

Kendal Futures Board

Update – December 2022



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- Successful application via SLDC for a feasibility study – Better Balanced Streets for People and Place.
- KF awarded £40k from UKSPF, matched by £20k KF Project Development funding from SLDC
- Tender process to procure consultants.
- Study to be commissioned end of Feb and completed late July.
- The study will build on the Movement and Placemaking Review to conduct a detailed review of key town centre traffic junctions and their potential for placemaking improvements to improve active travel.

Local Plan Workshop

- Held with Michael Lowndes from Lichfield's and SLDCs Local Plans team.
- Discussed the KF Planning Strategy (previously drafted) and how to give the Kendal Vision policy substance in the next Local Plan.
- Uncertainty surrounds the Local Plan Review process and timescales in the new authority.
- Existing adopted planning policies critiqued and key areas of change identified which could better support the Vision in the emerging draft Local Plan.
- Discussed potential studies to support the Vision within the Local Plan whenever that may take place, including an urban capacity study or similar and the need to review the Strategic Landscape Assessment.
- Potential for a Shadow Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Kendal urban area to create guidance which enables and promotes the principles of the Vision.
- Costs and scope now awaited from Lichfields to inform decisions.

Land at Burton Road

Submitted an objection to Story Homes about their proposals for Land at Burton Road based on:

- A broad location for growth site allocation only
- Greenfield location which will have a lasting impact on the landscape character of Kendal
- Lack of affordable and 2-3 bedroom homes
- Creating a heavily car reliant community bringing little benefit to the town centre
- Uninspiring designs which lack characteristics distinct to Kendal

We have offered to discuss an alternative approach with Story Homes about the potential to repurpose existing underused sites closer to the town centre in line with the Vision.

Levelling Up Fund

SLDC await the Government decision on the application submitted in the summer.

KF CIC has agreed to commission Continuum, the Levelling Up Fund consultants, to draft a study to identify an alternative financial model and economic benefits for funding future improvement schemes. It is expected to cost £3k and more details will be shared when available.

S106 Stramongate Public Realm Improvement Scheme

- Surveys have identified some complications with damage to drainage pipes and leaks which must be repaired before work can begin.
- Morbaine has extended the funding spend deadline until September.
- Asking SLDC and partners whether there is potential to extend the public realm scheme using UKSPF funding in 23-24, given the delay and additional drainage repairs needed.

Public Realm Improvements

Town Team walkabout to be rescheduled in the New Year to look at the town centre public realm and maintain momentum for scoping and developing improvement projects for when funding opportunities arise.

Action Groups

Continued to meet monthly and new meeting dates for 2023 will be shared asap.

Placemaking Group

- Encouraged the owner of the fire damaged building at the top of Finkle Street to take action to repair the building and improve the overall appearance of the street.
- Reviewing the Birdcage and area at the top of Finkle Street for potential public realm improvements which would facilitate events.
- Discussed improving and brightening up some of the yards via temporary artworks, performance and animations linked by a participative event. Rag Tag Arts are keen to support the work.
- Working with the Environment Agency to improve the planting and interpretation of their planned Fernery at Stramongate Bridge. The group is working to extend and improve the planting scheme with cuttings from local ferns and involve the local community.
- Researching how to encourage building owners to consider changing above the shop spaces into good quality homes.

Arts and Culture Group

- Work to establish an arts and culture group is underway to highlight the contribution this community makes to the town and how they can be supported.

Transport and Getting Around Group

- A meeting will be held with Northern in the New Year to discuss potential for the station approach and Longpool area. Good links are being maintained with the Community Rail Partnership and Lakes Line Rail User Group.
- The Woolly Saddle Cargo Bike trial was supported by the group and proved successful. The project leaders are now aiming to raise funds to develop the scheme.
- The group is looking at data relating to people movement around the town and immediate estates to help inform the potential for encouraging more cycling and walking. The LCWIP team has shared their research. The use of mobile phone data is also being explored.
- Taking forward the Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning process presented to the KFB by Alastair Kirkbride in September. Follows a pathway which ensures milestones are reached before progressing to the next stage.

Funding

SLDC were satisfied by the year 1 Activity Report for the Vision Manager and Action Group activity and the year 2 £50,000 funding has been received into the CIC bank account.

Request submitted to Kendal Town Council for 2023-24 for:

- Contribution towards the KF General Manager role - £10,000
- Support for work to progress the Vision - £5,500
- Visit-Kendal.co.uk hosting and maintenance fees - £2,500
- Kendal Kirkland banners - £1,500

Kendal BID have agreed to support visit-kendal.co.uk with £6k of funding to strengthen the presence of BID area businesses on the site and in social media. The funds will pay for additional time by the Content Manager.

Project Development funding (£135,000) spent or allocated to date:

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| £5000 | Contribution towards the development of the Levelling Up Fund application |
| £4373.94 | Kendal Futures Planning Strategy and Support Work (Lichfields) |
| £1374.84 | ACA – Movement and Placemaking Design Advice/Walkabout |
| £1440.00 | Create Consulting – Movement and Placemaking Advice/Support for bid |
| £20,000 | Match funding for UKSPF £40k for Better Balanced Streets feasibility study |
| £3000 (est) | Alternative funding financial model and economic benefits study |

Other news

- KF now have an office (suite 3) in the Kendal Business Hub (lower ground floor of South Lakeland House off Angel Yard).
- BBC News came to Kendal – see the footage:
Breakfast (featuring Mark Cropper)
- <https://www.dropbox.com/t/qDTtakfAheILw17s>
Six o'clock news version
- <https://www.dropbox.com/t/NCd14Egowch0TXqc>
- Cllr Jonathan Brook and Cllr Peter Thornton have joined the KFB.
- Tina Dulson (BID representative) has been appointed as Director of Kendal Futures CIC.
- Nick is regularly attending Kendal BID meetings.
- KF, KTC and Kendal BID are discussing holding a joint engagement/update event in the spring.