

Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 13th January 2021

1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

Video Meeting via Zoom



Present:

Mark Cropper, Chair

Paula Scott, Kendal Futures

Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council

Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council

Matt Williams, SLDC

Mandy Dixon, K Village and Tourism

Cath Purdy, Housing

John Haley, Professional Services

Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation

Nick Pitt, Kendal BID

Graham Booth, Board Observer for Cumbria LEP

Jamie Allison, Young Professionals Group

Kelvin Nash, Kendal College

Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals

Noel Farrer, Delivery Advice & Govt Liaison

Nick Taylor, Kendal Futures

Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee

Apologies:

Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

Jim Bland, NFU

1. Apologies and membership

See above. The KFB welcomed Nick Pitt to the meeting as the new Kendal BID representative.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda.

3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November were agreed as a true record.

ACTION: ALL were reminded to share possible Action Group contacts/members with N Taylor.

4. Kendal Citizens' Jury for Climate Change

Helen Moriarty from KTC attended the meeting along with Hillary Murphy and Mike Deane who were members of the Citizens' Jury for Climate Change. The Jury recommendations were circulated prior to the meeting and the KFB watched a video produced by Land and Sky Media which explained the role, purpose and benefits of the Jury. KTC is asking organisations to identify the action they can take to progress the recommendations, which focus on the themes of food, transport, energy and political leadership.

The KFB applauded the work of the Jury and agreed that the work aligns with the Kendal Vision. Several Board members also felt their individual organisations were well placed to support. Points discussed by the KFB included:

- The need to highlight and capture the voices of some younger Jury members to resonate with other young people.
- Abbot Hall Art Gallery has plans to become a national centre for landscape and land art and there are opportunities to promote the climate change agenda and get young people involved. **ACTION: R Harris to continue to feedback as plans develop.**
- Tackling climate change must underpin all future thinking and planning to make a positive contribution.
- Suggested KTC add a few bullet points to the last frame of the video to highlight the key themes.

- Housing providers have a social purpose and are committed to their communities and plans should include a programme to retrofit homes and becoming zero carbon ahead of Government targets.
- Issues around retrofitting include upskilling tradespeople, funding the activity, what technology should be used and educating end users who may be resistant to change. **ACTION: C Purdy and R Ashcroft to discuss with K Nash the scope for training in retrofitting techniques for local tradespeople via Kendal College.**
- KF has commissioned an independent traffic study of the one-way system with the ultimate aim of improving the environment for everyone, including cyclists and pedestrians.
- CCC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans are being developed to improve the routes through the town and link to the flood relief work. The Vision highlights some of this high level work.
- KTC are looking at how to make sure the flood relief scheme can also increase biodiversity etc.
- N Pitt reminded the group that retailers and BID levy payers will favour car use and parking. M Cropper said that in a market town like Kendal cars need to be accepted, but consideration should be given to the one-way system which can increase journey length and the need to provide better routes and an environment which encourages those who can cycle and walk relatively short distances to do so.

H Moriarty explained that the jury members have been invited to take part in a recommendations panel which will meet in June, and the majority are keen to continue to be involved. KTC want to ensure that the recommendations are being interpreted as the Jury intended and minimise duplication. The KFB agreed to attend the recommendations panel to report back on progress and share best practice.

The KFB agreed that climate change and green initiatives are essential to health and wellbeing and they committed to integrating this into all future work as a Board, within their own organisations and by helping to communicate the messages and needs. All the expert presentations are available to view on the Citizens' Jury website and are a great resource to be shared and celebrated. <https://www.kendalclimatejury.org/videos-interviews/>

ACTION: P SCOTT to share the KFB meeting minutes with H Moriarty and KTC.

ACTION: M CROPPER to discuss the recommendations further with P Scott to produce a formal response about how the KFB can support.

5. Vision Action Groups

M Cropper reminded the KFB that the SLDC funding had been confirmed and announced since the last meeting but a funding agreement is still needed. There has been a great response from local people and the CIC Board has met and begun to make early plans. The task ahead is exciting but difficult.

A mapping exercise at a strategic level needs to be completed to look at the town's physical assets, what different organisations and people want and explore how they could be reorganised to meet aspirations.

The KFB discussed the focus of the Action Groups and cross cutting themes and suggested some changes. N Taylor emphasised that there is scope for future flexibility and the groups will change as projects develop. The groups were previously agreed as:

- Housing and workspace
- Arts, culture, leisure and tourism
- Placemaking (landscape and environment)
- Transport

Quality of life/wellbeing, sustainability, business and economy and digital/communications were agreed as cross cutting themes across every group.

