

Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 10th March 2021

3.00 – 5.00 pm

Video Meeting via Zoom



Present:

Mark Cropper, Chair

Paula Scott, Kendal Futures

Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council

Matt Williams, SLDC

Cath Purdy, Housing

John Haley, Professional Services

Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation

Nick Pitt, Kendal BID

Jamie Allison, Young Professionals Group

Kelvin Nash, Kendal College

Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals

Jim Bland, NFU

Noel Farrer, Delivery Advice & Govt Liaison

Nick Taylor, Kendal Futures

Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee

Apologies:

Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

Mandy Dixon, K Village and Tourism

Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council

Graham Booth, Board Observer for Cumbria LEP

1. Apologies and membership

See above.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda.

P Scott reminded the Board to update their details on the Register of Interests previously circulated. **ACTION: ALL**

3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

4. Funding

P Scott reported that the draft SLDC funding agreement had been discussed with the KF CIC directors who were broadly happy with it although several specific changes have been requested and will be considered by SLDC's legal team. Issues included Intellectual Property Rights, insurance levels, the need for funding certainty over the 3 year period, levels of match funding and the directors felt the agreement should be signed as a contract, not a deed. There are considerable reporting requirements which P Scott will manage. The KFB agreed reporting and communications are vital but there is a need to avoid bureaucracy.

Until the agreement is signed and confirmed, no funds have been received and N Taylor's role as Vision Manager cannot be announced.

The KFB wanted to understand the expectations of what must be delivered under the agreement. P Scott said the agreement outlined the funding application paper which the KFB approved and presented last year. **ACTION: P SCOTT to share the detail of the agreement and requested amendments with the KFB and ALL to respond asap with any comments.**

P Scott thanked KTC for their agreed funding package which includes £5k for current financial year, to contribute towards the Vision workshops. For the 20-21 financial year their support includes funding for P Scott's role, £5,000 for projects which contribute towards the KTC Action Plan, £6k for visit-kendal.co.uk (shared management with KTC), £5k for work which supports the vision and £1500 for the upkeep of the Kirkland lamppost banners. The terms and conditions have been accepted and include incorporating the Citizens' Jury recommendations into the Vision work, involving KTC officers and members in the action groups, providing regular updates and liaising over the management of visit-kendal.co.uk.

5. Vision Manager update

N Taylor provided an activity update. He has recently spoken about the Vision at a Kendal Civic Society meeting and he has had several positive discussions with several other individuals and organisations who are keen to be involved in the Action Groups.

Kendalfutures.co.uk will be used to share information, action points and responsibilities for the Action Groups. Next steps involve approaching Kendal College, the schools and M Randall to consider how to best involve younger people.

The groups will be progressed virtually until social distancing guidelines allow meetings with larger groups. Group size could be 6-12 people but some could be larger. In future, N Taylor will source regular venues for the Action Groups to meet, suitable for 20-30 people allowing for some distancing if still required. **ACTION: N PITT, M RANDALL AND C PURDY all offered support with meeting venues.**

M Cropper emphasised that it was vital for KF to have physical projects to show the public 12 months from now. The Action Groups need to help produce some really good practical ideas about what can be delivered.

N Farrer told the KFB about the concept of Meanwhile which involves trialling a public realm change to test an idea and the public reaction to it before spending time and resources on the permanent change. Examples include temporary consents/licenses to put tables and chairs outside of shops. Having a temporary structure in Market Place, the Brewery, Abbot Hall or similar to enable more events and activities to be held was suggested. Makers, traders, cultural activities could benefit while informing a permanent change with lower risk.

The KFB asked how to source and select ideas to trial? N Taylor will join up all the different conversations, the Action Groups and make sure everyone is working in partnership and sharing information. KF need to encourage and enable others to act. **ACTION: P SCOTT to organise a Meanwhile Forum with all interested KF members.**
ACTION: P SCOTT to include enabling Meanwhile on the local authority workshop agenda to discuss barriers and ways to support quicker response times for such projects.

N Pitt said Kendal BID is discussing a potential soap box race event for the town centre which would require local authority support.

