000	4,305	36,600	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(35,000)	(27,750)	(36,000)	(22,566)	(36,000)		(36,600)		

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 25 th March 2025
From: Development & Delivery Manager	Agenda No: 7
Description: Report – Civic Planting Strategy	

Background

The Kendal in Bloom committee commissioned Lakeland Gardens to produce a sustainable planting report, as a review of current civic planting and to inform a civic planting strategy.

The full report is included.

Officers have the following key take aways:

- The need to apply sustainability to the entire lifecycle of planting.
- Reconsideration of the planting displays:
 - o Creation of larger planted spaces, planted in the ground where possible.
 - o Review of planters – tiered, wall troughs, hanging baskets.
 - o Drought resistant and lower maintenance plant mixes.
 - o 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 will be reviewed for specific suggestions that can be incorporated into future planting plans.

The report will 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 will seek additional advice and bring a proposal to a future committee. This will also consider implications for the civic planting plans where required.

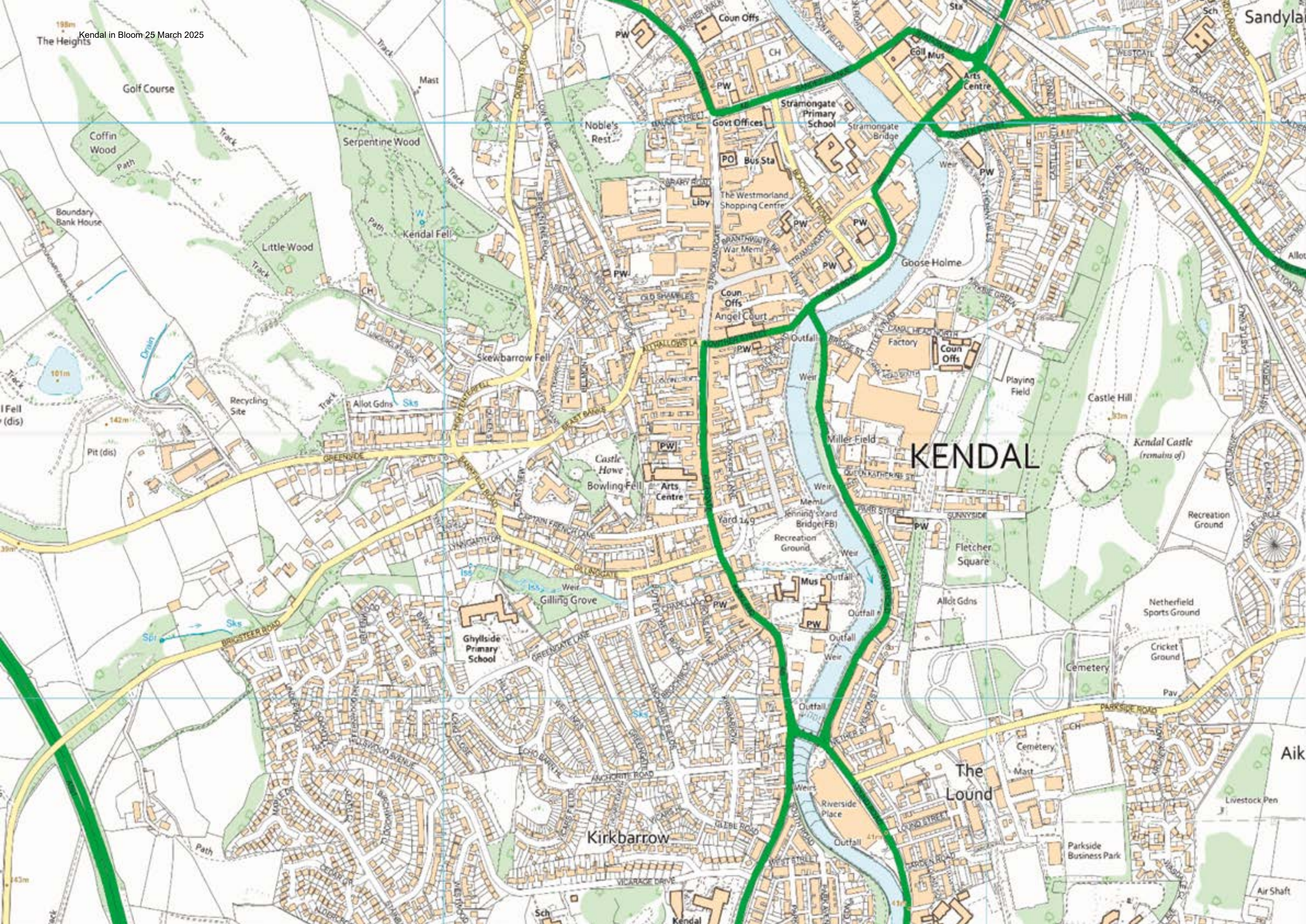
Committee Decision

The committee is asked to note the report.



Kendal Town Sustainable Planting Report





KENDAL SUSTAINABLE PLANTING REPORT

Subject - Sustainable planting

Date - October 2024

Author - Lakeland Gardens Ltd.

