



Wednesday, 22nd July 2009
4.30pm, County Offices, Kendal

Present:

Peter Hensman, Lake District Estates (Chair)
Joanne Golton, Programme Manager
Mandy Dixon, South Lakeland LSP
Dianne Whitehead, Cumbria County Council
David Ingham, Cumbria County Council
Rob Boden, Kendal Town Council
Scott Burns, South Lakeland District Council
Bill Broekhuizen, Kendal College
Jim Bland, National Farmers Union
George Inchmore, Federation of Small Businesses

Alun Lewis, Confederation of British Industry
Richard Pealing, Cumbria Vision
Graham Vincent, South Lakeland District Council
Geoff Cook, South Lakeland Local Committee
Derek Armstrong, Cumbria Chamber of Commerce

Also present:

Russell McGrath, Business Link

Apologies:

Bill Broekhuizen, Kendal College
Austen Robinson, Kendal Town Council

1. Minutes and Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June were accepted as a true record.

- **ACTION: G Vincent** to present written confirmation of funding support to the Community Toilet Scheme
- The NWDA Rural Growth Study has been completed and is currently with Cumbria Vision for comment.
ACTION: R. Pealing to provide KFB with copy of report.

2. Businesses & 2012

Russell McGrath from Business Link gave the Board a presentation on Business Opportunities for 2012 London Olympics. The main route for businesses to be involved is via the CompeteFor website which is jointly owned by the regional Development Agencies. This website shows contracts, types of work and an area to submit registration details. 20% of all contracts for the Olympics go on the CompeteFor website. 42000 businesses have registered and half of all contracts awarded have gone to businesses outside London. **ACTION: J. Golton** to supply copy of presentation to KFB. A road show is now underway across the region to encourage businesses to visit/use the CompeteFor website.

3. Employment Land Update

Currently, a regularly updated Land and Premises register is available to view on the SLDC website, this covers available sites across Kendal. Work is ongoing between SLDC and LDNPA to include those sites with current planning permissions but not being marketed. This information will also be published on new Invest in Kendal website. Business enquiries for land or premises are currently being channelled through SLDC/ CREA and full lists of sites are being made available.

Land to the north of the town is being investigated as part of the SRES programme. **ACTION: D. Ingham** to keep the group informed. E&SL Delivery Board are arranging to meet with private developers to discuss current obstacles to employment sites being brought forward in difficult areas such as Kendal. Canal Head implementation planning work underway, an update from SLDC was circulated to KFB members.

The LDF timetable has been changed, allocations of land will now be consulted on in December 09, not July. CCC response to the LDF employment sites document is in draft and rules out some of those sites being put forward due to Highway issues. The LDF transport assessment is shortly to be presented to SLLC.

The Chamber of Commerce has proposed a study to look at the feasibility of a renewable energy technology park in Kendal. This would look at the factors necessary for the success of such a park and the likely demand. Following on from a ministerial visit in London Rob Johnston had spoken with the NWDA who are willing to grant the Chamber funds to proceed with the study. KFB agreed that the study would be useful in the promotion of such a project and the Chamber should commission the work subject to the following: KFB have input into the Project Brief; KFB are on the panel involved in choosing the consultants. **ACTION: J. Golton** to send letter of support from KFB to Chamber.

J. Golton highlighted a draft Supplementary Planning Document for Carlisle City Council. This document can help councils on how they approach the use of planning obligations (Section 106 monies). Currently SLDC does not have such a document and towns such as Kendal could benefit with investment into important areas of need. The advice within the SPD will help guide all developers submitting planning applications where planning obligations will be required. The SPD also identifies the different types of obligations that may be required, and sets out formulae and thresholds where applicable. Should Kendal Futures Board formally request that SLDC have this type of document to fit into the new LDF process? **ACTION: J. Golton** to circulate a copy of the Carlisle document to KFB members for comment.

4. Car Parking Study Latest

The sub committee met recently and agreed objectives on which to base a response to the Car Parking report and propose a way forward for delivery. The group is currently gathering more data on car parking numbers and traffic information. Meetings will take place with SLDC and CCC shortly. The group will report back at the next meeting. A suggestion was put forward for coach parking near Greenside, which makes easier access to town centre drop off points and rest areas for drivers. **ACTION: Car parking Sub-group** to investigate further with CCC. Any town centre coach visits will require a hosting facility together with a meet and greet facility. This will be explored under the Kendal Ambassadors project. Funding to host coach visits would be required and this could come from a joint working initiative between town centre retailers or through business improvement district funding.

5. Projects Round Up

Following discussion with the NWDA there could be some underspend within the rural budget, which upon a successful application, could be used to deliver some of the proposed public realm improvements. NWDA will contact KFB within 4 weeks if the application can proceed.

J. Golton distributed the projects update sheet and a copy of a short report submitted to the Kendal Tourism Group meeting on 21st July.

Planning for the Kendal Festival of Food is underway. The event will run in October and aims to support the promotion of local food and drink and put Kendal on the 'foodie map'.

6. Representative group updates

- Mandy Dixon: LSP conference on 22nd June reinforced the number one priority as jobs, skills and regeneration in key service centres across South Lakeland.
- Richard Pealing: E&SL Delivery Board has interviewed for Project Director last week and is awaiting references for the chosen candidate. E&SL Delivery Board is currently working on a business plan to be published in September.
- David Ingham: The CCC has purchased the latest GOAD survey for 28 key settlements across Cumbria. The report shows Kendal with 452 retail/service units of which 54 are vacant (10.54%). This gives 748,00sq ft available floor space with 61000sq ft currently vacant (8.1%). **ACTION: D. Ingham** to distribute summary of GOAD report to KFB.
- George Inchmore: The FSB is currently encouraging members to trade local and use local whilst this current climate continues.
- Rob Boden: The KTC management committee has agreed to use its £3000 funding set aside for the Kendal Klipper as a support grant to the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). The Klipper will not be operating this financial year so money will instead be directed to support the TIC, which has recently been in the press as SLDC announced that opening hours and staffing would be cut to meet budgets. The support from KTC allows the TIC to function normally during the winter months and opening hours to remain unchanged.

This will help events such as the Mountain Film Festival and Christmas activities. SLDC will issue a position statement on Kendal TIC in September.

- Scott Burns: SLDC's New Road consultation finishes this Friday. The response has been good with mixed opinion. An independent survey report is due in September.
- Jim Bland, NFU: Kendal Auction Mart plans went on show last week. The Westmorland County Show is on 10th September and £40000 has recently been spent upgrading the showfield.

7. Any Other Business

- The Kendal College bid for the redevelopment of the Wildman Street site has suffered a serious setback with LSC capital funding. It is now unlikely that any funding will be available for some considerable time. The College is anxious to continue with its efforts to develop the site albeit on a much more modest scale but needs to secure funding elsewhere. The scheme presented an excellent opportunity for substantial regeneration in the Wildman Street area of Kendal. **ACTION: Kendal College** to provide update at next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting:

- Thurs 3 September 2009 – 4.30pm, County Offices
- Wed 21 October 2009 – 4.30pm, County Offices
- Wed 2 December 2009 – 4.30pm, County Offices