

# Kendal Town Council

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



14 April 2026

To Members of the Kendal in Bloom Committee

Kendal Town Council Members	Co-optees
Cllr A Blackman (Chair)	Caroline Stuart-Smith (Horticare)
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, 21 April 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 24 February 2026 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

**5. Minute Action Sheet (page 6)**

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 and 2026/27 (page 7)**

To note the Committee's spend against budget, in the last financial year and in the current financial year.

**7. Kirkland Gateway Project (page 8)**

To consider a report on the progress of the Kirkland Gateway Project and to make any necessary decisions.

**8. Civic Planting Strategy (pages 9 to 12)**

To consider a report on the Civic Planting Strategy 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, 24 February 2026, at 6.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal.**

### Kendal Town Council Members

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

### Co-optees

A Yates (Kendal Civic Society)	Present	C Stuart-Smith (Horticulture)	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).

### **B21/2025 Apologies**

To receive and accept the apologies from Cllr Hennessy.

### **B22/2024 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were raised.

### **B23/2025 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)**

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

### **B24/2025 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Resolved:** To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 21 October 2025 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

### **B25/2025 Minute Action Sheet**

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

The Council Services Officer was asked for an update on the work of the Horticulture Consultant. She reported that the draft Strategy was in development and that Sheila Todd was meeting with her and the Townscape Officer once a month. She had also been of considerable help at Dowkers Lane.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

**B26/2025      Review of Spend against Budget 2025/26**

The Committee noted that the main civic planting budget was heading for an underspend of over £10,000, for a variety of reasons. The CSM reported that she expected the Projects and Grants budget to be slightly overspent, by less than £100. The Chair asked if the underspend could be used to strengthen the display in other areas. Toni Yates suggested that some additional lavender plants could be used at the Coronation bed on Kirkland. The Clerk reminded the Committee that the planters on Blackhall Road were due for replacement. It was suggested some additional planting could be done in the bed on Waterside, by its junction with Gulfs Road.

**Resolved:** To allocate up to £100 for lavender plants for the Jubilee bed. To allocate up to £2,000 to replace the planters on Blackhall Road. To investigate planting possibilities on Waterside. All to be actioned before the end of the financial year.

**Resolved:** to note the report.

**B27/2025      Cumbria in Bloom Award Ceremony**

The Committee considered a report recommending that the Council hosts the annual South Cumbria awards ceremony for Cumbria in Bloom, as in previous years.

**Resolved:** To continue to host the event, with the cost of refreshments (less than £250) coming from the Projects and Grants budget.

**B28/2025      Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project**

The Projects Officer presented a report on the first year of progress in the Kirkland Project. She explained that there had been a delay in a volunteer event but that this was now planned for the following week (Tuesday 3 March pm, Projects Officer will confirm details) Cadent Gas had donated £500 towards the renovation of the Dowker Lane left entrance bed. The right entrance bed was proving much harder to find support for. A group of U3A volunteers had expressed interest but would require a far more detailed plan. The Peace Pole was still being worked on by the military veterans group and Abbot Hall riverside beds were being looked at by Lakeland Arts for a project with Kendal College. The Muslim group on Kirkland had shown an interest in being involved but on the whole volunteers had expressed an interest in taking part but not in taking 'ownership' of any particular aspect. In this context she felt that far more supervision and 'hand-holding' was going to be required in year two. She proposed that more effort be put into 'streetscene' issues such as cleaning and developing sustainable floral displays. It was noted that Westmorland and Furness Council had aspired to remove and replant shrubs from the radial beds in Abbot Hall Park, but had not been able to find the necessary funding to carry this out. It was suggested that the Town Council offer to deploy some of its remaining underspend, up to £5,000 to ensure the work took place.

It was noted that the EA beds on Church Walk and Waterside would require more active management very soon, and that W&FC would be managing the Dowker Lane bed going forward

**Resolved:** To accept the change in project emphasis in Year Two and to offer to fund the radial bed project for W&FC, up to £5k from the current year Civic Planting budget.

