

Kendal Futures

Kendal is a great town with much to be proud of but we still face challenges. Kendal Futures is a private/public sector partnership created out of the desire to make Kendal a better place for businesses to operate and for working age people to live and work. Its board contains a mix of people from the public and private sector.

Kendal Futures has helped to deliver and make possible a range of projects to make Kendal a better place. We want to make Kendal the UK's best market town to live, work, invest and visit by:

- Putting Kendal the Place at the heart of everything we do
- Raising aspirations and making a more exciting case for investment
- Creating the conditions for prosperity and growth where innovation and creativity can flourish
- Bringing together and supporting our partners and the community to achieve our common purpose

Kendal Vision - Inspiration for change in Kendal

Kendal Vision was driven by a desire from the town's employers to secure Kendal's future success and prosperity. In 2019, Kendal Futures, with funding from the town's key stakeholders and employers, commissioned the Vision in response.

2,000 people contributed during a Community Planning Weekend in public workshops, walkabouts, hands-on planning sessions including schools, college students, visited local communities. Participants considered problems, dreams & solutions for the town and the resultant Vision was presented to 130 people in Kendal Town Hall.

The Kendal Vision document was published in March 2020 together with SLDC's Kendal Town Centre Strategy. Key themes include: Getting around/traffic, sustainability, town centre, public realm, the river, arts and culture and the aims and principles include:

- High quality public realm in the town centre
- Enhance key assets and their surrounding areas
- Repurpose underutilised space
- Deliver quality, affordable housing close to the town centre
- Deliver employment and start-up opportunities in and around the town
- Improve public transport, cycling and walking opportunities
- Create a more sustainable Kendal

Levelling Up Fund Bid

A bid is due to be submitted by South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF), seeking financial support of £13.5M to help regenerate Kendal and deliver key aspects of the Kendal Vision. Potential Projects were considered for inclusion in the LUF Bid, with each being costed and scored against the government's criteria of deliverability and benefit by 2025. A maximum of three projects is allowed in any LUF funding application and if successful will help fund the following important regeneration projects in the Kendal.

The projects are:

1. The repurposing of the Westmorland Shopping Centre as a new town centre campus for Kendal College, and the regeneration of the historic Market Hall
2. Public realm improvements to Market Place
3. Public realm improvements to Kent Street
4. Improvements to the riverside route for pedestrians and cyclists



1 Market Hall proposed



3 Kent Street proposed



2 Market Place proposed



4 Proposed artist's impression of the riverside route

More information on the projects is available on the exhibition panels at the exhibition and online at kendalfutures.co.uk

This newsletter has been produced by Farrer Huxley and JTP on behalf of Kendal Futures. For more information about Kendal Vision please visit kendalfutures.co.uk

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Stramongate Resurfacing Works

Kendal Futures are now guiding a new public realm project for Stramongate taking advantage of a limited available budget. This small public realm improvement is designed to set the ambition and quality set out in the Kendal Vision for wider areas of the town centre.

With the opening of the new Gooseholme bridge in summer 2022, access from New Road by pedestrians and cyclists is likely to increase the number of people passing through this junction at Stramongate and Blackhall Road. To facilitate the increase in visitor footfall to Stramongate with the opening of the new Gooseholme bridge, a proposed new raised footpath across the mouth of the junction will prioritise the junction for pedestrians (image 5). Planting and trees will reduce traffic noise and air pollution from Blackhall Road for a more pleasant shopping and visitor environment on Stramongate.



Artist's impression illustrating the new continuous footpath junction proposal.

Brewery Arts

Brewery Arts is committed to supporting the Vision for Kendal and to help ensure the town is a vibrant place to live, work and visit. Over the past two years, the arts centre carried out an ambitious refurbishment programme to provide state-of-the-art facilities for audiences, artists and partners. The fully refurbished venue now includes a modern, two-screen cinema complex with luxurious seating and giant screens, alongside a purpose built digital lounge for immersive screenings and gaming sessions.

The project was generously supported with £850,000 capital grant funding, which was secured before the pandemic and designated for improvements to the building and its infrastructure. The funds were awarded by Arts Council England, Cumbria LEP, South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council, Kendal Town

Council, Brewery Arts Centre Endowment Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, and individual donations through a successful public appeal.

Kendal Rail Station

Kendal's rail station lies on the northern edge of town centre, an illegible entrance to all but those that know it and is severed from the town by a large and complex road junction. Making getting to and from the station easier has been a long-held goal of the Lakes Line Rail User Group and Community Rail Cumbria.

Kendal Vision proposes radical change to the station area over time to create a bus/rail interchange, and there may also be changes to the one-way system which could improve the junction between Ann Street, Wildman Street, Station Road and Longpool for pedestrian and cycle users. The suggestions which follow would quickly make it easier for pedestrians, and cyclists, to reach and leave Kendal station, without ruling out any future developments:

- Improving signage to major attractions
- Installing a Toucan light-controlled crossing at the natural point for crossing the road for anyone going to or from the town centre
- Comprehensive improvements toward making Wildman Street, Stramongate Bridge and lower Stramongate more accessible and attractive to pedestrians and cyclists

The Vision recognises that the station is at the end of an important and severed route and that improvements to the route between station and Stramongate Bridge link to the other improvements on upper Stramongate and Blackhall Road.

Kendal Futures Action Groups

The success of Community Engagement is to engage the expertise and experiences of the local community to find solutions. From the visioning process it was evident that Kendal has an abundance of such knowledge. To harness this, Action Groups aligned to the themes of the vision have been created.

The Action Groups and their main areas of activity are:

- **Transport and Getting Around**
- **Placemaking and Environment**
- **Housing and Workplaces**
- **Creative Industries**

If you would like to take part in one of the Action Groups please contact Nick Taylor at Kendal Futures by email nick@kendalfutures.co.uk

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