ACTION: N TAYLOR to explore further suggestions:

- Whether Digital and Communications should be strengthened within the Action Groups (Communications with communities and Digital with innovation).
- Whether placemaking should be a cross cutting theme. The themes and principles of the Vision must be embedded in all the groups and placemaking is at the core of the Vision. It is vital for a group to have ownership of the topic but specifically in relation to public realm quality.
- How to pro-actively involve young people in each group?

The KFB had several questions about how the groups would operate. **ACTION: N TAYLOR to provide more detailed information about:**

- The focus of each Action Group
- Linkages to other groups and how information will be shared
- Details of how organisations and individuals will be invited (a call to get involved will be made publicly)
- How Chairs will be appointed
- The overall communication processes

The KFB asked how the use of the SLDC funding would be agreed. The previously agreed structure was for the KFB to provide the steer and oversight/governance, with the Vision working group meeting more often and acting as a project delivery group. The CIC is contracting N Taylor as Vision Manager which will use two thirds of the £50k per year allocated by SLDC for 3 years. £150k has been made available by SLDC for studies and support to further develop projects and £240k is for the s106 Sainsburys monies for improving the pedestrian route from Longpool to the town centre. This money will remain with SLDC but KF will influence its use and develop a wider project. The funding agreement with SLDC will clarify how the money can be spent along with KF's level of responsibility. Project plans and budgets will then be developed and shared.

The KF CIC will review their terms of reference in line with the new responsibilities with a longer term view of becoming a larger organisation which is open and accountable. Conflicts of interest must be appropriately managed along with relevant professional input from Board members while minimising bureaucracy and understanding wider expectations. The KFB must continue to question and challenge the CIC. KFB members will be asked to join the CIC working group as appropriate to individual projects.

The KFB agreed that it was vital to use the funding to levy in further investment to the town and explore the use of match funding with other organisations as their own projects develop (Brewery Arts Centre, Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Kendal College, among others.) Alignment with the Town Centre Strategy is also important.

Workshops are being explored and an outline brief was previously shared with the KFB. KTC has agreed £5k of funding support and P Scott and N Taylor have discussed an approach with Lynn Ceeney, one of the Vision Charette facilitators. One workshop will help to define KF working relationship with the local authorities and discuss barriers, the KF mandate and responsibilities. Another workshop will define and agree how the KFB act, operate and communicate as a group along with members roles and responsibilities.

Work with landowners and business owners is also needed to consider available sites and the needs of the town but there is a trust building exercise to complete first and N Taylor will begin this process with one to one conversations. M Cropper and J Haley updated the KFB about a recent meeting with Stagecoach who would like to be involved in the transport group. **ACTION: P SCOTT to send two copies of the Vision to Stagecoach and N Taylor to follow up again.**

SLDC and KTC have also requested a briefing session for councillors to update them on progress to date. This can be held when the SLDC funding agreement is in place and the Action Groups are more developed.

6. Partner and project updates

Dealt with by exception.

M Cropper, N Taylor and P Scott met with M Williams and S Thomas from SLDC to discuss a more entrepreneurial approach to develop Kendal's **market** offer. Approval is still required within SLDC but if gained KF has offered to support the team wherever possible and investigate best practice from other areas.

The KFB agreed that pop up events and a wider market offer (arts, crafts, vintage etc) is needed to increase footfall and bring new audiences into the town. New locations could include Abbot Hall and N Pitt said the BID are also looking at outdoor events and ways to bring more people to Kendal. M Dixon offered to join the relevant Action Group to support this activity.

N Pitt said **Kendal BID** has appointed a new BID Manager and a new Administrator, and he has been appointed as Vice Chair. A Chair will be appointed in time. The BID team is keen to work with other organisations to benefit the town.

SLDC hosted a High Street Task Force expert visit in December and M Williams will share further information when available.

7. Any other business

The Quaker Tapestry is holding a climate change virtual event with Tim Farron MP and KF has been offered 3 places. **ACTION: ALL to contact P Scott if you'd like to attend.** Questions must be submitted to the MP in advance.

P Scott has submitted an objection to the planning application for land at Brigsteer Road by Story Homes based on no affordable housing and poor links to the town centre for pedestrians and cyclists which would encourage more car use. The response will be published on the SLDC planning portal or can be requested from P Scott.

S Long provided an update about the Kendal Flood Relief Scheme. Work has been ongoing between councils to improve the quality of the glass walling, ensure the use of British suppliers and maximise the improvement in the river corridor. KF may be asked to respond formally to the plans which it is hoped will be viewed as beneficial. The EA website has information about the materials and wall samples can be viewed in Little Aynam.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10th March, 3 pm – 5 pm

Via Zoom