

Kendal Citizens Jury Recommendations Panel

13th January 2022



Attendees

Chair: Chris Bagshaw (KTC)
Helen Moriarty (KTC)
Sue Nicholls (Jury Member)
Hillary Murphy (Jury Member)
Natalie Naisbitt (Cumbria County Council)
Adam Briggs (National Farmers Union)
Molly Hogg (Cumbria Action for Sustainability)
Cllr Dyan Jones (SLDC)
Dan Hudson (SLDC)
Cllr Eamonn Hennessy (KTC)
Cllr Shirley Evans (CCC)
Hannah Girven (CCC)
Paula Scott (Kendal Futures)
Virginia Branney (Labour)
Craig Russell (Torchlight)
Josh Sawyer (Cumbria LEP)
Chris Rowley (representing SLACC)

Apologies*

Sarah Kitching (NFU)
Duncan Pollard (SLACC)
Ian Wheeler (LEP)

*All sent colleagues which was appreciated

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone, led a round of introductions and outlined the purpose of the meeting - to review the recommendations and discuss the highlighted discussion points received by all.

2. Food and Farming Recommendations

We need to provide space and education to help people to grow their own food

The allotment recommendation was discussed. SLDC updated the panel that whilst providing allotment space was not currently a planning condition it could be included in the local plan process if evidence of need were provided. Community Infrastructure Levy funding could also be used to support food growing provision.

The impact of Local Government Reorganisation was discussed with each authority outlining how Climate Change continued to be a priority despite reorganisation but the uncertainty is challenging in terms of proposing and planning new projects. Various proposals will be presented to the shadow authority in spring 2022.

We need to reduce food waste

The group briefly discussed who could champion, fund and deliver a grow your own course and waste education. SLACC confirmed they have saved 20 tonnes of waste from the waste stream.

Previous to the meeting Waste into Wellbeing offered to provide an overview of potential projects that could address the reduce food waste recommendations.

Torchlight confirmed that next year's theme will focus on waste reduction and all agreed the festival is a great way to raise awareness and promote action.

The group discussed the difficulties in securing a town centre space to create a Climate Hub where waste reduction and cooking courses could be delivered from.

We need to increase the opportunities for local producers to sell their products and produce in Kendal

The opportunities for local producers to sell their products and produce in Kendal was briefly discussed and all agreed to move item 9 and 10 into a national recommendation overview.

We need to work with local farmers to encourage Nature Recovery farming

Adam Briggs provided feedback to the group regarding the recommendation 'We must promote plant based diets'. He outlined that the majority of nearby farms are dairy and cattle because that's what the land is suitable for. By encouraging people not to support local farms, and switch to plant based diets instead, the Jury panel will struggle to create collaborative relationships going forwards. Adam recommended considering 'Low Carbon Diets' as an alternative, recognising that local produce has a lower carbon footprint than imported meat and dairy. The group agreed changing the emphasis in this way would be useful without losing the low carbon message of the Jury's recommendation.

It was also noted that whilst the 'incentivise' aspect of recommendation 11 was another national lobbying action the idea of supporting farmers to reduce carbon footprints via tree planting was achievable and is something the NFU are supporting farmers with, [more info here](#).

The group discussed lobbying options. There was recognition that the National Citizens Jury may have made similar recommendations and that the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership could potentially support.

Food and Farming Recommendation Actions

- KTC to continue allotment expansion
- All to support and promote Torchlight 2022
- Review Waste into Wellbeing project overview when ready
- Follow up local producer discussion points (SLDC Farmers Market expansion, favourable rates to low carbon businesses)
- Move items 9 and 10 and the incentives aspect of 11, into a national recommendation overview
- Refer to low carbon diets instead of plant based diets going forwards
- KTC to consider lobbying options, together with SDLC and CCC, via Tim Farron and the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.

