Wednesday 13th July 2011
4.30 pm, County Offices, Kendal

Present:
Peter Hensman, Lake District Estates
Paula Scott, Programme Co-ordinator
Graham Vincent, South Lakeland District Council
Bill Broekhuizen, Kendal College
Jim Bland, NFU
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee
Fenner Pearson, Member, Cumbria Chamber
Neil Bowness, Member, Cumbria Chamber
Alison Hatcher, Cumbria County Council
Martyn Nicholson, CBI
Joanne Golton, South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:
Jayne Kendall, South Lakeland District Council
Austen Robinson, Kendal Town Council
David Ingham, Cumbria County Council
Richard Greenwood, Cumbria Tourism
George Inchmore, FSB

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising
- P Scott is investigating possible funding sources to help Kendal College implement 'Park and Walk' signage. KFB felt that the planned coach parking charges of a fixed £15 per day were too high. (Other providers charge £8 for 4 hours or £15 for the day.) **ACTION: B Broekhuizen** to feed back to the college.
- A 2 page summary of the work of KFB has been sent to the LEP board members. **ACTION: All** to request a copy from P Scott if interested. A Hatcher discussed the LEP expert groups which are being established, and chaired by board members. Individuals from companies are being asked to apply, and a work programme will follow.
- Approach the LAP for help with Mintfest welcomes still oustanding. **ACTION: A Robinson**
- KFB thanked Russell Armer and Lake District Estates for kindly sponsoring the Minfest VIP welcome reception on 2nd September in Nobles Rest. **ACTION: P Scott** to co-ordinate catering and drinks.
- P Scott has begun to let local business partnerships know about the Mintfest request to paint the town pink through window dressing etc, and that cafes and restaurants could consider staying open later during the festival.

3. Highgate Pedestrian Survey and Improvements
J Golton gave out copies of the pedestrian survey completed in March by Paul Holdsworth. The survey gives suggestions from businesses and residents for improving pedestrian access in the area. CCC Local Committee has allocated £100k for public realm improvements on Highgate, which will be matched by £100k from SLDC/106 monies and £50k from SLDC. The scheme now has to be designed and consulted on, and will have to be delivered by March. A drop-in session is being held with businesses and residents before the Kendal Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 26th July. J Bland requested that local contractors be used. N Bowness requested that the reasons for carrying out the work be made known as widely as possible across the town. Everyone needed to be clear that the money could not have been used for general expenses (such as maintaining the public toilets). **ACTION: J Golton** to write a list of FAQs to circulate widely. G Cook explained that a press release is going out from the Local Committee, to highlight this and other schemes that are taking place.

Suggestions for the scheme include introducing a diagonal pedestrian crossing outside the town hall and reducing the carriageway width to create a café culture on the pavements. The KFB thought reducing Highgate to one lane only would be a step too far, however. The lighting scheme would be continued from Kirkland into Highgate, and another crossing will be considered at Brewery brow.

G Cook then summarised some of the other schemes planned using the Local Committee budget for the coming year. £310k will be spent in Kendal. The cycle network will be expanded to improve linkages to what's already there, such as on the canal path and riverside footway. A new pedestrian crossing is planned for Kirkland, near the old Stokers Garage development site and a discussion followed about whether this should wait until the development is complete because the work might result in the closure of one lane to traffic. J Golton expressed concern about the plan to open up Market Place and Finkle Street to disabled drivers during the day, as this will increase the levels of traffic movement in a pedestrian friendly area. These schemes will be subject to consultation and KFB agreed to respond when this is available.

4. Broadband Update

P Hensman and P Scott met with Peter Connor and Steve Edwards from BT to discuss the roll out of superfast broadband in Kendal. CCC is running a tender to choose a partner to deliver superfast broadband throughout Cumbria. BT is bidding for this contract and hopes to include Kendal fairly early in its roll out plans, if successful. Kendal doesn't need large amounts of funding to support the roll out as fibre already goes to the exchange. KFB needs to lobby CCC to ensure Kendal is included in the wider Cumbria project and make a business case to BT to deliver in Kendal as early as possible. P Scott is gathering evidence to present to BT. **ACTION: P Scott**

A Hatcher updated the KFB about the progress with the CCC project. CCC was awarded £17m by BDUK as one of four national pilots to trial the roll out of superfast broadband in Cumbria. It is seeking additional funding from other sources including ERDF and the successful private sector telecom partner. The objective is to get as close as possible to superfast broadband countywide, but other forms of technology could also be used. A Hatcher suggested that if KF is providing information to form the business case for Kendal to BT, it should also be provided to Alan Cook at CCC. **ACTION: P Scott** to forward information to Alan Cook at CCC when available. KFB suggested meeting the other private sector companies competing for the tender. **ACTION: P Scott** to ask D Ingham if this is possible.

