



Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
5.00pm, County Offices, Kendal

**Present:**

Peter Hensman, Lake District Estates (Chair)  
David Ingham, Cumbria County Council  
Geoff Cook, Kendal Town Council  
Joanne Golton, Programme Manager  
Mandy Dixon, South Lakeland LSP  
Graham Vincent, South Lakeland District Council  
Dave Clark, South Lakeland Local Area Committee  
Scott Burns, South Lakeland District Council  
Dianne Whitehead, Cumbria County Council  
Bill Broekhuizen, Kendal College

Richard Pealing, Cumbria Vision  
George Inchmore, Kendal Retail Forum

Also present:

David Grecic, UCLAN (Sports Village)  
Nick Raymond, CCC

Apologies

Alun Lewis, Confederation of British Industry  
Tom Powney, Federation of Small Businesses  
Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

**1. Minutes and Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were accepted as a true record.

Northern Relief Road

- The LDF draft documentation has been sent to Jonathan Smith at County Council.
- SLDC have developed LDF development land maps, which show all sites under consideration, though not prioritised at this stage. The employment sites work has not yet been completed. The LDF team will be invited to explain the process at the next KFB meeting. **ACTION J. Golton** to invite LDF employment land team to next KFB meeting.

Quaker Tapestry

- Tourism sub group will report back on consultation paper from the Tapestry Futures Group. A preferred option is not expected until April.

GOAD Survey

- David Ingham reported that the GOAD survey is expected early next year. This compares empty retail unit space in Cumbria towns.

New Road

- PH wrote to the Gazette outlining the KFB involvement in the New Road project. This letter has not been published. The Westmoreland Gazette has a new acting-editor. **ACTION: M. Dixon, J. Quigley (LSP) and J. Golton** to meet with paper to discuss KFB coverage and ensure stories run in the paper when released.

**Sports Village**

12 potential sports villages in the North West were identified by the NWDA from a UK facility audit. Wigan and Leigh/ Warrington are the flagship sites for the North West. This is seen as an opportune initiative to link to the Cultural Olympiad and 2012.

A feasibility study is underway and will be completed by February 2009. This will establish need and what form the sports village should take – business, arts, sports as the main driver. The study will also assess where the sports village would be situated in Kendal and whether it would suit a 1, 2, 4 site approach.

The sports village steering group consists of Kendal College, South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council, Kendal Town Council, Cumbria Vision, Lakes Leisure, Sport England, Learning Skills Council, University of Central Lancashire and Local Secondary Schools Federation.

The study will need to link its objectives into the Local Development Framework process. There is a need to find additional private sector support to develop the project further. **ACTION: David Grecic** will provide KFB with the feasibility study when complete.

### **New Road Common Land**

SLDC have employed legal consultants (common land experts) to report on New Road. SLDC are vulnerable to challenge over illegal car parking on common land. Discussions are underway with Cumbria CC regarding cycle route options including a possible new footbridge over the existing slipway. A meeting will take place in the New Year with Friends of the Lake District, the Civic Society and Open Spaces Society to discuss options and resolve issues. **ACTION: G. Vincent, J. Golton, D. Sykes** to attend.

KFB New Road Sub Group (Dave Clark, Tom Powney, Mandy Dixon and Graham Vincent) will meet to discuss taking New Road forward in partnership. Next steps will include an exhibition to be organised in the spring to inform the public of the legal position, car-parking options and to receive ideas and suggestions from the general public for the site. Graham Vincent agreed to provide the board with updates at future meetings (**ACTION: G. Vincent**)

### **Programme Update**

- Public Realm - NWDA has encouraged Kendal to continue their bid and act as pilot for the new rural public realm programme. Feedback has been received on a concept proposal and this will be resubmitted before Christmas.
- JG circulated a proposal for a Kendal Festival of Food. This event would be held in October and would link into the KERAP by supporting local food producers and improving Kendal's food offer. This event is a producer led event and KFB would use this event to support future local food network distribution hub development work by CREA. **ACTION: M. Dixon /P. Hensman** to discuss at next CREA board mtg. The Kendal festival of food would link to the new replacement Food Lovers Festival currently being organised by the Westmoreland Agricultural Society for this coming May. **ACTION: J. Golton** to draw up event work plan and locate partner resources and funding.
- Employment sites – The sites at Shenstone and at Canal Head will not be taken forward as part of the Sub Regional Employment Sites Programme. The landowners and agents could not agree a purchase price. After discussion it was agreed that the South Lakeland LSP group will host a private sector developers/ landowners meeting to investigate how to bring development in Kendal forward using public funds. KFB need to facilitate the delivery of employment land. **ACTION: M. Dixon/ LSP** to arrange meeting.
- Other projects: JG met with Bev Bamford Business Advisor for a quarterly update. 51 new and existing businesses have been advised since the project started. Of these 18 have attended a marketing workshop, 7 have applied to the Kendal Employment Development Fund and 6 new jobs have been created. JG circulated the Project Manager's monthly update.

### **Representative group updates**

- Mandy Dixon: positive Gazette headline and editors comment were noted. Well done to Mandy for her Fit for the Future tourism action plan presentations at the recent Town Council mtg. MD circulated the latest tourism action plan.

- Graham Vincent, SLDC: Eden and South Lakes Vision Board will be meeting again on 17<sup>th</sup> December to determine project priorities. Private sector places on the Board will be advertised shortly.
- Richard Pealing, CV: Cumbria monthly economic report to be produced by Cumbria Vision and will be circulated to KFB. Currently South Lakeland is 43<sup>rd</sup> most vulnerable district in England according to the Oxford Economics Report. This is due to the high dependence on tourism. After discussion KFB agreed Kendal's businesses need to make the most of opportunities resulting from the 2012 Olympics e.g. construction, designing, marketing etc.
- Scott Burns: the SLDC Business-to-Business Exhibition was a great success with over 40 businesses exhibiting and 250+ visitors.

### **Any Other Business**

- Tom Bell to be invited to the next meeting to present the areas for Kendal to take advantage of the 2012 business opportunities. **Action: P. Hensman**

### **Date of next meeting:**

- 28 January 2009 – 4.30pm, County Hall, Kendal
- 10 March 2009 – 4.30pm, County Hall, Kendal