

# KENDAL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## A summary of the meeting held at Kendal Town Hall on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

Cllr Clare Feeney-Johnson welcomed everyone to the Town Hall and announced that the first part of the meeting would be taken up by the Annual Town Council Assembly, followed directly by the Neighbourhood Forum meeting.

The Mayor, Cllr John Veevers, welcomed everyone to the **3<sup>rd</sup> Town Council Assembly** and acknowledged the excellent work done throughout the year by all Town Councillors, many of them newly elected in May 2010. There then followed special reports on four particular areas of Council activity.

Allotments: All plots were surveyed and some were split to create extra space but there is still a long waiting list. A new charging structure was also implemented, based on square meterage rather than just an arbitrary small, medium or large classification.

Christmas Lights & Festivals: The new light displays were a hit and the switch to LED lights generated a much smaller bill for running costs as well. There was some criticism of the Market Place tree but once it was fully decorated and lit it worked very well -thanks were expressed to Kendal College students who had made decorations. Working alongside various partners in the town also made the switch-on event a great success. The Town Council gave financial support to Mintfest, the Mountain Film Festival and Torchlight and will continue to support as many other events as possible.

Environment & Highways: Cllr Tom Clare explained that the main focus in the past year had been on the environment, to make Kendal a better place to work, live and visit. Locations for 10 speed Indicator devices have been agreed in principle with the County Council Highways department – for details of the locations, please contact the Town Clerk on 01539 797597. Extra gritting using hand operated spreaders greatly improved severe winter conditions in the town centre..

Work with South Cumbria Rivers Trust has seen interpretation boards put up at four points along the river, linking with those in the town centre. Other partners have also helped to tackle non-native invasive species in woodland behind Heron Hill and there have been wall and stile repairs on Fellside. The re-design of Abbott Hall grounds will see new beds plus planting round the edge to draw the eye to the view towards the Castle. To sponsor one of the planned new benches,

contact the Town Clerk. Space for staging outdoor events will be maintained. The railings along Aynam Road are also being repaired. Any potential impact of the Local Development Framework (see below) on the local landscape will be carefully monitored.

“Kendal in Bloom”: From the Town Council’s point of view this competition is an ideal way to make the town more attractive, encourage visitors and help to boost the local economy. This year, in order to focus on greater community involvement, the town will not be entering the wider “Cumbria in Bloom” competition. Formally launching this year’s “Kendal in Bloom”, Cllr Geoff Cook invited all schools, community groups and local traders to give the competition their support.

In response to a question concerning cleaning of graffiti, the meeting was advised that this is actually a District Council responsibility.

Closing the Assembly, the Mayor reminded everyone that Town Council meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month and are open to the public. For a full copy of the Annual Report contact the Clerk.

### **THE SOUTH LAKES FOYER marked the first item on the agenda for the Neighbourhood Forum.**

Faith-Joanne Thorpe from Impact Housing gave the meeting a brief overview of progress on this exciting joint project with the YWCA, which will help support young people in Kendal and the wider community. A similar, project in Penrith has been very successful.

The Foyer will comprise 14 self contained one-bedroom flats, supported by 2 full time support workers and a night support worker. To qualify for a flat a young person must be in education, employment or training and have a local connection in South Lakes.

They will only be entitled to stay in the flat for a maximum of two years but the average stay is more likely to be 9 – 12 months.

Attached to the Foyer will be a Resource Centre which will be open Monday – Friday from 9.00 am – 9.00 pm.

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### THE SOUTH LAKES FOYER (cont'd)

This will include office space to rent, meeting room and conference facilities and a cafe. The Resource Centre will not just support those living in the foyer but will also be available to local businesses, the wider community and voluntary sector. The keys for the building are due to be handed over on 31<sup>st</sup> March and the whole project will be open from 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Dan Hudson, Development Strategy Group Manager for South Lakeland District Council spoke to the Forum about the Council's current consultation on Emerging Options for land allocation within the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF encompasses the Council's vision for the future of towns, villages and countryside, planning policies, the role of development and local environmental assets.

The council needs to tackle the interconnected problems of housing supply, an ageing population and low value employment as many young people are leaving the area because they cannot find affordable housing or employment. The consultation on Emerging Options runs until 15<sup>th</sup> April and sets out to show ways in which the requirements can be met.

Between 2010 and 2025, around 2,060 new homes will need to be built in Kendal, mainly on the periphery of the town, in particular the North East side. Land at Scroggs Wood and Burton Road has been suggested for employment use. Development will be grouped into 3 phases, according to the availability, infrastructure constraints and deliverability of each site. Sites where additional infrastructure may be required, such as sewerage capacity, would automatically come under Phase 2 or 3.

Sites have been identified by local people, landowners and through studies undertaken by the council. All sites listed within the document have been assessed for suitability of access, sustainability of services, impact on wildlife and flood risk, among other factors.

Regular assessments of housing need are also carried out based on local house prices, incomes and population fluctuations and this includes the need for affordable housing, which is currently set at a level of

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (cont'd)

35% of any new housing development.

All comments received will be reviewed individually and a final list of site options will be drawn up by mid summer. Following submission to a Government Inspector the final plan is not likely to be adopted until mid to late 2012. All development proposals would still be subject to approval through the normal planning process.

Concerns were expressed about rising levels of air pollution in the town centre from increased traffic. Planners will seek to address this through ensuring that new building is spread along routes where taking a bus, cycling or walking to the town centre are all viable options. It was acknowledged that efforts were needed to encourage, and make it more reasonable for people to leave their car at home. For full details of the site options, fact files for each settlement and how to make your views known visit [www.southlakeland.gov.uk/landallocations](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/landallocations), or speak directly to Dan Hudson or a planning team member by calling SLDC on 01539 730000.

### KENDAL LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP (LAP)

Emma Nichols, LAP Co-ordinator, outlined for the Forum projects that have been supported this year by funding from the LAP. These include, among others, landscaping at Beezon Fields skate park and a grant to the Civic Society. A review has recently been undertaken to assess how all LAPs are working and where improvements can be made. Details of all LAP meetings can be found at: [www.southlakelandlsp.org.uk/local%20area%20partnerships.aspx](http://www.southlakelandlsp.org.uk/local%20area%20partnerships.aspx)

### GRANT APPLICATIONS

Kendal Lawn Tennis Club: Awarded £639

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is seeking to become a Foundation Trust. For further details visit [www.nwas.nhs.uk](http://www.nwas.nhs.uk) or call 01539 713419.

### GET IN TOUCH

Details of the next meeting of the Forum will be circulated as soon as they are available and posted on our website. [www.cumbria.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums)  
In the meantime if you need to get in touch please telephone 01539 713419.

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