**Resolved:** To note the report.

**B29/2025 Litter Picking**

The Committee considered a proposal from the Chair that the formerly monthly litter picks be re-instated. The Clerk explained why they had been discontinued – there were issues with collecting the waste, with coordinating volunteers and the necessary staff time to ensure that the scheme was run safely. However, he accepted that the Chair was passionate about addressing the issue and that he would endeavour to facilitate their re-start in the Spring, for a trial period, if that was what the committee wanted. It was noted that Fellside Forum conducts litter picks in Fellside every month, and that there are other parts of town that experience litter issues, such as around the College campus on Vicarage Drive.

**Resolved:** To re-commence Volunteer litter picks in the spring, for a trial period, subject to the necessary health and safety policies being in place.

**B30/2025 Civic Planting Report**

The Council Services Officer presented a report on the Civic Planting. She explained the role of the Horticultural Consultant and that suppliers had been found as locally as possible (the majority of plants coming from Forton, Lancs). Horticare were hoping to be able to adopt some of the half moon beds and there was a recommendation that the Council reduces the geographical spread of the scheme, to concentrate on floral mass, and in-ground planting where possible. This would limit the impact of spiralling maintenance costs for watering and for purchasing summer annual planting.

This would mean discontinuing manger planting on Windermere Road and West Street, and removing the four-tier planters on Longpool and Shap Road (cricket club). In their place the new strategy would look at better year round colour, supported by annual planting in summer. To balance the loss of colour on Windermere Road and Milnthorpe Road the opportunities for planting in the verges would be investigated with W&FC Highways.

Developing the theme of more concentrated town centre displays, Shelagh Todd was finalizing a planting plan for Woolpack Yard, along with a sustainable maintenance schedule.

The Clerk reported on the aspirations of the Local Regeneration funded Heart of Kendal project, which sought to return greenery to the town centre, with a particular emphasis on sustainable planting. This would include trees in the ground, rather than in pots. A SUDS scheme being supported by United Utilities might also bring funding and design initiatives to the town centre. It was noted that the impacts of a changing climate were being felt at different times of the year, with drought, intense heat, and increased rainfall all becoming apparent.

The Chair updated the Committee on EA proposals for a Bee sculpture and planting assisted by Kendal conservation Volunteers on Beeson Field, which would be informally opened on 18 May.

**Resolved:** To note the report and accept its recommendations.

The meeting closed at 7.06 p.m.

## Kendal-in-Bloom Committee - Minute Action Sheet - as at 21st April 2026

Ref. No.	Meeting Date	Minute No.	Title	Action (Resolution)	Officer Responsible	Deadline, if any	Date Actioned	Comments
3	25/07/2023	B8/2023	Development of Civic Planting Strategy	To support the proposals for the appointment of an independent specialist to undertake a review of the civic planting in Kendal, the Council Services Officer to bring a further report detailing a firmer plan with costings.	JH/NW/ST		Ongoing	The Council Services Manager is working with the Horticultural Advisor on developing the Civic Planting Strategy. The document will be discussed in the meeting.
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		Completed	A small group of volunteers has undertake the planting on the Dowker Lane bed.
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		Completed	Westmorland & Furness Council have completed the removal of the Radial Bed and relocation of plants.
11	21/10/2025	B17/2025	Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project	To approve £200 for additional plants at the Peace Garden	BH		Completed	The additional plants have been planted in the Peace Garden bed.
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		Completed	The improvement works on the Dowker Lane bed are complete.
14	21/10/2025	B18/2025	Horticultural Advisor	To engage Shelagh Todd as horticultural advisor.	JH/BH		Ongoing	Officers continue to work with the Horticultural Advisor.

19:30

**Kendal Town Council**  
**Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 12)**  
**Note: Full Budget Statement**

		<u>24/25</u>		<u>25/26</u>						<u>26/27</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
<b>440</b>	<b><u>Kendal In Bloom</u></b>											
1999	Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
4900	KIB Floral Displays	30,000	21,094	0	0	30,600	0	30,600	30,004	32,000	0	0
4905	KIB Projects & Grants	6,000	2,486	0	0	6,000	0	6,000	6,404	8,000	0	0
	<b>Overhead Expenditure</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>23,580</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>36,408</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(36,000)</b>	<b>(23,580)</b>			<b>(36,600)</b>		<b>(36,600)</b>	<b>(35,908)</b>	<b>(40,000)</b>		
	<b>Total Budget Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>23,580</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>36,408</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(36,000)</b>	<b>(23,580)</b>			<b>(36,600)</b>		<b>(36,600)</b>	<b>(35,908)</b>	<b>(40,000)</b>		

## Kendal Town Council

### Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 21 April 2026
From: Projects Officer	Agenda No.:7
Description: Kirkland Gateway Project Update Report	

#### Background

The Committee has been concentrating its resources on the gateway areas of Kirkland, with a series of planting schemes being led by the Council's Projects Officer.