Report Summary

With an eye on the future, Kendal Town Council are looking for ways to reduce water consumption, time spent watering, and to save money on annual planting, and generally improve sustainability. This report aims to suggest ways to achieve these goals.

Background

Kendal Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and is committed to making Kendal a carbon neutral town as soon as possible.

Colourful displays of flowers in hanging baskets, wall troughs and tiered planters adorn the town centre throughout the summer each year. The bright colours of these planters bring a sense of joy and brightness to the 'Auld Grey Town'.

As the weather patterns become less and less predictable, these cheerful displays are becoming increasingly demanding in terms of water consumption, manpower to keep them watered, and the costs involved in planting them annually.

Traditional displays of annual bedding plants offer little in the way of biodiversity and habitat throughout the year, and are empty and cheerless throughout much of the year.

A reimagining of current practices could not only offer a more sustainable and cost-effective planting scheme for Kendal, but it could also bring year-round interest and colour to the town's planting, increased habitats and feeding opportunities for wildlife, and the potential to include the community in maintenance and food growing opportunities.

Key Objectives

Sustainability

Sustainability must refer not only to the climate considerations of a planting scheme, but also to its sustainability in terms of finance and ongoing resources.

The importance of sustainability must be applied to the entire lifecycle of the planting, from purchasing to maintenance, and eventually to disposal.

Consideration must be paid to the products and methods used for planting. For example, the use of peat free compost, the minimisation of packaging etc.

Biodiversity

With an increasing understanding of our reliance on healthy ecosystems for our physical and mental wellbeing, it is important to consider the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity within towns, cities and the wider countryside wherever possible. Providing valuable urban green space and habitat, enhanced with nesting boxes, bug hotels and water features, can offer wildlife a refuge within the built environment.

The Council's future planting displays could help to multiply the benefits of sustainable gardening ideals, by educating and involving the public, and inspiring them to take a similar approach to biodiversity in their own gardens locally.

Reduction in Costs

Global events, changing politics, supply issues, and environmental considerations have all played their role in escalating costs and the increased pressure on councils to reduce expenditure. This must, therefore, be a key consideration in relation to planting and use of resources.

Reconsidering the approach to planting displays could help to reduce costs in the long run. For example, the use of drought resistant and lower maintenance planting mixes could significantly reduce maintenance and watering costs throughout the year.

The creation of larger planted spaces, as opposed to smaller planted containers/hanging baskets/troughs would help to reduce production costs, waste materials and energy required to sustain this traditional approach.

Aesthetics

In our unique position as the 'Gateway to the Lake District', a natural aesthetic will chime with the ethos of the town as a forward thinking, environmentally active and nature loving community. With greater public interest in this, and demand for more nature related pursuits, such as gardening for wildlife, there has never been a better time to bring a more natural aesthetic to the town's planting scheme.

As evidenced throughout the world, the most attractive and liveable towns and cities are those with the most trees and flowers.

An abundance of greenery and nature bring a town to life, and take to heart the need for natural connection in the lives of its inhabitants. Not only does the foliage soften the hard edges of the buildings, but the colour green is known to aid healing and relaxation in humans.



Sheffield - Grey to Green Project



Wellbeing

Green spaces in towns are multifunctional and, if carefully planned/designed/managed, can produce many benefits:

- meeting spaces, social connections, exercise, opportunities for relaxation
- amenity value and civic pride
- ecosystem services – plants can help to filter pollution, provide nectar bars for pollinators, and trees release phytoncides which can boost the immune system
- noise mitigation
- wildlife habitat
- potential for food production
- community engagement/cohesion in caring for and managing green spaces

Kendal Market Place has long been used for community gatherings such as Armistice Day, music, walking and mountain festival events, Christmas lights events, as well as weekly markets, farmer’s markets and food festivals and much more.

The town’s public spaces are an invaluable asset on so many levels, and often form the backdrop of urban life, cultural events and day-to-day experiences, contributing to public wellbeing and quality of life.

