

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Team

Minutes of meeting on 9 February, 2026 at 17.30, at the Methodist Church, Kirkby Lonsdale

Mike Burchnall (Friends of Ruskin's view) Derek Houston (SL Area Manager), Karen Johnson (Community Cupboard), Marie Batty (KL CIC), Kim Bradshaw (Chamber of Trade) Peter Gregson (Churches Together), Cllr Hazel Hodgson (Ward member Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale) Lyn Richardson (W&F- Community Development Team), Robin Sadler (Chamber of Trade), Neal Cockburn (Lunesdale Hall)

Apologies received from: Rachel Ward (KL Town Council), Matt Kerslake (Sports and clubs), Jessica Broome (St Mary School)

1. Agreement of minutes from last meeting (12 January) and matters arising.

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

Action: Lyn to email surrounding Parish Councils regarding consultation

2. Responses to questionnaire/QR code to date (online and via TIC)

113 parents were emailed the consultation questionnaire from QES.

There are some questionnaires in the TIC and potentially at the library.

Karen reported that she had used AI to check questionnaires and ask for themes to be identified.

- Value Character, shops
- Parking youth provision, accessibility
- Movement parking and traffic
- Young people and young generations
- Public spaces- improved accessibility, riverside path
- Local economy, support for independent venues
- Community culture and Identity
- Services, facilities and wellbeing

The conversation highlighted some important themes but there was consensus that a more detailing understanding of the issues to support truly informed decision making. This will ensure that any next steps reflect the needs of the community.

There was considerable discussion about parking particularly the issue of Booths and the impact their parking policy had on the town; parking for people working in the town; the use of Wellington Court, the surgery parking and QES. The proposal by Underley was discussed.

Action: Mike to approach Underley via Henry Armitage to get a copy of the Underley proposal and a copy of the Parking Group's conclusions to be circulated.

Action: Marie to check box at TIC and Karen to check Library

Action: Mike to write up responses

Action: Check with David Waugh regarding parking suggestion at QES

3. Drop-in Session at Methodist Hall 22 January and March Market stalls

A few people attended, poor attendance.

5th and 12th March Market Stalls 9.00am-3pm.

Action: Lyn to circulate volunteer sign up sheet.

4. Town Team members and organisations to be approached during February and March – revised schedule circulated by Karen on 14 January, with Advice Note (further copies circulated with the agenda)

5. AKL article for March

There were comments regarding the position of the recent article in AKL. There is a possible opportunity for the Town Team to be on the front of the AKL April addition.

Action: Peter Gregson to produce an article as separate sheet to be inserted in AKL as well as an article in magazine, by 15th February. Include any photos to bring article alive.

Action: Stuart Brown to design the page.

6. Feedback session on 26 March

This will be a key meeting for decision making and working alongside the community.

The Bective Room is booked from 2.30 onwards.

The session will be informal, welcoming and conversation based.

Each theme will have its own board or display area. This will include a list of discussion questions next to each theme.

Possible stickers/starts so that participants can vote on most important ideas, quick wins, long term priorities.

TT members be easily identified- badge, lanyard?

A least 5 facilitators required to cover themes, help guide conversations, help place stickers and ensure quieter voices are heard.

Refreshments to be offered.

Mailing lists- discussed but decided not to do.

Wider stakeholder groups- take part in future groups so that they can feedback and put into a plan.

Action: All members of Town Team to attend if possible

Action: Explore opportunity to use a video as part of presentation

Action: Next working group meeting 23rd February 5pm-6.30pm, QES Sixth Form room.

Action- Mike to agree banner for outside of Lunesdale Hall with Stuart Brown.

Action- Feedback session to the groups to be arranged after the 26 March meeting.

7. UK Town of Culture 2028

Marie introduced the newly launched UK Town of Culture Competition The competition opened on 14th January competition, with a submission deadline 31st March.

Karen has spoken to David Haughian-Senior Manager Community Infrastructure (W&F Council) regarding an expression of interest and critical friend.

Charlotte Hawley, who is the Cultural Strategic Lead, has been linked in. The expression of interest will require sign of by Cllr Helen Chaffey who is Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Organisational Culture and Communications (WAF).

Marie shared a signup sheet to ask for commitment from TT to complete the application process.

Action- Please send comments back to Marie by next Monday.

Action- Derek to send through some useful information. Need to include Ruskin, Turner and travelling community.

Action: Peter to speak to Lizzi Collinge to ask for support.

Action: Marie to set up separate meetings.

8. Closure of NatWest Bank

A detailed discussion took place regarding the communication that the Natwest is due to close.

The Town Team, CIC and Town Council have written a joint letter to the Chief Executive of Natwest to request a reversal of this decision.

Link has undertaken a local survey which explains significant facilities are in place at Post Office. This is concerning as the Post Office has been on the market for the last 2 years.

An appeal has been logged against the 5.5miles threshold, which is being used in the assessment of alternative banking provision.

The Appeal takes 12 weeks.

A wider discussion took place around a Community Post Office.

Action: Mike to circulate a copy of the Right Move particulars

Action: Kim will approach Jim who runs the Post Office.

Action: Lyn to contact Social Enterprise Officers to ask advice and support options

9. Finance update

The current account balance is £128.28

Go Fund Me – although closed Marie to chase the £294 from Julie Callaghan and ask that it be added to our resources.

£2,000 received from Town Council application (further bid to Town Council expected later in the year)

Due to the recent Natwest news, other banks to be considered for current account, suggested CAF Bank. (Subsequently NatWest have accepted the TT account and it is likely to be in place shortly).

10. AOB

The library requires some maintenance work and the intention is to shut for 7 weeks following Easter Holidays.

Action: Derek to liaise with Peter regarding possibility of using St Mary's.

Lyn reported that Cumbria Community Foundation have now completed a final report summarising the impact of the recovery work that was done following the fire.

Action: Lyn to post link to the link that Jenny Benson.

[Kirkby-Lonsdale-Fire-Disaster-Recovery-Fund-2024-25-FINAL.pdf](#)

The proposed utility works have been cancelled on Market Street 1-4th March, a new date will be shared once acquired.

The New Road works are going ahead. For up to date Highways work information please use the link below.

[Causeway one.network](#)

Action: Ruth to speak to Highways team regarding large HGV'S/wagons trying to get through Market Street. Suggestion put up 'ignore Sat Nav sign'.

11. Date and time of meetings

February : Working meeting 23 February 5.00 – 6.30, QES Sixth Form Library

March : TT meeting 5.30, 9 March, Methodist Church

March. : Feedback meeting 26 March, 3.00 – 8.00, Bective Room, Lunesdale Hall

April : TT meeting 5.30, 13 April, Methodist Church