#### Progress Report

Please note the following updates:

- Dowker's Lane planting volunteer event was a success, and the volunteers managed to complete that as well as additional plants in The Peace Garden
- The Radial Beds were removed from Abbot Hall Park by W&F, with funds from the KTC budget 25/26.
- The Veteran's Working Party are visiting again on 30 April for a 'spring clean' of the garden, completing the following tasks:
  - Weeding
  - Treating pole
  - Trailing the roses using binder twine and cutting the stems to encourage more growth sideways
  - Cut-backs of plants that are likely to overgrow in the summer
  - Trim the hedge to try to encourage a more uniform height and width
  - Spread leaf mulch/bark to reduce further weeds
  - Cleaning of white stones at the edge of the path and perhaps re-protect
- The Brownies have identified a patch of grass between the upper and lower car park in Kendal Parish Church Car Park. So far, they have obtained a planting plan from Cath's Plants, and I am assisting them with progressing this with Parish Trust to obtain the landowner's permission.
- I have been in contact with W&FC Highways regarding the rules around placing pots and hanging baskets outside shops and businesses in Kirkland. Unfortunately, their initial response wasn't very encouraging, as they prioritise keeping pavements free from obstructions. That said, I intend to keep pushing this forward and won't be stopping at the first hurdle.

#### Decision Required

None. The Committee is asked to note the report.



## Agenda Report

Committee: Kendal in Bloom	Meeting Date: 21 April 2026
From: Council Services Manager	Agenda No.:8
Description: <b>Civic Planting Strategy for Kendal, 2026–2028</b>	

### Decision Required

The Committee is asked to consider the strategy and adopt it by resolution, having made any changes it sees fit.

### 1. Background

Historically, civic planting in Kendal was delivered directly by the principal authority through an in-house grounds maintenance team. Plants were grown from seed in council-owned greenhouses, allowing for a high degree of control over plant selection, quality and cost.

Over time, responsibility for civic planting transferred to the Town Council. Without the land, facilities or staffing to continue in-house production, the service was contracted out. This model proved effective for many years and focused on a traditional approach: annual planting displays installed twice yearly in containers and hanging baskets.

However, increased awareness of climate change, environmental sustainability and biodiversity has made it clear that this approach is no longer appropriate or resilient in the long term. Annual-heavy planting schemes require significant inputs of water, labour, transport and plant replacement, creating a cycle of use and disposal that is both costly and environmentally unsustainable.

In 2025, for the first time in several years, civic planting was brought back in-house. This provided valuable insight into the practical challenges of the current approach and reinforced the need for change. It also created an opportunity to reassess the scheme in its entirety and establish a more sustainable, purposeful and future-focused planting strategy for Kendal.

### 2. Vision

To deliver a sustainable, biodiverse and visually engaging civic planting scheme that enhances Kendal's public spaces while reducing environmental impact, long-term costs and resource use.

Achieving this vision will require a greater initial investment and a shift in approach. However, the long-term benefits will be significant and include:

- Reduced water consumption and reduced staff time spent watering
- Increased year-round visual interest using resilient, appropriate planting
- Breaking the cycle of repetitive buying, planting, removal and disposal
- Reduced reliance on container planting, with greater emphasis on planting in the ground

- Enhanced biodiversity and improved habitats for pollinators and wildlife
- Increased public understanding, support and community involvement
- Better use of underutilised or neglected green spaces
- Support for local horticultural suppliers and reduced carbon footprint

### 3. Strategy Statement

#### **Where we are now:**

A traditional, container-heavy planting scheme, reliant on annual plants, requiring high levels of water, maintenance and replacement.

#### **Where we want to be:**

A sustainable, resilient and biodiverse civic planting scheme that provides year-round interest, responds to climate and environmental challenges, and enhances Kendal's public realm.

#### **How we will get there:**

By progressively reducing annuals, increasing the use of perennials, shrubs and permanent planting, rationalising containers, planting in the ground wherever possible, and engaging the community in understanding and supporting the changes.