N Farrer introduced a 3D model and mapping initiative being undertaken by Lancaster University and asked the KFB to consider its potential for Kendal. It creates a 3D computer generated model of an area and records changes which can be useful for spatial planning. It can also use road, health, census and other data intelligently. The KFB agreed that it would be a 'nice to have' if free or available at a very small cost but the initiative wasn't currently a priority in terms of budget and projects. **ACTION: N FARRER to share further information about the Lancaster project, why the team chose to adopt it and how much it would cost in Kendal.**

6. Workshops

An updated workshop brief was shared prior to the meeting. M Cropper, N Taylor and P Scott are updating SLDC's informal cabinet about the Vision soon.

The KFB agreed the proposed workshop brief for the KF members, and this workshop will also be used to update the terms of reference for the Board. The session will need to be held on Zoom so the KFB discussed the need to ensure it was dynamic, with break out groups and give everyone a voice.

ACTION: P SCOTT to get possible dates from the workshop facilitator and ask the KFB for availability.

Workshop 2 is to discuss effective working relationships, barriers and responsibilities with the local authorities. Attendance from senior officers and councillors will be vital. **ACTION: P SCOTT to liaise with CCC, SLDC and KTC about attracting the right audience to the workshop.**

The KFB discussed the potential change to a Unitary Authority affecting South Cumbria. The final decision about the structure will be made by Government. Everyone should respond to the consultation appropriately for their own organisations or as individuals. KF agreed to remain politically agnostic and work positively with whichever structure evolves.

7. Traffic study early findings

P Scott shared some slides from a presentation by Andrew Cameron detailing his early thought process about the Kendal traffic study. The brief was to take a high-level view of Kendal's one way system and suggest alternative approaches like those suggested in the Vision. The one-way system and traffic dominance was the biggest issue for the public in the Vision consultations.

The strategy is focused around 20mph, improving cycling, walking and placemaking with more two-way streets, traffic calming and greening. Andrew's work has been informed by traffic data from CCC and he has spoken to their officers. However, percentages referenced for traffic volumes are indicative and proposals would have to be properly modelled and junction capacity would have to be assessed. The work supports CCC's Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Projects work, KTC's 20mph feasibility work and the climate emergency agenda.

The slides identified the issues with a one-way system and the benefits of changing some routes to two-way, including reducing pollution and reducing the overall percentage of traffic on some roads by reducing unnecessary vehicle movements. 3 possible options were presented for rerouting the traffic and the impacts/vehicle movements on the routes shown. The KFB discussion several issues including cycle routes, bridges and HGV movements. While the aim is to encourage more cycling and walking within Kendal, the town is also a key service centre and must continue to serve those from a wider area. However, the KFB agreed that placemaking in Kendal had suffered because of the traffic system. Several examples of improvements in other areas were shown.

The full draft presentation was shared with the KFB after the meeting, but members were asked not to share more widely at this stage.

ACTION: P SCOTT to organise a feedback session with Andrew Cameron to discuss the findings in more detail and invite KF, along with KTC, SLDC and CCC officers.

8. Partner and project updates

Dealt with by exception.

SLDC - M Williams discussed the Levelling Up Fund prospectus announced by Government which District Councils are eligible to apply for. A note was also shared before the meeting. Several funding rounds are expected between now and 2025, with bids up to the value of £20m. No decisions have been taken yet on locations and projects. South Lakeland has been given level 3 status which is the lowest priority of need and reduces the chances of a successful bid. SLDC will challenge this decision via the district's MPs as the degree of need is based upon several factors including COVID-19 economic recovery and the area is one of the most badly affected in England. This funding now supersedes earlier town funds including the Future High Streets Fund.

9. Any other business

P Scott will circulate a draft Annual Report for comment. This report covers an extended period of January 2020 to March 2021. Future years will then be reported in line with the CIC financial year as required by the SLDC funding conditions. **ACTION: ALL to provide comments on the draft Annual Report before it is designed.**

J Allison has been nominated to represent Kendal Futures on SLDC's SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) Economic Development Stakeholder panel for the Local Plan. J Haley has also applied to present his own organisation and there is also a housing allocation on the panel.

P Scott will continue to share monthly project summaries with KFB, KTC and other partners.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 12th May, 3 pm – 5 pm

Via Zoom