

Kendal Town Council

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



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
--------------------------------	---------	-------------------------------	---------

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.

B20/2025 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 Beezon 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.