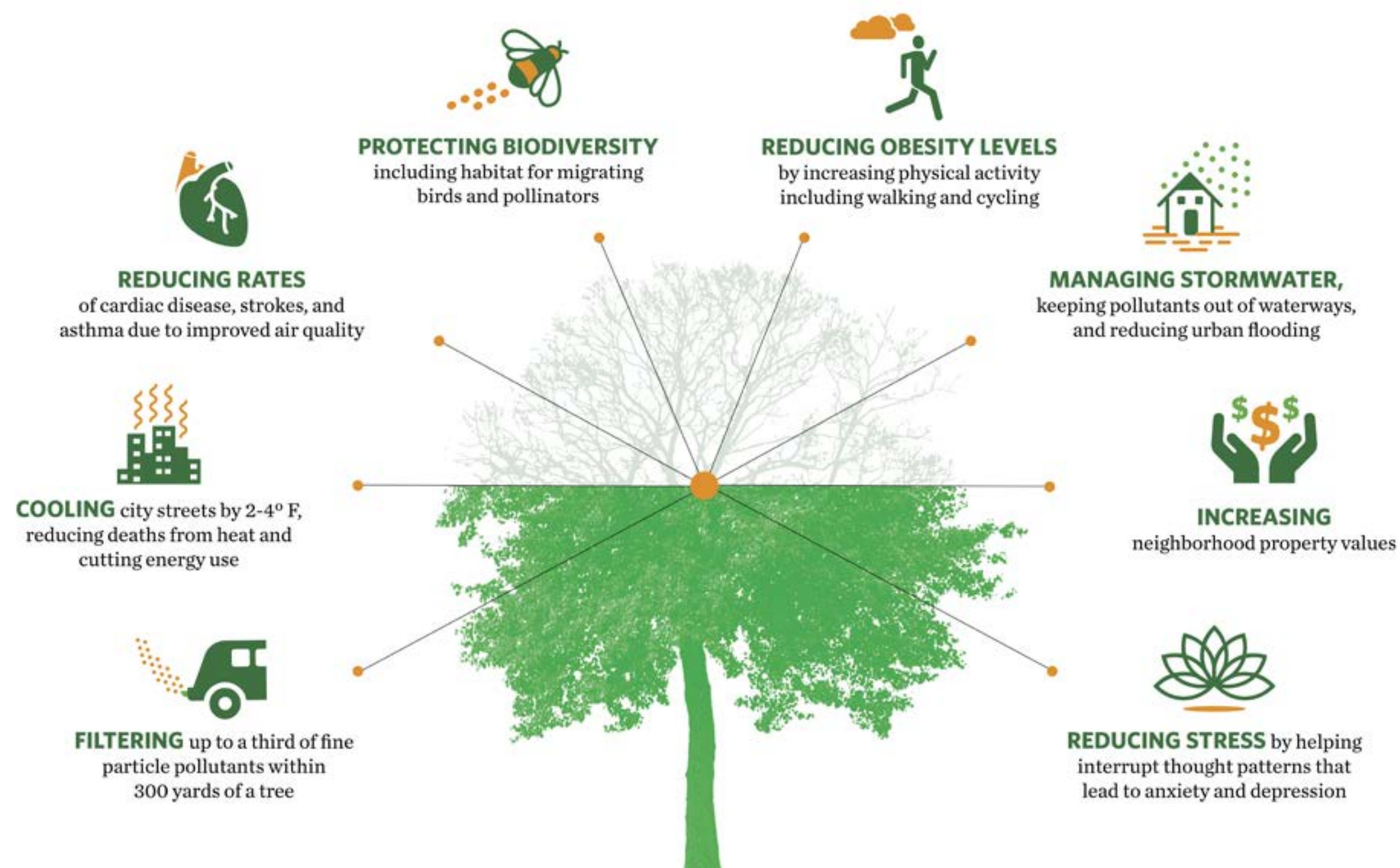
Promotion of Kendal and the Council

There is a valuable opportunity for a new approach that will reflect Kendal’s civic identity, and the Council’s considered approach to meeting both public expectations and environmental pressures.

Kendal Town Council have a great opportunity to offer a new approach that reflects their commitment to improved biodiversity, sustainability and reduced costs. Innovation, proactive thinking and a will to seek the best possible solutions will really set Kendal apart.

Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



Proposal

Tree planting

Where a collection of beautiful Hornbeam trees has been planted into planters on Highgate and Stricklandgate, we would recommend that the trees and underplanting be removed from the planters and planted directly into the ground. This will greatly reduce the need for daily watering at times of low rainfall, as the trees will have the ability to seek lower ground water sources.

In general, plants are more likely to thrive if they are planted directly into the ground, and able to find water and nutrients from the larger underground network.

Working with amenity providers to map the streets, trees can be planted in pavement positions, using root matting in the periphery to mitigate root damage to surrounding paving. Recent tree planting in Strammongate has successfully introduced mature trees and underplanting into the pavement. Rain water will enter the ground via the soil immediately around the base of the trees, as well as seeping through the gaps between the small paving slabs currently used to pave the streets.

As previously mentioned, trees are a major asset to any town centre, both aesthetically and environmentally, and as such we would recommend the addition of as many trees as possible throughout the town.

Suggested sites for tree planting as follows:

- Market Place – multiple tree planting
- Junction with Shap Road and Appleby Road
- Junction with Anne Street and Wildman Street
- Blackhall Road, outside Job Centre building, along bus station raised pavement, opposite bus station
- Strammongate – outside Aga shop etc.
- Asda roundabout area

Suggested tree species for optimal benefits include:



Lime tree (Tilia)



Silver Birch (Betula alba)



Hawthorn (Crataegus)



Ornamental Cherry (Prunus)



Field Maple
(Acer campestre)



Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)



Pear (Pyrus Chanticleer)



Crab Apple (Malus)



London Plane
(Platanus Hispanica)



Sweetgum
(Liquidambar styraciflua)

