

Kendal Futures Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

3.00 – 4.30 pm

South Lakes Housing



Present:

Paula Scott, Kendal Futures
Susanne Long, Kendal Town Council
Graham Booth, Large Employer
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee
John Haley, Professional Services
Cath Purdy, Housing
Robin Ashcroft, South Lakeland District Council
Nick Taylor, Kendal Futures
Miriam Randall, Creative Industries & Innovation
Jamie Allison, SL Professionals Group
Chris Davies, NFU

Apologies:

Mark Cropper, Chair
Noel Farrer, Delivery Advice & Govt Liaison
Tina Dulson, Kendal BID
Jim Bland, NFU
Alistair Kirkbride, Transport
Matt Williams, South Lakeland District Council
Jonathan Brook, Westmorland & Furness Council
Peter Thornton, Westmorland & Furness Council
Angela Jones, Westmorland & Furness Council
Rhian Harris, Culture & Festivals
Laura Miller, LAWSA

1. Apologies and membership

Jamie Allison chaired the meeting. Chris Davies was welcomed to the Board representing the NFU. Chris is replacing Jim Bland who was thanked in his absence for his long contribution to KF, having been a board member since 2008.

The Board thanked Cllrs Geoff Cook and Robin Ashcroft for their support as long standing members. Both will stand down from the Board at the end of March when SLDC and CCC become Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC). They were acknowledged for championing the role of KF and the Vision within their retrospective councils which has been vital in gaining the funding and wider understanding needed for KF to progress.

Angela Jones has accepted the invitation to join the KFB, representing Westmorland and Furness Council when established, at officer level, in addition to Cllrs Jonathan Brook and Peter Thornton. Paula reported that Gareth Candlin has been appointed as Assistant Director for Thriving Places and Green Growth. The Council's new structure uses similar terminology to that of the Vision. **ACTION: PAULA to circulate the latest WFC leadership team chart.**

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made for the meeting agenda.

3. Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th January were agreed as a true record.

The Terms of Reference for the Arts and Creativity Action Group have been agreed by the founder members. The group will be chaired by Matt Burke.

4. 2023 Priorities

The KFB agreed the priorities, updated following feedback at the last meeting, for 2023.

Graham has agreed to lead investigations into developing a Community Wealth Building or Preston Model procurement model and gave an interim update. The Centre of Local Economic Strategies (CLES) provides resources

and information about how to ensure wealth in local communities stays in local communities which links well with the aims of the Vision. He is also identifying contacts in Preston City Council who will be willing to discuss their experiences. This could present a significant opportunity for WFC who would be responsible for adopting the model.

ACTION: GRAHAM to provide more information or a presentation at a future meeting.

A meeting has been arranged between Mark and the CIC Directors with Sam Plum, CEO of WFC, and Community Wealth Building can be included on the agenda.

Paula expressed concerns about the delivery of the Stramongate improvement scheme. Extending the use of the s106 funding has only been agreed until September, and delivery appears to have stalled. There have been issues with required drainage repairs. It is vital that the project is delivered using the design and quality materials agreed by the Town Team and shared with the public last July. **ACTION: PAULA to write to SLDC detailing the Board's concerns and requesting the Town Team is updated.**

Paula reminded the Board that Continuum (LuF bid consultant) has been asked to conduct a small study into innovative ways to raise funding for public realm schemes.

5. Place Leadership report (HSTF)

This report was circulated prior to the meeting and reflects many of the ambitions of the Kendal Vision and recognises the importance of leadership from the local authority to effect change. The report has been shared with officers in WFC.

The discussion moved to SLDC's Town Centre Strategy, its relevance to the Vision and how to bring opportunity sites forward to make the connections clearer. The KFB agreed that it is vital to view the town as a holistic whole and ensure that links are made between the different sites, eg, Waterside and Canal Head, plus additional sites to relocate the household waste and depot functions. Experienced officer leadership at WFC is vital. KF could investigate and recommend suitable vehicles or structures for managing development in future, such as via a Community Development Company, but it would need to be led by WFC. A discussion followed about what impact recent positive submarine contract announcements from BAE Systems could have on the region.

6. Town Team Walkabout

The Town Team completed a walkabout in mid February covering the route between the station and Town Hall including Market Place and Finkle Street. It included members and officers from the three councils, KF representatives and Kendal BID. The priorities for future improvements/investment were agreed as:

- Stramongate/Kent Street - exploring extending the s106 improvement scheme using UKSPF funds or similar.
- Market Place - with the Market Hall redevelopment explored through private sector or alternative funding sources.
- Activities to improve the town centre Conservation Area.

A discussion took place about some of the recent developments in the town centre, with new businesses opening and planning permissions gained. KF has helped to influence some of the positive changes. However, the old Woodbridge and Mounsey building on Highgate is in a poor state. **ACTION: NICK to speak to planning officers about possible action.**

7. Better Balanced Streets Feasibility Study

Following the tender process, a partnership of Civic Engineering, Urban Movement and The Transportation Consultancy has been appointed to deliver the Better Balanced Streets study using UKSPF and project development funds. Their proposal demonstrated a balance of technical expertise and an innovative approach to placemaking. The team held an inception meeting with KF representatives and attended a site visit to consider the junctions and one-way system. They have also had a meeting with highways officers at CCC who have shared their data and expertise. The LCWIP routes and junction improvements identified by CCC linked to the Northern Access Route work have also been considered and information shared.

Monthly progress meetings are being held and a stakeholder workshop is planned for 6th June to consider the draft plans and concepts and feedback ahead of finalising the study. The final report will be published in July. **ACTION: ALL to hold the BBS stakeholder workshop date 6th June.**

8. Partner updates

South Lakes Professionals: Holding a networking event at Levens Hall on 18th May and Nick will update on progress with the Vision. **ACTION: Jamie to share information with Miriam.**

SLDC: Robin updated on progress in Ulverston to create digital hubs at the Roxy Cinema and Coronation Hall and suggested Kendal could support a similar collaboration with the Brewery Arts Centre and Kendal College. Miriam reminded the Board that the Brewery is conducting feasibility work around the development of the Brewery as a venue for creative production and talent training, with the College and University of Cumbria involved in conversations. **ACTION: Nick to make the Arts and Creativity Action Group aware.**

Housing: Cath said the Government has announced its Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and a £3.5m grant for EPPC programmes will be rolled out to 1000 homes across the area, match funded by South Lakes Housing. **ACTION: Paula, Nick and Cath to discuss the potential for sharing housing information at a summer engagement event.**

Heritage project: Nick is involved in a heritage project with the Parish Church and Abbot Hall to submit fundraising and development funding applications.

LCWIP: Paula and Nick attended a meeting with CCC to plan the development of three LCWIP cycling routes in the town. It's in the early stages but the meeting focused on improving routes to Natland and on the Canal path. To achieve Government funding, segregated routes are preferred which is difficult to achieve on some of Kendal's streets. Preston was discussed as a good example of shared spaces, using high quality materials, which force drivers to slow down and give way to walkers and cyclists.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17th May– 3pm – 4.30pm

Georgian Room, Kendal Town Hall