

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE
Selflessness – Integrity – Objectivity – Accountability – Openness – Honesty - Leadership

Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS
Email: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

8th January 2026

A meeting of Keswick Town Council to be held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick at **7.00 pm**.



Vivien Little
Town Clerk

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes**
To authorise the Chair to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 11th December 2025 (pages 37-39).
- 3. Requests for Dispensations**
The Clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- 4. Declarations of Interests**
To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting). Members may, however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

If a member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

- 5. Matters to be received from the Public**
Such matters may be received throughout the meeting, however items raised should not be discussed for longer than 10 minutes and the Chairman reserves the right to curtail repetitious matters. Public participation shall not be longer than half an hour throughout the meeting.
- 6. Matters to be raised by Councillors**
An opportunity for Councillors to raise any unforeseen matters which are not on the agenda, with the consent of the Chair, and which do not require a decision – items raised should not be discussed for longer than 10 minutes. **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS ONLY FOR URGENT ITEMS.**

7. Outside Bodies Report

To receive a report from the following representative:

- i) Keswick Youth Centre – Councillor representative Natalie Evans

8. Applications for Development

- i) To examine applications for development and agree observations to be submitted to the Lake District National Park (Planning Group report to be circulated prior the meeting)..
- ii) To receive update on National Park planning decision.

9. Mayor's Report

To receive details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 5th December 2025–8th January 2026.

10. Reports from Ward Representatives

To receive reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council
- ii) Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative.

11. Council Tax Base Confirmation

To receive the report from the Responsible Financial Officer.

12. Budget for 2026/2027

To approve the draft Budget for the financial year 2026/27 and to set the precept for 2026/27.

13. Payment of Accounts

To approve the payment of accounts for January 2026 as approved by the Inspection Committee (list to be circulated prior to the meeting):

- i. For the Town Council
- ii) For the Trusts

14. Keswick Ministries Forum

To receive the report from Councillor Dunn.

15. Terms of Reference – Commercial Group

To agree the Terms of Reference for the Commercial Group (for both Council and Parks Trusts).

16. Consultation Response

- i. To consider Keswick Town Council's response to the Government's consultation on Visitor Levy's – **Recommendation** – that delegated authority be given to the Visitor Management Working Group and Councillor Dunn to finalise the Council's response.
- ii. To consider Keswick Town Council's response to the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan consultation – no documents submitted.

17. Christmas Lights Switch On/Events Minutes

To receive a report from Councillor Dunn regarding the Christmas Lights Switch on for 2026, and for information the minutes of the Events Committee held on 15 December 2025.

18. Police Report

To receive the report of the Allerdale Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Prior to the following business the Chair will move the following resolution:

'That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of

business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted'

19. Building Update

To receive the report from the Clerk.

To: All Councillors, Press, Police

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

Selflessness – Integrity – Objectivity – Accountability – Openness – Honesty - Leadership

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held on Thursday 11 December 2025 at the Quaker Meeting House, Elliot Park, Keswick at 7.00 pm.

Present:**Chair**

Councillor Louise Dunn

Councillors

Steve Harwood
Benita Laphorn
Richard Scott

Chris Houghton
Jean Murray
Lorraine Taylor

Claire Houghton
Claire Peat

Also present were Vivien Little (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), one member of the press, and four members of the public.

134. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Evans. Her apologies were noted and accepted by Councillors.

135. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th November 2025 (pages 32-36).

136. Requests for Dispensations

The Clerk reported that no requests for dispensations had been received.

137. Declarations of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

138. Matters to be received from the Public

The Head of Service for Information Centres at the LDNPA was in attendance to give an update the situation with the Keswick Tourist Information Centre, currently scheduled to shut at the end of January 2026. They have viewed a number of venues, which have not been considered suitable for the immediate need.

They had engaged with the incoming Moot Hall tenant about the possibility of hosting a scaled back service, which was still being explored. Other alternatives were still being sought. There was a LDNPA cross department project team working on this, however the fact was that the Tourist Information Centre only service a small fraction of the visitors to Keswick.