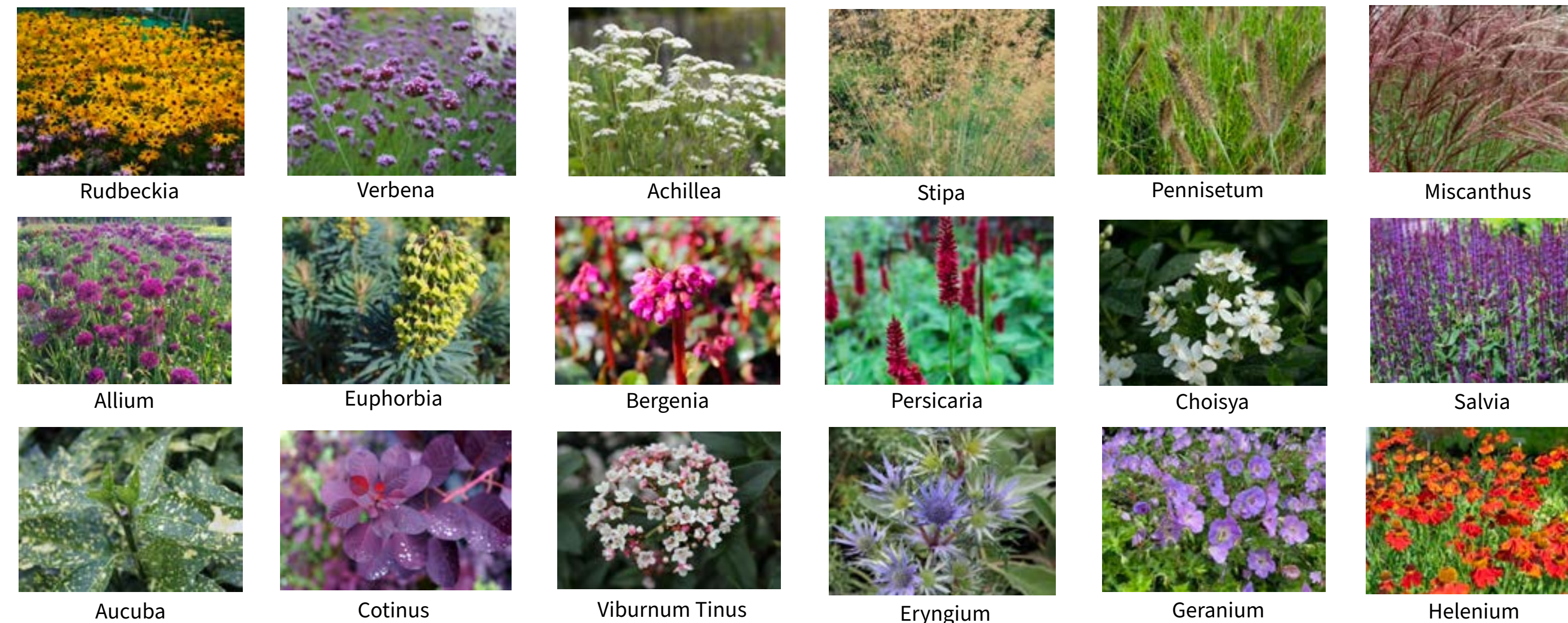
Wall troughs

Whilst the wall troughs at Milnthorpe Road and Shap Road bring a welcome array of bright colours during the summer months, we would recommend their removal, and replacement with borders dug directly into the grassy border between the road and wall. Again, plants that are planted directly into the ground will be more resilient and able to find lower water sources than those in small troughs. Any planted container naturally requires daily watering during times of low rainfall. The container can only retain so much water, and in the case of troughs and hanging baskets, the rooting area of the container is open to the breeze, which will wick any moisture away even more swiftly. Not only this, but daily watering will quickly wash away any nutrients that surround the plant's roots, rendering the plants useless after just a few months.

Our suggestion as a replacement for these troughs would be a selection of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and bulbs that would offer a sequence of colour and interest throughout the seasons. Borders of 1.5m in width at Milnthorpe Road and Shap Road would allow for an adequate grass border, as well as the planted borders.

The perennially planted borders would not only bring joy to passersby throughout the year, but it would also offer a habitat and year round haven to wildlife.

Planting in these borders would include plants such as the following:



Milnthorpe Road



Shap Road - A6



Tiered planters

The tiered planters throughout Kendal offer a bright display for a couple of months during the summer. Whilst they bring a touch of colour for a short time of the year, we would recommend their removal and replacement with flowering trees such as Hawthorn, Cherry and Crabapple. These could be under planted with spring bulbs and herbaceous perennials, or ornamental grasses.

If it is not possible to plant a tree on the particular location of any of the tiered planters, we would recommend their removal in any case. Other locations for planting in the same area should be identified in place of any removed planters that cannot be replaced by a tree.



Crabapple



Hawthorne



Cherry

Hanging baskets

As previously mentioned, hanging baskets are not the most efficient form of planting, are labour intensive in terms of planting and watering, and need replanting twice a year. However, we would suggest that in some circumstances the hanging baskets offer the most economical option for planting given the space available. Examples of where we might recommend keeping hold of the hanging baskets include outside the Town Hall, some parts of the Bus Station and Kirkland.

