



Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday 10th July 2019  
3.00 to 5.00 pm, The MintWorks

**Present:**

Martyn Nicholson, Chair  
Paula Scott, Kendal Futures  
Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council  
Louise Shrapnel, Kendal College  
Julie Chapman, Cumbria Tourism  
Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber  
Mark Cropper, Large Employers  
Julian Rayner, Transport/Distribution  
Jamie Allison, Young Professionals Group  
Matt Williams, SLDC  
Mandy Dixon, K Village  
Jim Bland, NFU

**Apologies:**

Brian Harrison, Kendal BID  
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee  
Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council

**1. Apologies and membership**

M Nicholson announced that Cllr Robin Ashcroft is the new SLDC representative on the KFB. He was unable to attend the meeting so P Scott has arranged to update him about Kendal Futures and the Vision project.

**2. New Board Structure**

The suggested new Board structure, circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed. M Nicholson clarified that the intention was to strengthen the private sector membership. Those members who don't currently attend meetings regularly will be given the opportunity to step down from the Board, but remain on a communication list. They will then be invited to attend specific relevant meetings in future if they, or the KFB, have issues to discuss. **ACTION: P Scott to discuss future roles and communication with those members are aren't able to regularly attend meetings.**

The KFB approved the new KFB structure. M Cropper proposed the election of Julian Rayner to the KFB to represent Transport and Distribution. This was seconded by J Bland and J Rayner was elected and welcomed.

It was also agreed to invite two new KFB members. Rhian Harris, Chief Executive of Lakeland Arts, to represent Culture & Festivals, and Miriam Randall, Chief Executive of the Brewery Arts Centre, to represent Creative Industries and Innovation. It was proposed to invite them to the September meeting for election. A possible Professional

Services representative was also suggested. **ACTION: P Scott to discuss roles with potential new members and invite to the September meeting.**

Two Board members have expressed interest in the Vice-Chair position which will be agreed at the September meeting. **ACTION: ALL (who haven't already done so) to contact P Scott to register interest in the position ahead of the September meeting.**

### 3. Declarations of interest

None declared.

### 4. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April were agreed as a true record.

**Coach parking:** CCC has again said no to the KFB's letter requesting they re-consider creating coach parking provision at County offices. However, they have agreed to review the situation bi-annually.

**Northern Access Route:** P Scott said a letter from the KFB had been provided to Transport for the North, supporting CCC's case for the Kendal Northern Access Route to be given priority route status. If successful, CCC will then be able to access a development fund to develop an outline business case. A decision is likely late in 2019, and if successful, an outline business case could then take around a year to develop. This would result in a preferred route for the road which SLDC could then include in the Local Plan.

**Future High Street Fund:** M Williams reported that SLDC had received an 'encouraging no' to the recent Expression of Interest application to this fund for Government investment in the town. He is keen to apply for the second funding round next year, at which time the Vision will be in place and may support the application. He agreed to keep the KFB updated about future progress and share the letter from the Minister. M Nicholson thanked everyone involved in the application for their efforts.

**Flood Risk Management Scheme:** Planning permission for the EA's scheme has now been approved with 30 conditions. **ACTION: M Williams to share a summary of the details of the planning permission and conditions.**

**KTC Flood Relief Working Group:** S Long said the purpose of this group is to suggest options and improvements which can mitigate some of the negative effects of Kendal's flood risk management scheme, such as the flood walls, and ensure the town gains maximum benefit from the work. There are funding and planning constraints to consider but the group hopes to be able to suggest affordable variations which will improve the look and experience of the town. Some additional funding may be needed to be raised by the group.

S Long shared some photographs provided by Graham Harrison, a local businessman and resident, showing mock-ups of some different wall and glass treatments on Aynam Road. Different options and pricing for such suggestions will need to be investigated and the costs confirmed by the EA. It will be essential for KF and others to lobby for the additional funds needed and S Long agreed to keep the KFB informed about progress.

**United Utilities works:** P Scott received a phone call in response to the letter requesting careful planning of the Burton Road works to minimise disruption and co-ordinate with other planned works, including the flood defences. There is currently no funding or timescale in place for the works, but the team will be liaising with the local authorities and a public consultation will also be planned.

### 5. Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Region

M Williams briefly updated the KFB about this initiative which was launched in June. **ACTION: M Williams to share the prospectus with the KFB.**

The Economic Region covers the collective area of South Lakeland, Lancaster and Barrow. SLDC is looking outside its boundaries to scale up its ability to develop projects and meet challenges. It is hoped by the local authorities

involved that the initiative will be similar to the Borderlands collaboration and help to change perceptions about Lancaster and South Cumbria as an area in which to live and work. The region has many strengths including the industry of Barrow, University of Lancaster and the quality of life and business offer in South Lakeland.

The authorities are commissioning a piece of work to identify the areas key opportunities, priorities and what the future asks from Government might be. Jake Berry, Minister of State for the Northern Powerhouse, has indicated the area makes sense. Both LEPs are supportive of the region. The KFB agreed that it was important to decide what the priorities are for Kendal and how they align with, or differ to, the wider region overall.

## 6. Climate Emergency

Cllr Jon Owen attended the meeting to discuss Kendal Town Council's approach to tackling the newly declared climate emergency. He is Chair of KTC's Environment and Highways Committee and they have formed a Climate Change Working Group of 9 like-minded councillors, supported by Mike Berners Lee and Becky Willis who have offered local experience and practical expertise. These advisers identified that there is a need to engage the public and seek their views about climate change issues and how it should be addressed.

