

KENDAL FUTURES BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Board held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Kendal on Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 4.30pm.

Present:	Peter Hensman (Chairman)	Lake District Estates Co. Ltd.
	Jim Bland	National Farmers Union
	Rob Johnston	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
	Geoff Cook	Kendal Town Council
	George Inchmore	Kendal Retail Association
	Tom Powney	Federation of Small Businesses
	Mandy Dixon	South Lakeland LSP
	Richard Pealing	Cumbria Vision
	Dave Clark	CCC South Lakeland Local Committee
Officers:	David Ingham	Cumbria County Council
	David Sykes	South Lakeland District Council
	Joanne Golton	Regeneration Programme Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Scott Burns (South Lakeland District Council), Alun Lewis (CBI) and Graham Vincent (South Lakeland District Council)

037/08 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The chairman welcomed Dave Clark representing Cumbria County Council's South Lakeland Area Local Committee.
- (2) The main business of the meeting was to agree priorities and how to measure progress towards achieving them.
- (3) Kendal College is a key player in Kendal's economic regeneration.
AGREED: It was agreed that the education sector was not fully represented on the Board and that that Bill Broekhuizen, Chairman of the College Board, be asked to join the Futures Board.

038/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs. Mandy Dixon declared a personal interest in various items as an employee of K Village.
Dave Clark declared a personal interest in the discussion on priority projects (broadband connectivity) as an employee of BT

039/08 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Rob Johnston pointed out that minute 020/08 should read: When Cumbria LSC reviewed the application for the Kendal College refurbishment the understanding was that The University of Cumbria would be establishing a presence in Kendal associated to the College and this had added weight to the College's case. If the University's plans have changed, which they seem to have done, then pressure needs to be brought to bear on the University to explain how it will play an active role in developing the Kendal are economy.

With this amendment it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June be accepted as a true record.

040/08 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 020/08 (Brewery Project)

Sam Mason had met with Peter Ridgeway (SLDC). Sam did not feel he had the capacity to take the project forward but is willing to help. The Chairman highlighted the need for a clear statement from KFB to the Brewery stressing how the Board would like to see this project, which would have a significant impact on the town, taken forward. Discussion shelved until after the priorities discussion.

Minute 021/08 (Kendal Northern Development Route)

There was a discussion about the importance of this scheme for the development of the town and the need to keep pushing it forward. The Government had recently called for new Regional Funding Allocation proposals from the NW and it was important to ensure both that CCC continued to back it and that GONW was aware of its importance. The Funding Allocation debate would take place over the next six months. concerns were expressed that the Board should support a scheme which had a poor chance of being funded because it did not score highly on the evaluation system used.

AGREED that the Board should encourage the inclusion of the route both in the RFA proposals and in the LDF and that a strong letter should be sent to CCC (including Ian Stewart as Chair of the Transport Committee) with a copy to GONW . David Ingham was also asked to look at the basis of evaluation of such schemes. The Board could then decide whether further research on the economic importance of the road would be helpful.

Minute 024/08 (Car Parking Study)

David Ingham reported that he had been unable to identify additional CCC funds to support this study. David Sykes explained that the study would have to go ahead with a budget of £60k instead of the £100k originally proposed. He also explained the implications of this. The KFB car parking study would still be included. The Board thought it important that a member of the KFB car parking Sub-Committee was on the selection panel for the consultants.

Minute /08 (Cycleway)

It was reported that South Lakeland Local Committee had agreed the route along the edge of New Road car park. Dave Clark noted that more car parking will be lost on the agreed route than on the original. George Inchmore queried the benefits of the route, given that there are already three designated cycleways into Kendal.

041/08 Representative group updates

Geoff Cook, Kendal Town Council, reported on signage and Kendal/Cumbria/Britain in Bloom competitions.

Mandy Dixon, South Lakeland Local Strategic Partnership, said Joanne Golton had been asked to attend the Jobs, Skills and Regeneration group, and reported on lobbying undertaken in line with the Community Strategy for South Lakeland.

Richard Pealing, Cumbria Vision, reported on action plans, the Joint Investment Plan with NWDA and discussions between CCC, SLDC and

NWDA regarding the four delivery boards to be established. The Chairman asked whether the Kendal Futures Board would feed into the East and South Cumbria delivery body through SLDC or direct to Cumbria Vision. Richard Pealing explained the system and stressed the need for Cumbria Vision, CCC, SLDC etc. to work together.

Rob Johnston, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, reported on the launch of Network 5 networking meetings and explained their remit. He urged KFB members to go along and talk to businesses involved. Rob also talked about the Young Chamber work with Kirkbie Kendal School, considered a national exemplar, and other business initiatives.

