

Kendal Town Council

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



Minutes of a meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025, at 6.03 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 A Finch	Absent	Cllr E Hennessy	Apologies
Cllr L Hendry	Present	Cllr R Sutton (Vice-Chair)	Present

Co-optees

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

Also present: Rachel Eardley (Horticulture Supervisor).

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

Public Participation

Graham Harrison, representing the community of Aynam Road, addressed the Committee. He referred to work which had been carried out in order to save the historic fountain on Aynam Road. He expressed thanks to all those involved in this effort, including the Kendal in Bloom Committee and, in particular, Cllr Sutton, for their help in progressing the project to move the fountain from Aynam Road to Abbot Hall. The matter now lay with officers at Westmorland and Furness Council. Mr Harrison displayed an artist's impression of the fountain in its new situation at Abbot Hall.

Mr Harrison was thanked for his hard work and commitment in relation to the relocation of the fountain.

B21/2024 Apologies

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

B22/2024 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Blackman, Chair, declared an interest in Agenda Item No.9 (Kendal in Bloom Grant Application) by virtue of the fact that he was Chair of Netherfield Bowling Club. He indicated that he would leave the Chamber during the discussion and voting on that item.

B23/2024 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

There were no excluded items on the agenda.

B24/2024 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: To receive and accept the minutes of the previous meeting of the Kendal in Bloom Committee held on 22 October 2024 and to authorise the Chair to sign them as a true record.

B25/2024 Minute Action Sheet

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

Item Ref. No.3 – B8/2023 – Development of Civic Planting Strategy and appointment of independent specialist to undertake a review – This appeared as an item later on in the agenda.

Item Refs. Nos.9, 10, 11 and 14 could now be deleted from the sheet.

Item Ref. No.15 – Bloom 2024 Update Report and open event – It was felt that, with a three year plan in place, an open meeting could now be held to encourage the local community to become engaged with the project. It was suggested that a speaker may be invited to the event, and Toni Yates, who was a member of the Westmorland Horticultural Society, undertook to see if she could approach someone suitable. It was pointed out that the recently-appointed Projects Officer would be taking on this project and that a date could not, therefore, be set until they had settled into their role.

Resolved: To update the Minute Action Sheet, as discussed at the meeting and outlined above.

Resolved: Toni Yates to seek to find a speaker for the Kendal in Bloom project event.

Resolved: To note the report.

B26/2024 Review of Spend against Budget 2024/25

The Council Services Officer presented a review of spend against budget 2024/25 as at 10 March 2025, explaining why funds remained. She drew attention to one call on the budget which was for replacement planters outside the Town Hall, at a cost of £780 which could be ordered prior to the close of the financial year on 31 March 2025.

Resolved: To approve the purchase of four replacement planters to be situated outside the Town Hall, at a cost of £780, to be purchased prior to the close of the financial year.

Resolved: To note the report.

B27/2024 Civic Planting Strategy

The Kendal in Bloom Committee had commissioned Lakeland Gardens to produce a sustainable planting report, as a review of current civic planting and to inform a civic planting strategy. A full copy of the report was attached to the report.

The Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) had, together with officers, identified the following key requirements:

- The need to apply sustainability to the entire lifecycle of planting.
- Reconsideration of the planting displays:
 - Creation of larger planted spaces, planted in the ground where possible.
 - Review of planters – tiered, wall troughs, hanging baskets.
 - Drought resistant and lower maintenance plant mixes.
 - 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 would be reviewed for specific suggestions that could be incorporated into future planting plans. It would further 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 would seek additional advice and bring a proposal to a future meeting of the Committee. This would also outline implications for the civic planting plans, where required.

In response to a query, the Council Services Officer explained that civic planting would be carried out in-house in 2025, with an appropriate plan having been developed by herself and the Townscape Officer. The Chair thanked the Council Services Officer and the Townscape Officer for taking on this additional work. Watering would continue to be carried out by the previous contractor who would also assist in transportation of plants during planting up.

The Townscape Officer referred to a problem which had developed over the past few months in that plants had been damaged or taken, and he suggested that this may be something for the Working Group to look at moving forward.