### 4. Key Objectives and Actions

#### **Objective 1: Reduce water consumption and labour associated with watering**

##### **Action:**

- Streamline the overall planting scheme
- Reduce the number of annual plants planted each year

#### **Objective 2: Increase year-round interest with attractive and resilient planting**

##### **Action:**

- Increase the use of perennials and shrubs
- Use annuals more selectively to provide seasonal highlights and focal colour

#### **Objective 3: Break the cycle of continual buying, planting, removal and disposal**

##### **Action:**

- Increase permanent planting to ensure displays remain in situ for longer periods
- Recycle and reuse plants wherever possible
- Accept that maintenance regimes may change to maintain long-term quality

#### **Objective 4: Reduce reliance on container planting**

##### **Action:**

- Review the complete planter and hanging basket scheme
- Remove or replace containers that offer little visual impact
- Identify appropriate locations where planting can be established in the ground

#### **Objective 5: Inspire the public and encourage community involvement**

**Action:**

- Work with community groups and volunteers to plant and maintain specific areas
- Encourage a sense of pride, ownership and connection to public spaces

**Objective 6: Ensure the right plant is in the right place****Action:**

- Assess soil, aspect, exposure and maintenance requirements before planting
- Choose plants that are suited to the location to maximise longevity and reduce waste

**Objective 7: Plant with purpose and support biodiversity****Action:**

- Define objectives for each container, bed or area prior to planting
- Use themed planting (e.g. pollinator-friendly, drought-tolerant, shade-loving)

**Objective 8: Support the local horticultural industry and reduce carbon footprint****Action:**

- Source plants from local suppliers wherever possible
- Prioritise plants grown in the UK to reduce transportation impacts

**Objective 9: Make better use of neglected green spaces****Action:**

- Identify underused or poorly performing areas
- Work with partners to gain permissions and integrate them into the civic planting scheme

**Objective 10: Engage with the public and promote the new approach****Action:**

- Use social media and other communication channels to explain why changes are being made
- Emphasise the environmental, financial and aesthetic benefits of the new approach

## **5. Implementation Plan**

### **2026 Actions**

- Reduce the scheme by removing low-impact planters and containers to focus resources on key locations, particularly the town centre. This will reduce water use, staff time and vehicle mileage.

Planters identified for removal:

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

- Reduce reliance on annual plants, introducing higher-quality annuals alongside selected perennials at lower levels. While initial costs may increase, long-term maintenance and replacement costs are expected to fall.
- Explore the feasibility of planting the trees along Highgate directly into the ground with appropriate tree pits.
- Develop a permanent planting scheme for planters outside the Town Hall and in Woolpack Yard, selecting plants suited to the challenging growing conditions.
- On Milnthorpe Road, trial a more sustainable planting style in 8 of the 23 wall-mounted baskets to begin reducing annual use and introduce the public to a change in planting approach.
- Trial one hanging-basket tree planted with sustainable, year-round plants instead of annuals, retained in situ throughout the year to assess practical considerations.

### **2027 Actions**

- Plant trees along Highgate into the ground with tree pits.
- Remove the remaining 15 wall-mounted baskets on Milnthorpe Road and replace them with a visually appealing permanent planting bed.
- Improve the four boundary beds at Kendal's entrances to create welcoming gateway features.
- Further reduce annual use in tiered planters, moving to a 50/50 mix of annuals and perennials.
- Review the success of the perennial hanging-basket trial and consider expanding the approach.
- Retain the Birdcage baskets as a high-impact annual display due to their prominent town-centre location.

### **2028 Actions**

- Work towards the removal of all remaining tiered planters, replacing them with permanent planting in the ground.  
Any remaining planters should be planted with approximately 75% perennials and 25% annuals.
- Improve the three beds near the bus station with permanent planting, subject to alignment with the wider bus-station improvement programme.

## **6. Governance and Roles**

Kendal in Bloom will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of this strategy and its associated implementation plan. The Civic Planting Strategy will form part of the Council's action plan, with progress monitored by Senior Management.

The Kendal in Bloom Committee will receive a project update report at each meeting.

## **7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The strategy will be reviewed quarterly. Progress and success will be measured against the achievement of the stated objectives, with adjustments made as required to ensure the strategy remains effective and responsive.