Existing hanging baskets could be planted with perennial plants such as Heuchera, trailing ivy, Carex grass, trailing thyme, Ajuga and trailing Fuchsia. To avoid complete replanting for every season, the perennial plants could be added to seasonally with annual plants such as Pelargonium for the summer and Pansies for the winter.

The Town Hall

A listed building, Kendal Town Hall is a building worthy of attention as a focal point in the centre of Kendal. Built of local limestone and sandstone, the porosity of the building has historically been deemed to prevent the option of positioning planting around the doorway. Planting must therefore be restricted to planters placed on the 3 windowsills at ground floor level. These are currently planted with a pleasant range of shrubs and herbaceous plants. But increased impact could be achieved by adding more height and/or colour to the display. Plants such as Miscanthus, Pennisetum and Allium would add height and winter interest to the planters without blocking too much light from the inner rooms. We would also recommend sprucing up the planters with a wood treatment or coloured paint.



The Birdcage

During the daytime The Birdcage is used as a shelter for shoppers, as well as occasional charity events. During the evening and nighttime, The Birdcage area is a gathering point for revelers, situated as it is near many central bars and pubs. A high traffic area of Kendal town centre, The Birdcage is usually decorated with cheerful hanging baskets during the summer months. Owing to the potential for vandalism in this location, our recommendation would be to keep the hanging baskets, as they are largely out of reach of would-be vandals.

Planted just to the side of the Birdcage itself are two beautiful, mature trees in a raised border. There is currently no planting beneath the trees. Instead, the area has been covered in concrete with painted stones pushed into a circular pattern. It is our opinion that the current display is not looking at its best, and it would be a good idea to return to plants in this space. Before the current decoration, the space was left to its own devices and grass grew in the border. Understandably this space was not mown and therefore tended towards looking untidy. It is our opinion that robust, low maintenance planting would enhance the look and feel of the space. Evergreen ferns like *Polypodium vulgare*, *Asplenium scolopendrium* and *Belchnum spicant*, and deciduous ferns such as *Dryopteris erythrosora*, would thrive in the shaded border and truly enhance the look and atmosphere of the area. Consideration must be taken into the origins of the painted pebbles, and these should be integrated into the new garden.



Market Place

There is currently negligible planting in Kendal’s Market Place; two small hanging baskets adorn the central lamp posts. Whilst it is understood that space needs to be managed carefully to accommodate weekly markets, we believe that it would be possible to create a greener and more community friendly environment in the Market Place. Raised borders with integrated benches, trees with encircling benches, attractive lighting, sculpture and performance space are all features that will enhance the atmosphere of the Market Place.



Yarmouth



Basingsatoke



Yeovil



Workingham



Attractive lighting

Water Collection

For much of the year, Kendal boasts a higher-than-average rainfall. Our recommendation would be to harness the abundant water resources available to us, by working with local businesses and schools to collect the rain water from their abundant roof space in large tanks. This would give the council a selection of available water resources from which to fill the portable bowser across the whole of Kendal. Water companies could be approached to help with this process and infrastructure.

Substrate

It is important to pay attention to the origins of the soil and soil conditioner that is used to produce the plants that are used in Kendal's new planting scheme. At a time when so much effort is being made to protect and renovate upland peat bogs, which, if left undisturbed, can retain a huge quantity of carbon, and whose destruction releases so much extra carbon into the environment, we must be careful to work with growers who positively work to mitigate this risk in their growing activities. Kendal Town Council is already using peat free compost, but this must be added into official regulations for best practice in Kendal.

Under the stewardship of the current Head of gardens at Kendal Town Council, current practice is to compost all annual plants when they are finished. This process must be officially recognised as best practice, and brought into the regulations for future generations of gardeners in Kendal.

Biochar (a byproduct of biomass) could be added to the soil to aid water and nutrient retention. This could be sourced locally from hotels and larger properties.

Drought tolerant planting can be used to significantly reduce watering requirements. Eryngium, Verbena, Papaver, Euphorbia and Pennisetum are examples of plants that, once established, will cope during times of drought.



Annual plants

Our recommendations above would help to significantly reduce the use of annual flowering plants. Whilst these could still be used for the remaining hanging baskets, the perennially planted borders would remove the need for much of the annual planting.

Maintenance

No garden, whether private or public, will thrive, or indeed survive, without being looked after. The need for regular maintenance can be reduced using weed suppressant measures such as matting or wood chippings, but these do not completely obviate the need for weeding. Herbaceous perennial plants need to be cut back annually to allow for fresh growth, and shrubs need to be pruned annually to keep their size and shape in check. With so much garden space in Kendal to tend, it is important to consider its ongoing care. We would suggest increased manpower, either in the form of extra gardening staff, or external gardening firm. We would also suggest that the power of the community should also be harnessed to help with maintenance and planting. Several community gardens that focus on the mental health benefits of gardening are already operating in the Kendal area, such as Growing Well, Right to Work and Appleby Road Community Garden. A new community group, founded by Kendal Town Council, would not only help with the maintenance of the garden spaces, but more importantly would bring untold benefits to the local community, strengthening community ties and helping many individuals with improved mental health. SLACC currently have a planter full of herbs at the leisure centre. We would suggest working with this group and other similar groups to aid with the setting up of community projects.