Dave Clarke, South Lakeland Local Area Committee, mentioned the major decisions taken regarding the cycleway route (dealt with previously),.

Tom Powney, Federation of Small Businesses, suggested Kendal was bucking the national trend at the moment with a survey of 42 town centre businesses reporting trade as:-

20% good
65% average
15% poor.

David Sykes, South Lakeland District Council, reported on county wide work to develop the 4 Vision Boards and involvement of the two thematic groups from the LSP. He mentioned the Local Development Framework, the planned development at Canal Head and forthcoming meetings with NWDA staff to raise Kendal's priority status.

George Inchmore, Kendal Retail Association, talked about the starter units at Low Mills, the sale of quarry land by Tarmac and the need for loading and unloading bays in town. He also raised the issue of mini-roundabouts to ease pressure points at Sandes Avenue and Blackhall Road and mentioned that the town continues to lose shops – 121 over three years.

Jim Bland, National Farmers' Union, explained the NFU was in the process of moving offices. The NFU is concerned about the infrastructure of the town and has always supported the Northern Relief Route. The Auction Mart plans to relocate to the Lane Farm site and would like direct access to the dual carriageway.

Joanne Golton, Regeneration Programme Manager, provided details of whom she had met with, issues discussed and priorities. She asked that members let her know if anyone was missing from the list.

O42/08 Priorities & Milestones

The Chairman reminded members that priorities had been set at a previous meeting and Joanne had based her proposals on this information. He explained that Joanne was uncomfortable about the delivery of the priority themes and would prefer to develop these into a set of projects with clear milestones. Joanne circulated a list of proposed projects, which were tied back to the agreed priorities. Mandy Dixon suggested there were a lot of projects which were being delivered by other groups, and the Board's role in such instances should be that of a 'watching brief'.

The list of proposed projects was discussed in detail. In particular the idea of a Business Improvement district was explained and Rob Johnston explained that he was chasing NWDA funding to run a feasibility study for both Carlisle and Kendal. The Board agreed that the Business improvement District should be included as a priority project.

It was also agreed that the Brewery Project should be taken forward, (although new sources of funding were needed) and that the Sports Village concept should be supported and this support should be confirmed to potential funders; however, the Board should not take a lead on it. It was agreed that Stephen Wilkinson be invited to explain the project to the KFB in greater detail

David Ingham suggested the need for incubator units – something CREA has expressed interest in – to be included on the priority list. The Chairman agreed that this needed to be tackled alongside the need for employment land

Other issues briefly discussed included markets; Invest in Kendal website; the need for a university presence in Kendal; one-stop shop; continuation of a business advisor based in the town centre; piloting 30mb Broadband; improvements to Kirkland/Highgate; the need for quality toilet facilities: linkage from the railway station to the town centre and all main gateways into Kendal.

David Sykes stressed the need to demonstrate that the priority projects tie back to the Action Plan. Geoff Cook intimated the LAC may have some money put aside which would enable 'quick wins'/match funding.

Richard Pealing suggested two lists were needed – one of things which KFB lead on and one of things they support and would help to move forward, but not lead on.

AGREED Joanne to reconfigure the list on this basis, adding in the newly agreed priorities and relate it to the regeneration action plan. She will circulate this for people to comment

043/08 Tourism Development Feedback

a meeting between Mandy Dixon, Joanne Golton, Cumbria Tourism, SLDC produced a report entitled 'Kendal "Fit for the Future" Tourism Plan'. Issues raised included transition town status for Kendal; threshold for visitor attractions, sign changes, insufficient parking at Oxenholme Railway Station; cycle hire; toilets; Kendal as a conference centre and gaps in camping and caravanning provision. The Chairman asked that Mandy present the action plan in full to the next KFB meeting.

044/08 Publicity & Logo

Joanne Golton circulated draft ideas for a logo. The logo is being designed by NPS and should be finalised shortly.

045/08 Future Meeting Schedule to be held at 4.30pm at County Hall, Kendal unless otherwise stated.

- 10 September 2008

- **29 October 2008**
- **10 December 2008**
- **28 January 2009**
- **11 March 2009**

046/08 Any Other Business

Jim Bland enquired about the "Gateway Project". David Sykes explained that a revised slimmed down project was being taken to Planning.

Joanne reminded representatives that the Kendal Economic Development Fund was being re-launched by SLDC. Funding of up to £10,000 was available to local businesses to support job creation. More details were available on SLDC's website under 'business'.