

# Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

3.00 – 4.30 pm

Georgian Room, Kendal Town Hall

## Present:

Mark Cropper, Chair  
Paula Scott, Kendal Futures  
Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council  
John Haley, Professional Services  
Alistair Kirkbride, Transport  
Jim Bland, NFU  
Cath Purdy, Housing  
Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council  
Nick Taylor, Kendal Futures  
Matt Williams, South Lakeland District Council  
Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation



Jamie Allison, SL Professionals Group

Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals

Laura Miller, LAWSA

## Apologies:

Noel Farrer, Delivery Advice & Govt Liaison

Graham Booth, Large Employer

Tina Dulson, Kendal BID

Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee

Jonathan Brook (Westmorland & Furness Council)

Peter Thornton (Westmorland & Furness Council)

## 1. Apologies and membership

As above. Laura Miller was elected to the KFB, representing LAWSA (Lancaster & Westmorland Society of Architects).

## 2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda. **ACTION ALL: Paula reminded the KFB to update the information on the Register of Interests.**

## 3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September were agreed as a true record. A written update was shared with the KFB in December following the cancellation of the last meeting.

### Boundary Bank

The issue of finding suitable land for relocating McClures and English Lakes Ice Cream was discussed again with the view by some that J36 may be the quickest and easiest option to deliver. Kendal needs an experienced developer to unlock more complicated sites and relocate existing services and businesses to alternative sites. Mark has discussed these issues with Tiffany Hunt at the Lake District National Park. Kendal must become better integrated into the Park's Sustainable Transport Strategy.

### Lakes Line Passing Loop

CCC has applied for Government funding for a Lakes Line passing loop and related upgrade works. Paula has sent a letter of support from the KFB.

### LCWIP

CCC is progressing some route development for the LCWIP. Paula and Nick have been invited to a meeting in March. The KF Better Balanced Streets Feasibility Study will take account of the LCWIP work and try to avoid duplication or conflict of routes/junction placemaking schemes. However, the Government route preference is for segregated vehicle, cycling and pedestrian routes (in line with LTN120) which can be a further constraint. KF would like to

explore innovative shared space/placemaking designs with links to KTC's 20mph work. Other cycling and walking routes are also being developed as part of the Northern Access Route development activity but the details aren't yet known. KTC is actively working to improve the routes for cyclists and walkers around Beeson Fields. **ACTION: Mark/Paula to invite Angela Jones to join the KFB to represent WFC to further improve communications and partnership working within the new authority.**

### **Levelling Up Fund**

The Kendal LuF application was unsuccessful. Kendal was a Tier 3 town (in lowest need of funding) so the news wasn't unexpected. Matt explained the process of developing the bid as a Town Team partnership had been valuable and the plans can be further developed in future. Formal feedback is expected. It is important to keep up the momentum, identify priority projects and develop costed schemes which can be ready to attract future funding.

KF is commissioning a small study with Continuum (the consultants who developed the bid) to identify innovative and commercial opportunities for attracting funding for such schemes in future.

SLDC has to finalise its Investment Plan for year 2 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which could include some public realm improvement works.

A Town Team walkabout will take place on 16th February to discuss and agree the public realm improvement priorities. This could inform the use of UKSPF monies and consider other avenues for funding a scheme. The UKSPF pot is around £246k in 2023/4 for improvements to town centres and high streets and £680k in 2024/5. **ACTION: Matt to share a summary of the funding available through UKSPF.**

**ACTION: Paula to reshare the long list of potential public realm projects developed by the Town Team.**

## **4. 2023 Priorities**

The draft priorities for 2023 circulated prior to the meeting were discussed. General comments included the need to:

- Use a more positive tone/language to reflect the transformational aspirations of the Vision and KF.
- Include some cultural/creative sector priorities, including providing a link between the Brewery and Abbot Hall via public realm improvements.

**Priority 1:** Stramongate improvement scheme. Miriam and Rhian suggested commissioning a high quality artwork/mural on the building at the junction with Blackhall Road to create a destination entrance to the town centre. **ACTION: Paula to share the visual and scheme details for the s106 improvement scheme.**

**Priority 3:** The Vision's community engagement process highlighted that the public felt the traffic system in Kendal is more of a problem than the actual traffic. The KFB were reminded of the aims of the Better Balanced Streets Feasibility study which will consider whether some vehicle journeys in the town centre can be shortened or removed by altering the one-way system, whether this is possible at key junctions and whether a placemaking approach will create a more pleasant, less traffic dominated town centre for everyone. **ACTION: Paula to share the link to the earlier Movement and Placemaking Review** which has informed the study brief.