Extinction Rebellion has demanded that a Citizens' Assembly be held at a national level to consider the climate emergency. They are participative and engaging consultations and aim to tackle the potential disconnect between politicians and the public.

Kendal is planning to hold a Citizens' Jury (which is a similar group ideal for a town the size of Kendal). It will consist of around 20 people with an oversight panel above it. It will address climate change by asking local residents what should be done, and the conversation will end with specific action planning. The cost of running the Jury is likely to be around £20k and KTC will be seeking additional funding and sponsorship to support it. The KFB asked whether the Jury would engage with young people and Jon said they tend to be adult focused although they would aim to engage with young people in other ways, such as through the local Pioneer of Sustainable Hope.

Jon suggested the KFB could engage at the oversight panel level and asked for other suggestions for suitable stakeholders to sit on the panel. **ACTION: S Long to keep the KFB updated about the oversight group.**

The KFB agreed that this work aligned with the Vision process and public workshops and that it would be very useful to hear the views of local people and their concerns about climate change. The Vision is likely to be published ahead of the Citizens Jury being held and could help to inform this group and to engage young people in both groups.

**ACTION: P Scott to ask the Vision consultants to meet with Jon Owen and his Climate Change group to inform their conversations during the public consultations and feed into the wider Vision.**

M Cropper said that he is currently rolling out the Burneside community energy model which he hopes will be expanded into Kendal. The project still needs to raise funding but there had been good levels of interest to date from businesses and land owners.

## 7. Vision for Kendal

21 proposals were received from interested consultants and 4 were interviewed before Farrer Huxley with JTP were selected as the successful bidders. Their approach was different in that they sold the benefits of involving members of the public more heavily in the consultation process in order to demonstrate 'democratic consensus'. The public will be encouraged to share their views with a 'problems, checks and solutions' approach. An inception meeting was held in June, followed by a Q&A session for KFB members. Key dates agreed are:

- Launch event for KFB and stakeholders – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September (lunchtime)
- Public participation event (charrette) – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (evening) to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October
- Feedback presentation (early evening) – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

In addition, the consultants will hold lots of meetings and discussions, in groups and one-to-ones with stakeholders, businesses and groups across the town, including the funding partners and local authority partners. Leaflets and

posters will be distributed to encourage the public to attend the events and the KFB were reminded to encourage their own contacts to attend and share their views.

S Long asked if KTC could jointly badge the initiative and the KFB agreed.

## 8. S106 update

M Williams told the group that a small scheme is being developed in partnership with CCC to improve the pedestrian route between Longpool and Stramongate Bridge using the s106 planning gain monies from the Sainsbury's development. He explained that the funding of £238k is insufficient to develop a larger scheme for Stramongate as previously proposed. The new scheme, however, will link with works already planned by CCC for the Longpool area enabling the funds to be spent more effectively. A brief has been sent to CCC to design a scheme which includes improvements to the paving, railings and lighting as well as way finding.

The KFB asked if the ramp to the station could be included in the works. M Williams thought the funding wouldn't be applicable here but that Network Rail or Northern could be approached to fund a scheme. **ACTION: M Williams/P Scott to approach to Network Rail or Northern, and seek appropriate contacts from KTC.**

## 9. Partner and project updates

**Gooseholme Footbridge:** CCC has issued a consultation seeking views about the designs for the replacement Gooseholme footbridge. It will be a single span bridge, wide enough to accommodate cyclists, wheelchairs and buggies. The KFB agreed that they liked the designs and artists impressions and were pleased that their previous comments appear to have been considered. **ACTION: P Scott to respond to the consultation in support of the plans.**

**Kendal BID:** In B Harrison's absence, M Nicholson shared the BID's latest newsletter which included an update about a new Antique Shop Trail. M Nicholson also reported that B Harrison was elected Chair of the BID at the last AGM with Danielle Walls as Vice Chair.

**K Shoes Heritage Centre:** M Dixon reported that a very positive meeting had been held with Rhian Harris at Lakeland Arts about the possibility of them hosting the K Shoes Heritage Collection at the Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry (MoLLI). The next stage will be to develop a partnership between the Alfred Gillett Trust (on behalf of Clarks), Lakeland Arts and the various owners of the collection. The complicated ownership of the various parts of the collection does need to be considered, along with work around inventory. M Dixon will also organise a stakeholders meeting to consider the issues and update everyone.

**K Village:** M Dixon also said that K Village has now closed and work has begun on the Travelodge and new apartments.

**CoC:** D Armstrong gave an update about the work of the South Lakes Business Against Crime Partnership. The Police want to put more CCTV into the town centre and a Shop Watch and Bar Watch smart phone app is now available to all scheme members to help them identify shoplifters. A scheme has also started in Kirkby Lonsdale. The CoC's Growth Hub Catalyst Programme can now help businesses in agriculture and small B&Bs and hotels, sectors who previously weren't eligible for support.

**Footfall:** P Scott shared the footfall figures for June 2019 which was down when compared to the same month in 2018 by -17.7%, but was higher than May 2019. Footfall for the year to date overall was -4.0% down on the previous year. Kendal and Skipton are now sharing footfall figures and Skipton are seeing a similar trend. J Rayner suggested sharing figures with towns such as Beverley or Northallerton. **ACTION: P Scott to investigate possibilities.**

## 10. Any other business

There was no other business.

## 11. Date of next meeting

**3 pm, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, The MintWorks (Please note change of venue from Kendal College)**