

Go Kidsgrove Update July 2015

March AGM

The Go Kidsgrove AGM was held on 25th March 2015 and was attended by about 25 people comprising businesses, residents and partners. Following a presentation about the achievements in the past year two topics were discussed. The first was Christmas lights where three options were presented and the consensus was to look at icicle lights similar to those used in Alsager. The second topic was printed communications and after quite lengthy discussion the attendees agreed that Go Kidsgrove should make use of Kidsgrove News to publish information about their activities but that there should still be a Go Kidsgrove newsletter published twice a year with summary information.

CHRISTMAS

Planning for the Christmas lights in Kidsgrove is well underway. Two companies have visited the town to quote for lights – MK Lighting and Blachere. Although both quotes were above the amount available, Blachere gave a modular option which would allow us to do Liverpool Road and The Avenue as in previous years but also add some lights in the King Street Parade. This included purchase of the lights so there is scope to add more lights year on year even with a reducing contribution from the council.

We were hoping that the Blachere solution for Liverpool Road would avoid the need for column testing but it looks like this may still be necessary. Electrical testing is also required, which further reduces the budget available. However, the Board has agreed to transfer the money that would have been spent on the signage strategy into Christmas lights as this would have more immediate impact on the town.

Go Kidsgrove funding will be used to provide a power source to the bed in which the Christmas tree will be located. Graham Williams has been tasked with arranging this with EON – their response is awaited.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The proposed Chairs group (comprising Go Kidsgrove, the LAP and Town Council) met in January, although there was no representative from the Town Council. Several dates have been proposed since then, but it has proved difficult to get all parties together particularly with purdah and the elections intervening (although Go Kidsgrove has been able to accept all dates suggested). The most recent meeting was set for 9th June but had to be cancelled and will be rearranged for as soon as possible.

SIGNAGE

An application has been submitted to Heritage Lottery Funding, an application for £10k of HLF funding to provide an interactive map for the canal noticeboard. This will use innovative technology to provide additional heritage information to canal users with smart phones and tablets, building on the excellent network coverage available in the area. The library, local history group, and Kings School will also be involved in the project if the application is successful.

Go Kidsgrove are also going to fund a noticeboard for the flower bed by the King Street shops.

PLANTERS

Go Kidsgrove has agreed to fund 10 lamp column planters and had also secured some private sector sponsorship for a further 4 to be erected and maintained by the borough council. However, this project will not be going ahead as the Borough Council has not been able to get permission from the County Council to use the lamp columns due to safety considerations. By the time Go Kidsgrove got this confirmed at the May meeting it was too late this year to be able to organise any other planting.

Cash Flow

Due to circumstances beyond our control some predicted expenditure has not taken place. This includes:

- An order has been placed for the town centre signboard but payment is on delivery and it will not be installed until we know whether or not we have the HLF funding.
- The £1000 Signs contribution to the HLF interactive map project has been moved to August (by which we should know if we've got the HLF funding).
- The board agreed in May to put £1000 allocated to the signage strategy into Christmas lights when we found out we needed another £1000 for electrical testing
- Power supply to the King Street bed is waiting on a response from Eon. £250 has been added to the figure as we may need extra for a pole to take lights to King Street shops.
- Due to problems with the website, Pikemere have not yet issued us with an invoice. This will not be paid until the website is fully functional.
- The anticipated spend on lamp column planters has not taken place because these have been deemed unsafe by the County Council. By the time this was established it was too late in the season to do anything else. The spend has been moved to Feb/Mar 2016.