3. Transport Recommendations

We must improve Kendal's Public Transport System

The group agreed improvements are required to encourage better use of Public Transport but conceded that the Jury's recommendations to improve (public ownership of bus companies, provide subsidised routes) should be added to the national lobby list replicating best practice from elsewhere such as the Metro Mayor system. The 2021 Bus Improvement Plan was noted and is [available here](#).

We must improve cycling provision

The group discussed the various ways cycling could be improved. The Town Council's 20mph initiative was noted as a positive step which has the potential to change the feel of Kendal.

It was also noted that the Highway Code does give priority to cyclists and pedestrians but many drivers are unaware of this change. A promotional campaign was suggested to improve awareness.

Chris Rowley suggested that change will be a sum of each recommendation and the panel should keep the general desire line in mind rather than taking each recommendation at a time. This approach could prevent people becoming disheartened.

SLDC noted the Local Government Opportunity when Highways becomes part of the place making agenda and roads are no longer seen as simply vessels to move cars on but as key contributors to a sense of place.

The E-bike scheme and car club recommendation was well received and it was noted that a cargobike delivery scheme is in development and that E Bike hire and car club co-ordination could be facilitated via the Climate Action Hub.

We must reduce traffic in Kendal

Kendal Futures continue to progress options for town centre network improvements, via high level feasibility studies, to benefit everyone regardless of Northern Access Road developments. The group were asked about data to show the volumes of traffic and it was noted that this information is available and informed the Town Centre versus Northern Access working group conversations in 2019. It was added that if Satellite Navigation information becomes publicly available the ability to fully understand driving habits and routes will be extremely useful for future planning.

The Lancaster Park and Ride scheme was noted as an example of best practice.

We must promote and facilitate the use of Electric Cars

The recommendation to lobby nationally will be added to the national lobby list and the facilitation of street charging was not resolved. It was noted that rural areas are more car dependent.

Following the meeting CAFs shared a survey relating to the development of Electric Car Share schemes in rural areas, [available here](#) and details of two webinars on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7.00pm and Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend, please email evcarclubsurvey@gmail.com

Transport Recommendation Actions

- Add the public ownership of bus provision, the provision of subsidised bus routes and incentivisation to switch to electric cars to the national lobby list
- Consider promotional ideas to promote new Highway Code to give cyclists and pedestrians more confidence.
- Ensure transport recommendations are integrated into hub developments.
- Share the traffic data from CCC

4. Clean Energy Recommendations

We must insist on energy efficiency measures in all new housing

It was explained that whilst new national Future Homes standard, which would ensure new homes are zero carbon ready, is expected by 2025, new housing represents a very small proportion of homes and the emphasis should be on retrofitting existing housing stock to make a bigger impact. There is debate over how energy efficiency is achieved, fabric first or renewables but it was generally agreed that making renewables efficient via effective fabrics was important.

We must conserve energy and reduce heat loss via retrofitting

The group was made aware that of CAFs calculators and retrofitting audit service. CAFs are developing a project to train both the industry and home owners in retrofitting.

Heat pumps were discussed and CAFs confirmed that they are an option a home energy planner might recommend but their effectiveness are determined by insulation levels. Promotion of Solar

was discussed as being easier and cheaper but heat pumps should be kept in the options mix when promoting options.

It was noted that retrofitting is not an option for many people and that fuel security is equally important in the meantime.

It was also noted that an accreditation scheme for traders would reduce fears for investors.

Recommendation 6 which focuses on creating an accreditation scheme to enable local businesses to access advice and then be rewarded via accreditation and promotion was briefly discussed. The local Green Small Business accreditation scheme was highlighted as an option to be developed, the Chair advised raising with the Environment and Highways Committee to progress.

We must produce our own renewable energy

The group was made aware of the [Cumbria Green Investment Plan](#) which highlights how, via public and private sector joint investment, better alternative to the current insecure and often short term tendering opportunities can be positively transformed.

Recommendation 8 was discussed in the context of creating solar farms, it was noted that solar farms can co-exist successfully with grazing but are currently unpopular with the public.