Implications

Whilst the initial expenditure to cover redesigning the current planting plan, removing some infrastructure and implementing the new scheme will be fairly notable, it must be stressed that the long term effect will be to significantly reduce the annual financial outlay, both in terms of plants and of labour.

The overall effect of the new planting scheme will be to reduce the labour required for watering and planting, to reduce water consumption from mains supplies, to reduce the financial burden of annual replanting, to establish habitats and feeding opportunities for wildlife, to reduce noise and air pollution, to create green gathering spaces for community events, and to bring natural beauty into the heart of Kendal.

Planting Locations around Kendal

Location

Windermere Road

Windermere Road

Shap Road

Crescent Green

Crescent Green

Near Cricket Club

Appleby Road/Shap Road junction

Wildman Street/Anne Street junction

Strammongate Bridge

Blackhall Road (by James Brierty offices)

Strammongate

New Road (behind Quaker Tapestry)

New Road

Kendal Leisure Centre

Asda roundabout

Burton Road

Helsington Laithes

Milnthorpe Road

Kirkland Hall

Existing Planting

Welcome sign, raised bed filled with bedding plants

Crest above bus stop, no planting, opportunity

Welcome sign, filled with bedding plants

3 circular raised bed, filled with bedding plants

11 wall troughs, filled with bedding plants

2 tiered planters, filled with bedding plants

3 fibre glass troughs, filled with a mix of bedding plants and perennials

2 tiered planters

hanging basket

large raised border, filled with tree, shrubs and herbaceous perennials

1 small trough planter (is this Council property?), filled with bedding plants

2 circular raised beds filled with ground cover plants

4 large cube planters, filled with trees and underplanted with herbaceous perennials, 3 oblong planters, filled with shrubs and herbaceous perennials

SLACC edible planter (is this in conjunction with the Council?)

2 tiered planters

welcome sign, raised bed filled with bedding plants

welcome sign, raised bed filled with bedding plants

16 wall troughs filled with bedding plants, 5 raised beds filled with bedding plants

2 tiered planters filled with bedding plants, 3 large troughs filled with a mixture of shrubs, herbaceous perennials and grasses

Suggested Planting

Perennial planting

Perennial planting

Perennial planting

Remove planters and replace with new border

Remove wall troughs and replace with border

Remove planters and replace with one or two blossom trees

Remove planters and replace with tree

Remove planters and replace with tree

Remove hanging basket and replace with tree

Renovate current planting and add further herbaceous perennials as needed

Fill with herbaceous perennials

Remove current planting and fill borders with shrubs and herbaceous perennials

Retain existing planting, remove planters and put trees and perennials into the ground

Renovate planting – ask SLACC to maintain more regularly

Remove planters and replace with blossom trees or shrubs

Perennial planting

Perennial planting

Remove wall troughs and raised bed and replace with long border

Remove tiered planter, retain troughs, add further troughs and plant with drought tolerant shrubs and herbaceous perennials and grasses

Location

Parish Chruch

Kirkland

Kirkland (outside Cable and Blake)

Highgate/Captain French Lane junction

Highgate (outside Shakespeare pub and opposite)

All Hallows Lane

Stricklandgate

Blackhall Road

Birdgaga

Existing Planting

Hanging baskets

Hanging baskets

1 trough filled with weeds, also a large raised bed

2 hanging baskets filled with bedding plants

2 hanging baskets

2 tiered planters filled with bedding plants

2 hanging basket

4 troughs filled with shrubs and herbaceous perennials, 2 hanging baskets, tiered planter, ivy hedging

nothing at present, but usually multiple hanging baskets

Suggested Planting

Retain hanging baskets, but plant with perennial plants

Retain hanging baskets, but plant with perennial plants

Remove trough and replace with bench. Renovate raised border, add further trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials

Retain hanging baskets, but plant with perennial plants

Remove hanging baskets

Remove planter and replace with tree

Remove hanging baskets and replace with trees

-Retain troughs, plant with drought tolerant shrubs and 1 perennials.

-Remove hanging baskets

-Retain ivy hedging – duplicate wherever possible

-Remove tiered planter and replace with blossom tree

Retain hanging baskets, plant with perennials



This report has been commissioned by Kendal Town Council and created by Lakeland Gardens - 2024

The Nursery, New Road, Windermere, LA23 2LA

Kendal Town Council

Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 25 th March 2025
From: Development and Delivery Manager	Agenda No: 8
Description: Report – KiB Kirkland Project	

Background

The committee approved that the Kendal in Bloom initiative should focus efforts on the Highgate/ Kirkland Area, over a three-year period.