The Chair looked forward to the Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) coming back with further information on how the Strategy would be developed. The Council Services Officer indicated that her role would be to manage the contract.

Resolved: To note the report.

B28/2024 Kendal in Bloom Kirkland Project

The Committee had previously approved that the Kendal in Bloom initiative should focus efforts on the Highgate/ Kirkland Area, over a three-year period. Officers had been working on defining the scope of the project to enable it to progress.

The report from the Development and Delivery Manager (Deputy Clerk) outlined the objectives of the project which were to:

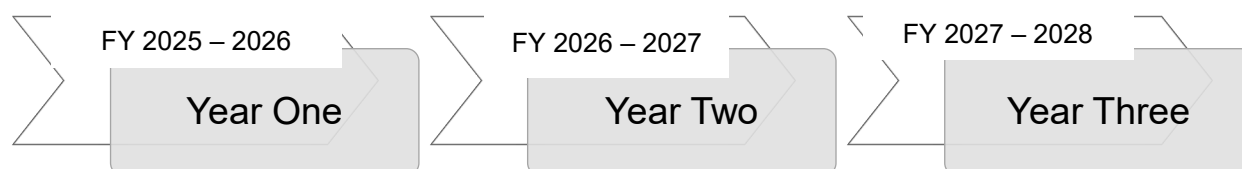
- develop a Cumbria in Bloom competition route through the Kirkland ‘Triangle’ Area, focusing on the area in and around Abbot Hall Park; and
- encourage community involvement by engaging local groups and businesses to undertake their own projects within the area.

The report outlined the scope of the project, with the area being defined as ‘Kirkland Triangle’: Abbot Hall Park (Dowker’s Lane to Nether Bridge, East of Kirkland.)

Within this, the project would only focus on specific areas, namely:

- (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
- (9) EA planting area (area of awareness)

Following the recommendations of the working group, the project would be developed over a three-year period. This would allow management of budget and resources and allow Kendal Town Council to develop sustainable community engagement. It was proposed that the project be divided as follows:



2. Dowker Lane Bed and Planter
4. Abbot Hall Park - Radial Beds
5. Abbot Hall Park - Peace Garden
7. Kirkland Curb Planters

3. Dowker Lane Entrance
6. Abbot Hall – river side
8. Coronation Bed

1. Gillinggate Park

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

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

The 80th Anniversary of VJ day was to be commemorated in August this year. Kendal Town Council would hold an event to mark the anniversary, and the current proposal was that the event would be centred around the Peace Garden in Abbot Hall. To prepare for the event, there were improvement works required at the Peace Garden, including updating the planting and treatment of the peace pole. It had been requested that the planting be led by the Kendal in Bloom Committee, due to its expertise as well as connection to the wider Kirkland project. There would be budget available from the Anniversary funding. This would be provided once approved by the Culture and Communities Committee.

Attention was drawn to the fact that Horticare were offering to help with the works required at the Peace Garden. The need to engage volunteer groups was also raised. The Committee would work together with the Mayoralty and Heritage Committee through the Events and Civic Officer and the Culture and Communities Committee through the Development and Development Manager (Deputy Clerk) or Projects Officer, but would lead on the planting work.

Resolved: To approve the proposed focus areas for year one.

Resolved: To agree to lead the improvement works at Abbot Hall Peace Garden following provision of budget from the Culture and Communities Committee.

Resolved: To meet as a Working Group on Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 11.00 a.m., in order to discuss plans for the Peace Garden.

Note – Cllr Blackman, Chair, declared an interest in the following item by virtue of the fact that he was the Chair of Netherfield Bowling Club. He left the Chamber during the discussion and voting on the item. In his absence, Cllr Sutton, Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

B29/2024 Kendal in Bloom Grant Application

The Committee considered 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 would be used to purchase robust large outdoor planters.

Resolved: To award a grant of £500.

Note – Cllr Blackman resumed the Chair.

B30/2024 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: To cancel the meeting of the Committee due to be held on 22 April 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.46 p.m.