The Kendal Solar Audit was welcomed and best practice will be shared via CAFs and the Ambleside group who are partnering with Big Solar Coop who own sites and sell electricity back to the community which enables the purchase of energy at discounted rates. Bulk buy in options are also being explored.

The discussion point re wind and hydro audits was not fully discussed but can be followed up as actions and may be referenced in the Green Investment Plan.

Clean Energy Actions

- CAFs to update group on retrofitting projects and all to support promotion when appropriate
- KTC to continue with Solar Audit plans
- Develop a proposal for the E&H Committee to consider a Kendal focused accreditation scheme that provides both advice and incentives to small businesses to reduce carbon
- Confirm with the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership if solar and hydro schemes feature and would they be a good option for Kendal.

5. Action and Awareness Recommendations

We must implement the recommendations of Kendal's Citizens Jury

The group discussed if using the word 'must' prompted positive actions. It was highlighted that whilst the Jury used 'must' to convey the sense of emergency to the organisations best placed to implement their recommendations, more inclusive language was being used on the public facing communications such as Zero Carbon Kendal.

We must transform Local Authorities and educate Councillors to lead climate action

Each local authority confirmed funding allocation for Climate Action projects and that Climate Literacy training was taking place at Cumbria County Council and SLDC. It was acknowledged that more can be done and that the Local Government Reorganisation will need to prioritise Climate Action.

We must provide information to make it easier for individuals to make informed decisions

The Zero Carbon Kendal website was highlighted and Torchlight's progression towards Charity status to continue its growth and development was discussed. Both provide information to help individuals take action. It was acknowledged that local climate action groups could be better supported.

The group discussed awards ceremonies to highlight best practice and celebrate successes. The Town Council could utilise the Science and Arts grant funding. Speakers could also be invited to champion action.

We must build a collective vision of the future of Kendal

The group discussed that whilst Kendal had a detailed vision thanks to Kendal Futures work, the need to have a shorter 'elevator pitch' was required. The group agreed the Recommendations Panel should feed into this vision rather than create an alternative one.

Action and Awareness Actions

- Kendal Town Council to research the use of the Science and Art budget to develop Climate Action awards and consider speakers at events.
- Kendal Futures to share the shorter vision overview

6. Trees and Plastic Recommendations

We must protect and plant trees

The group discussed a number of existing initiatives relating to tree planting. The Ambleside Climate Action group are working with the Woodland Trust to identify land which they can then provide trees for. The Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Partnership, chaired by Angela Jones from Cumbria County Council may also provide opportunities for additional tree planting in Kendal. Additionally, Natural Kendal, are keen to action planting and protecting trees.

It was noted that planting trees doesn't necessarily mean creating a woodland, they can co-exist within productive land as part of hedges and barriers, Agro forestry is a positive opportunities to work with landowners.

Working with schools was also discussed as receptive landowners to plant more trees.

Wetland and peatbogs were discussed but it was noted there are limited opportunities for this to develop in Kendal.

We must become a plastic free town

Various options for reducing plastic use were discussed. An Extinction Rebellion event which returned unnecessary plastic to the supermarket was highlighted as a way of raising awareness. It was generally agreed to incentivise plastic reduction national guidance will be necessary.

Trees and Plastic Actions

- Contact the Nature Partnership to understand opportunities for Kendal
- Continue partnership work with Natural Kendal
- Develop the idea of creating an Orchard at potentially available land at Canal Head
- Environment & Highways committee to consider a Kendal school audit to identify tree planting opportunities
- Add plastic reduction to the national lobbying list

7. Next steps summary

In addition to the highlighted actions it was agreed that all members will contribute to providing updates against the reduced (due to the removal of the national lobbying recommendations) recommendation list for the next meeting to ensure the responsibility of delivering the recommendations is shared across the panel.

The next panel meeting will take place in September when the LGR process will have developed and the shadow authority will be in place.