Officers have been working on defining the scope of the project to enable it to progress.

Project Scope

Objectives:

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

Scope:

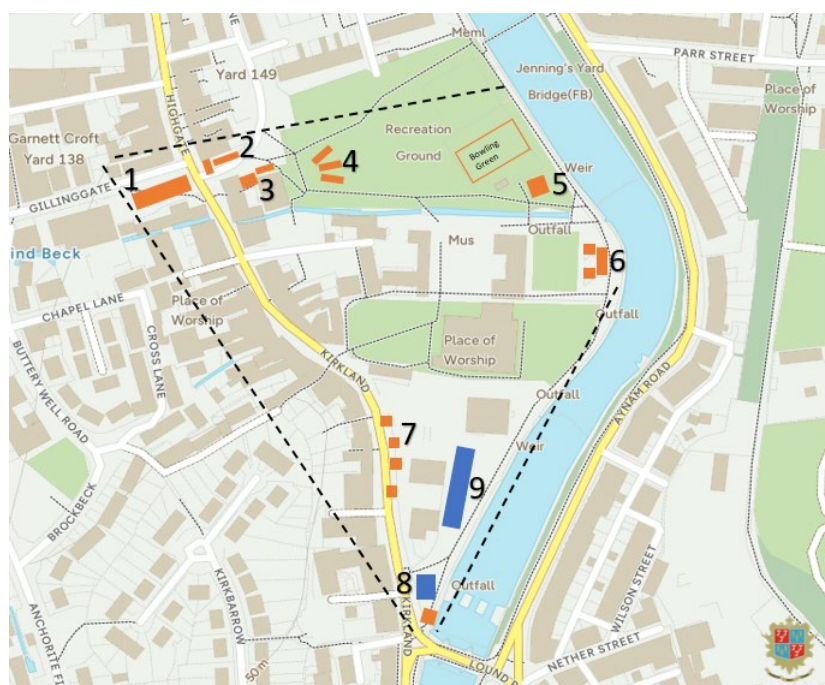
The area is defined as ‘Kirkland Triangle’: Abbot Hall Park (Dowker’s Lane to Nether Bridge, East of Kirkland.)

Within this, the project will only focus on specific areas. These have been identified as:

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

Area of awareness:

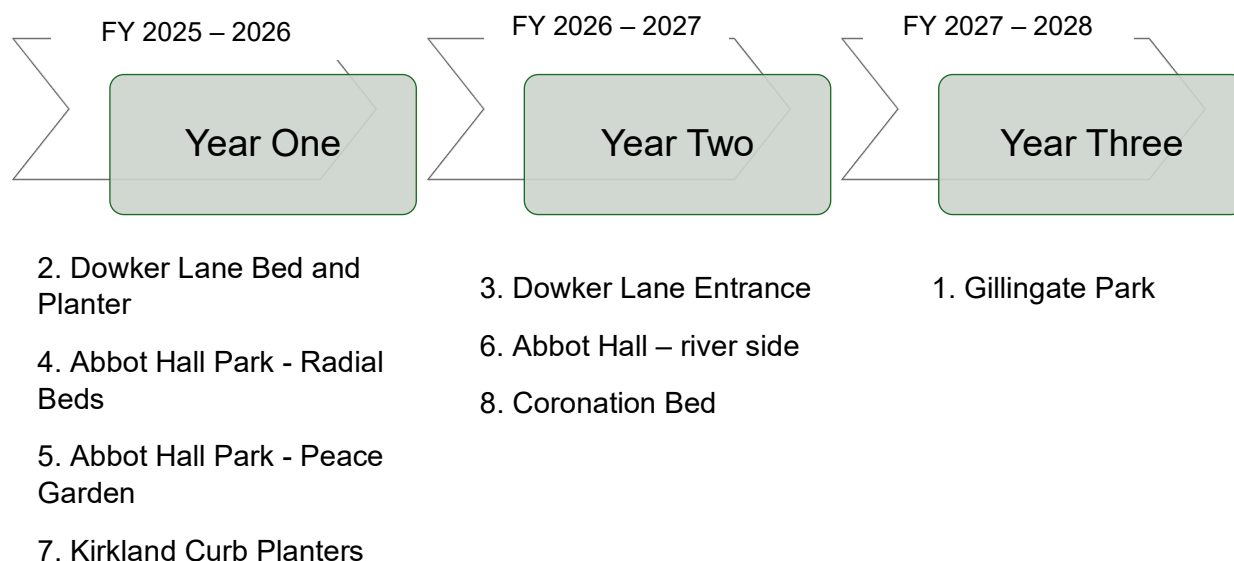
9. EA planting area



Following the recommendations of the working group, the project will be developed over a three-year period.

This will allow management of budget and resources and allow Kendal Town Council to develop sustainable community engagement.

It is proposed that the project is divided as follows:



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

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

Abbot Hall Peace Garden

The 80th Anniversary of VJ day will be commemorated in August this year.