5. Partner Updates

- Local Transport Plan Review – P Hensman expressed concern that plans were being made in Kendal regarding road junctions, Highgate and cycle routes without the KFB having seen the LTP review. **ACTION: G Cook** to find out when the review will be completed and if KFB will have an opportunity to comment on it before publication. P Hensman also expressed the hope that the LTP would be supportive of the Public Realm Framework as this is now being redrafted to take into account CCC concerns. The Public Realm Framework is a creative, rather than a technical, document and it should remain an important resource for any work that takes place in Kendal.
- SLDC – G Vincent said that the parking consultation has started to try to gain a better picture of how the service is shaped. **ACTION: ALL** to complete the consultation as individuals. P Hensman asked how the consultation fitted with KFB parking strategy and G Vincent assured him that the recommendations were taken into account by SLDC officers.
- Cabinet have agreed the deregulation of New Road (town side) and it will be presented to the Secretary of State in October. Ground pollution surveys will be completed on the riverside area in September.
- J Golton announced that there will be a further opportunity to consult about new land which has been proposed under the LDF land allocation process.
- Tour of Britain comes to Kendal for a stage start on Monday 12th September at 10.30 am. There will be rolling road closures in place and more details will be going out to businesses and residents in the near future. **ACTION: J Golton** to send J Bland the Tour of Britain contact details.

- SLDC is planning to hold a developers conference next year to look at employment sites and promote the business benefits of the area. An input from KFB will be expected.
- N Bowness reported that the creative sector seems to be doing well.
- M Nicholson wanted the KFB to recognise the importance of CIL for community infrastructure improvements. It could create much needed funds to address traffic issues which otherwise may restrict town centre development and an integrated plan is needed. The Local Transport Plan will also be key.
- A Hatcher gave an update on E&SLF which is continuing as a board in order to add value to the LEP and possibly act as an advisory panel in future. There is no longer any dedicated CCC resource so the other boards no longer meet. Alison now has a countywide remit in Economic Development for regeneration projects.
- Canal Head. (M Nicholson declared an interest as Russell Armer has a land holding in the area and G Cook declared an interest as a local resident.) A Hatcher reported that work is continuing to revise the master plan in agreement with all stakeholders. It has been decided that it is not really viable to restore the canal but plans aim to safeguard the route so that it could be reinstated in the future if funding can be secured. The Canal Trust is unhappy with this outcome, however. There has been an application to create a village green in the area and objections have been received from KTC, CCC and Russell Armer. An enquiry is scheduled for November. Gilkes has submitted a bid to the regional growth fund to safeguard its future on the site.
- Kendal College – B Broekhuzien reported that Castle Diary will formally open to the public on 13th October, offering lunch on 5 days and dinner on 3 nights. Landscaping is due to the take place around the new arts block in the next few weeks. This is an iconic development and the college would like to see public realm activity take place to enhance the whole area. J Golton said that SLDC have put a project recommendation to Highways which will improve pedestrian access in the area. A pedestrian survey has already been completed. There is a Business Partnership meeting due to be held in the area on 28th July and an engineer from CCC will be attending to discuss issues with local businesses.
- NFU – J Bland said that work on the new auction mart site is about to begin and it hopes to be completed in 12 months.

6. Any other business

- Car parking consultation – **ACTION: P Hensman & P Scott** to put together a draft response on behalf of KFB and circulate before the next meeting.
- A feasibility study is taking place about the possible redevelopment of Kendal Town Football Club on the existing site or a new site. **ACTION: J Golton** to circulate a draft report when available.
- There are lots of birthdays next year for the cultural sector which the tourism action plan will try to develop further. Abbot Hall Art Gallery is 50, the Brewery is 40 and the Quaker Tapestry is 30.
- P Scott circulated the latest project update.
- **ACTION: P Scott** to circulate new meeting dates for 2012.

7. Date of next meeting:

- Wed 7th September 2011 – 4.30 pm, County Offices
- Wed 19th October 2011 – 4.30 pm, County Offices