

Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 25th May 2022

3.00 – 4.30 pm

Windermere Suite | Bridge Mills



Present:

Mark Cropper, Chair
Paula Scott, Kendal Futures
Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council
Matt Williams, SLDC
Tina Dulson, Kendal BID
Cath Purdy, Housing
Graham Booth, Large employer
Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation
Jamie Allison, SL Professionals Group
Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals

Jim Bland, NFU
Nick Taylor, Kendal Futures
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee
Alistair Kirkbride, Transport

Apologies:

Noel Farrer, Delivery Advice & Govt Liaison
John Haley, Professional Services
Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council
Kelvin Nash, Kendal College

1. Apologies and membership

As above. Graham Booth was elected as the large employer representative and Alistair Kirkbride was welcomed to the meeting and elected as the transport representative.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda.

3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March were agreed as a true record.

ACTION: Paula to organise the appointment of Tina Dulson to the KF CIC.

Paula reported on the feedback from a meeting with SLDC's Local Plan team which discussed the Lichfield's proposal for additional studies and support. The team would like additional support to identify the areas where the policies don't align with the Vision. **ACTION: Paula to share the notes of the Local Plans team meeting with the KFB.**

ACTIONS:

- Paula to add the Local Plan timescales and update to the next agenda.
- Robin and Matt to continue the discussion about the potential to engage Homes England with SLDC officers and other housing partners.
- Paula to explore how to develop links with the new Westmorland and Furness Council and gain member representation on the KFB.

4. Highways Design Consultancy Services

Ahead of the meeting, a proposal was shared from Andrew Cameron Associates and Create Consulting for highways concept design work to consider the feasibility of removing the one-way system in Kendal and consider the effect on several junctions. The work includes technical aspects of junction design, urban design and placemaking considerations to ensure the designs relate to people, place and active travel.

The initial proposal was for £22,800, plus VAT and expenses, with further capacity assessments priced at £1750 per junction – an additional £12,250 in total if required. The KFB must ensure that every £1 spent brings the issue closer to a conclusion. Support from CCC's Highways team is essential to share knowledge and expertise, along with a contribution towards the costs if possible. If the study progresses, could the Town Team be involved in the findings and discussion to ensure a partnership wide approach?

The KFB agreed that the proposal has merit and is well focused. The road network is essential to achieving many of the aims of the Vision, but it is important that the work isn't 'anti-car' in its approach. Instead, it must focus on encouraging sustainable transport or active travel use where possible and finding more effective ways for cars to access the town to support lifestyles, the place and the local economy.

ACTION: Paula to organise a meeting to discuss the scope of the project with the consultants and better understand which junctions to consider and invite CCC highways officer involvement.

5. Levelling Up Fund (LuF) update

Matt thanked the KFB members who have been involved in the LuF process to date. It has resulted in projects being finalised which are deliverable, have impact and offer value for money. The Town Team partnership approach has been successful. The funding bid is now focused on a town centre regeneration project which includes:

- Transformation of the Westmorland Shopping Centre into a third campus for Kendal College
- Improvements to the indoor and outdoor markets and public realm in Market Place
- Improving the route and public realm to Kent Street and an active travel route along the river to Abbot Hall to increase pedestrian flow and cycling.

There were strong projects outlined for the cultural quarter but further feasibility work is still needed to progress them. They will be prioritised for further funding application opportunities, such as the Cultural Development Fund.

Designs will now be further improved and the submission made as strong as possible ahead of the deadline on 6th July. SLDC also needs to secure formal Cabinet approval for the application on 29th June. The KFB were keen to enable some engagement with the Vision audience about the plans. **ACTION: Paula, Nick and Noel to plan an engagement event post Cabinet decision.**

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF)

SLDC is working with consultants, Hatch, to develop their Investment Plan, for allocating the £3.8m awarded by Government for the UK SPF. They are seeking project ideas and KF will be a key consultee. An expression of interest form will be shared to capture KF and Vision related projects. Some of the allocation must be awarded to skills and business support projects. The KFB highlighted the need to ensure the public realm projects under the LuF should be considered (should that application be unsuccessful) and the s106 Stramongate scheme should be extended, along with additional funding to the EAs arts project fund. **ACTION: Paula to liaise with SLDC and the consultants and submit projects ideas on behalf of KF.**

7. Other updates

Vision Manager and Action Groups

Nick reported that the lunchtime meetings have been successful but some evening meetings will also be held in the future to encourage as many people as possible to get involved. Other groups are being established. He has been meeting large numbers of people in the creative sector, landowners and other businesses.

S106 scheme for Upper Stramongate

The scheme has been approved by CCC and survey work is now underway to firm up the designs. Work is scheduled for the autumn. This is a modest intervention but an opportunity to identify a palette of quality materials for Kendal. An appropriate longer-term supply of the materials can be assured and CCC has identified legal protections that can for like for like replacements should utility companies need to work in the area in future.

EA and flood scheme

Noel and Paula held the walkabout meeting with the EA and discussed several issues including railings and hard and soft landscaping. The EA has agreed to look again at the soft planting schemes for Gooseholme and Aynam Road and a follow up meeting will be held with their landscape architect. There is still some confusion over what is considered 'public art' and what is public realm, and Noel believes the scheme still lacks an overall narrative.

8. Summer drinks event

Planned for Wednesday 29th June at 5.30 pm at The Venue, Bowness Bay Brewing. **ACTION: All to share the invitation with contacts.** Everyone welcome as an opportunity to get together and hear a brief progress update about what's happened since the Vision was published in March 2020. Thank you to Jamie and Mark for offering sponsorship towards the cost of the event.

9. Partner and project updates

Jamie reported that the South Lakes Professional Network is meeting this week and Nick will speak about the Vision Action Groups.

10. Any other business

Mark is reading 'Davos Man and How the Billionaires Devoured the World' which discusses ideas around reversing the wealth and control of big corporations. The Preston Model also discusses the importance of procuring services at a local level which KF should aim to progress with the new Unitary Authority.

Graham discussed a BBC Radio 4 programme– Making Planning Work for Everyone – which shares an innovative approach to using game play to encourage more co-operation and less controversy. **ACTION: Paula to share the link with the KFB and consider how the approach could link future projects and engagement sessions.**

Link shared post meeting - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0016xj2>

Paula shared a draft Annual Report for January 21 to March-22 head of the meeting which was approved by the KFB. It will now be designed and shared with partners.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13th July 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Georgian Room, Kendal Town Hall