Kendal Town Council will hold an event to mark the anniversary, and the current proposal is that the event will be centred around the Peace Garden in Abbot Hall.

To prepare for the event, there are improvement works required at the Peace Garden, including updating the planting and treatment of the peace pole.

It has been requested that the planting is lead by the Kendal in Bloom Committee, due to the expertise as well as connection to the wider Kirkland project.

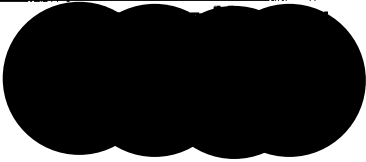


There will be budget available from the Anniversary funding. This will be provided once approved by the Culture and Communities Committee.

Committee Decision:

Committee is asked to agree the proposed focus areas for year one.

Committee is asked to agree to lead the improvement works at Abbot Hall Peace Garden following budget from Culture and Communities committee.

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
Netherfield Bowling Club	Malcolm Booker
Address of organisation	Address of contact
Parkside Road Kendal LA9 7BL Note – no post facilities at this address	
Date of application	25/02/25
Telephone	
E-mail	
Description of organisation	
A Charity Commission registered (1133434) Crown Green Bowling Club, whose charitable aim is "The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of the inhabitants of Kendal and district by the provision of facilities for the playing of bowls"	
How much funding do you require in total?	You will see below an indication of how much (£400) we have recently spent on improving spectator facilities along with contributions 'in kind' (materials and labour).
How much funding are you requesting from the Town Council (maximum £500)	£500.00
Have you approached other funding sources? If so, please list them and the amount you have applied for.	Contributions in Kind - B&Q
Tell us what you will do with a grant from Kendal Town Council?	
<p>Enhancing the Bowling Green Environment.</p> <p>Netherfield Bowling Club is adjacent to the club house facilities of Netherfield Sports and Social Club commonly known as Netherfield Cricket Club. Over the last year or two NCC have developed the outdoor social area immediately outside the club's main entrance. This has involved raising the patio area to improve spectator areas, social environment and accessibility to both the clubhouse and outdoor social areas.. As part of this development NCC have endeavoured to make the Club House frontage and patio attractive by the appropriate positioning of hanging baskets and planters.</p>	

As a partner and adjacent organisation Netherfield Bowling Club are endeavouring to improve the Bowling Green environment. At our own expense, over the last 12 months we have.....

- renewed 2 picnic tables (£150 for materials, member construction – no cost)
- redecorated the Club Room (Materials donated by B&Q, members' labour – no cost)
- removed 6 obsolete floodlight poles and lighting (£250).

IT IS NOW OUR AIM TO ENHANCE THE SPECTATOR AREA AROUND THE BOWLING GREEN BY THE CREATION OF FLOWER BEDS AND POSITIONING OF APPROPRIATE PLANTERS. THE FUNDING WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE ROBUST LARGE OUTDOOR PLANTERS.

THE INTENTION IS THAT THIS WILL BE A MEMBER ORIENTED INITIATIVE TO FURTHER PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION BEYOND THAT WHICH OCCURS THROUGH PLAYING FOR ONE OF THE TEAMS.

How will your activity benefit the people of Kendal?

The club currently has about 70 – 80 members (renewals due end of April 25).

The club participates in 3 leagues in the area, 4 teams in the Kendal and District League, 3 teams in the South Westmorland Seniors League, 1 team in the South Lakes Rural League. Each week during the season the club participates in 8 league games ranging from a beginner league game to games in division one of the Kendal and District league – affording 64 competitive playing places.

The club also contributes to the wider community by hosting a U3A Crown Green Bowling group each week during the season. (<https://u3asites.org.uk/south-lakes/home>) thereby encouraging wider participation and contributing to the sustainability of not only NBC but other local clubs.

Each season the club organises and runs five open competitions to raise money for the club, attracting players and their families from across Westmorland and Furness as well as Lancashire.

We also run a season long club competition, the proceeds of which are donated to charities chosen by the competition winners.





Historically having one of the best greens in the area along with appropriate parking and social facilities we are occasionally privileged to host national and regional competitions.

Along with the opportunities to play socially these competitive outlets enhance the physical, mental and social well being of the membership and their families.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN IMPROVING THE BOWLING GREEN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITY WILL PROMOTE THEIR SOCIAL WELLBEING.

THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE BOWLING GREEN ENVIRONS WILL FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL BEING OF ALL WHO PLAY AND WATCH BOWLS AT NETHERFIELD.

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

By providing local facilities for the enjoyment of Crown Green Bowling for the people of Kendal and district, reducing the need to travel to clubs further afield. Provision and maintenance of green space .			
Do you have a constitution? Please send a copy with your application			Yes
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.			
Virgin Money Netherfield Bowling Club 			
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			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			
<i>Please note that we do require 3 signatures in order to present your application to Committee.</i>			
Signature		Name	Malcolm Booker Trustee and Treasurer
Signature		Name	Alyson Larkin Trustee and Secretary
Signature		Name	Andy Blackman Trustee and Chairman

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 2022