**Priority 4:** Discussed the importance of ensuring the Vision is a strategic fit with the Local Plan. A workshop has been held with Michael Lowndes from Lichfields (contracted as KF planning consultants) and SLDC's Local Plans team. The Local Plan process and timescale is unknown within the new authority. Michael Lowndes is considering the next steps and recommendations which may include the need for a new Strategic Landscape Assessment and supplementary planning documents.

Cath reminded the Board that any Local Plan studies funded by KF must be able to be included in the Local Plan process by the local authority (preferably via adoption) over a potential 5 year timescale.

KF has objected to the proposed Story Homes development on Land at Burton Road. While affordable town centre housing is needed, Cath emphasised that there is also a need for housing on sites on the outskirts of the town to address current need and control soaring house prices. SLDC's SHENA study is awaited but is likely to provide evidence for a requirement for hundreds of new homes annually. The Story Homes development will have 35% affordable homes. KF representatives are meeting Story Homes in February and will discuss the future potential for town centre site development as well as design and sustainability standards.

KF is not in a position to develop a Conservation Area Management Plan as this would be the remit of the Local Authority. It was agreed for KF to share the ambition for a better managed Conservation Area with the new WFC and provide help and support. Businesses would benefit from practical guidance such as the Shop Front Design Guide which is still current.

Alistair said a Local Transport Plan will need to be integrated with the Local Plan for the first time to link the built environment with transport. This presents an opportunity for KF to influence and support.

**Priority 8: ACTION: Paula to ask Graham Booth to lead the Preston Model/Community Wealth Building work via a sub-group.** KF should investigate and make a recommendation, if appropriate, to WFC about the adoption of this procurement model.

**Priority 9:** Cath offered to include information about sustainability and the social housing decarbonisation fund at a summer engagement event. **ACTION: Paula/Nick to discuss with Cath as event planning begins.**

An engagement event could also be held with other WFC towns and communities to tell them what KF has achieved to date and share experiences. A summer drinks event will also be held with Abbot Hall or the Brewery as possible venues.

**ACTION: Paula to redraft and renumber the priorities based on the KFB feedback and share again.**

## 5. Action Group development

The draft Terms of Reference for the Transport and Getting Around and Placemaking Action Groups were circulated ahead of the meeting. **ACTION: ALL to share comments about the Terms of Reference with Nick.**

Nick gave an update about the activity of the groups.

The Placemaking group is developing a yards improvement project with financial support from the BID and KTC. KTC's funding offer is focused on improvement to Yard 5 (Stricklandgate, next to the Vape shop). A proposal for artwork has been received from Ragtag Arts. Nick is investigating permissions from land owners.

The KFB approved a request to contribute £2500 towards the yards improvement project but stipulated that a high quality scheme was vital. **ACTION: Nick to share designs with the KFB for comment ahead of installation.**

The group has helped shape responses to the outline planning proposals for Land at Burton Road, and initial suggestions for green space around Abbot Hall and the Parish Church.

The Transport Group has met with Northern Rail and is investigating how to improve cycle storage and providing feedback to the Cycling Festival organisers. They are discussing what a 'good' transport network could look like, based on European examples, as suggested by Alistair, including the delivery of car clubs, electric bike hubs, joint ticketing and demand responsive buses.

Nick is in the early stages of developing a new Creative sector Action Group led by three local creatives. **ACTION: Nick to draft and share for comment a Terms of Reference for the Creative Arts group, and discuss further with Rhian and Miriam.**

## **6. UKSPF Feasibility Study**

This item was also covered under agenda items 3 and 4. Consultants will be appointed by the 28th February following the tender and selection process.

## **7. Partner updates**

There was insufficient time to discuss partner updates.

## **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 3pm – 4.30pm

South Lakes Housing, Bridge Mills.

**2023 meeting dates were circulated by email and calendar invites sent.**