The Chair of Keswick Tourism Association also gave an update to Councillors. At their AGM early that month, the KTA had voted to change their articles of association to include a Chamber of Trade alongside the Tourism Association, with the name provisionally Keswick Tourism and Trade Association. The Chair of KTA was seeking Town Council support for the move.

The Chair of KTA also queried whether a Tourist Information Centre could be taken on, as a short term function, by the KTA in order to allow time for a longer term solution to be sought. The Head of Service confirmed that nothing was off the table.

139. Matters to be raised by Councillors

Councillor Murray informed Councillors that having tried Councillor surgeries, without success, they would not be proceeding with any more sessions.

Councillor Peat informed Councillors that the Keswick Community Emergency Response Partnership Trustees had agreed to loan Keswick Town Council their radios for use at events such as the Christmas Light Switch on.

Councillor Dunn informed Councillors that she had concerns about the crowd management at the Christmas Light Switch on. While it was a successful event, it may have become a victim of its own success with regard to the amount of people attending, and would need careful looking at moving forward. The Events Committee would do so, and report back at the next Town Council meeting.

140. Applications for Development

- i) **RESOLVED** that the following observations be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) (*Action – RFO*):

Plan Ref.	Description, Location, Comments Recommendation
7/2025/2206	Proposed external alteration work to existing dwelling to include construction of a domestic garage and garden store building, and the construction of flood resistant barrier wall following approval of 7/2021/2297 - Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2022/2292 to revise design of dwelling Driftwood Cottage, Crosthwaite Road, Keswick, CA12 5PG <i>These are minor changes to the existing dwelling to improve kitchen/living room arrangements</i> SUPPORT
7/2025/2215	To carry out engineering operations to resurface and slightly enlarge the existing driveway, including areas of gravel and grass Castlehead Medical Centre, Ambleside Road, Keswick, CA12 4DB <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT
7/2025/2216	Demolition of garage and erection of single storey extension to the side and rear. 28, Manor Park, Keswick, CA12 4AA <i>This semi-detached dwelling is within the Conservation Area and seeks to improve the ground floor living accommodation with a single storey extension predominantly at the rear and partly to the side in place of the existing garage. Whilst a pitched roof solution would normally be preferred we understand the reasons for a flat roof extension mitigated with the sedum green roof. Overall we support the overall proposal subject to any concerns raised by the adjoining dwelling at No 30 noted.</i> SUPPORT

- ii) **RECEIVED** an update on National Park planning decisions.

141. Mayor's Report

RECEIVED details of the Mayor's engagements and meeting attendance for the period 14th November 2025 – 4th December 2025.

142. Reports from Ward Representatives

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i) Cumberland Council – no update given.
- ii) LDNPA North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative. The North Distinctive Area Parishes representative was in attendance to answer questions on the potential Visitor Levy, updates on the Public Space Protection Orders in the Lake District, the Partnership Plan and how the future elected Mayor of Cumbria could factor into all of the above.

143. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the payment of accounts for December 2025 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment (*Action – RFO*):

- i) For the Town Council, vouchers 211 – 230 amounting to £27,953.01 (twenty seven thousand nine hundred and fifty here pounds and one pence)
- ii) For the Trusts, vouchers HP135 – FP150 amounting to £5,465.81 (five thousand four hundred and sixty five pounds and eighty one pence)

144. Grants 2026/27

RESOLVED that the grants to local organisations for the 2026/27 budget be approved (*Action – RFO*).

145. Clerk's Report

RECEIVED the report from the Clerk.

146. Consultation Response

- i. **RESOLVED** that a response to the Lake District National Park Authority consultation on its proposed Management Plan be drafted by Councillor Laphorn and brought to the January Town Council meeting for consideration (*Action – Councillor Laphorn*);
- ii. **RESOLVED** that the following response be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority consultation on a Public Bridleway Creation – Burns Road to Threlkeld Station
We support this proposed extension of the K2T Trail in principle subject to taking account of the concerns raised in the responses submitted by Threlkeld Parish Council and St. John's and Castlerigg Parish Council (*Action – Clerk*).
- iii. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Dunn prepare an initial response to the Visitor Levy consultation, being run by Central Government, with the Visitor Management Working Group taking a view on it prior to it being brought back to Council in January for consideration (*Action – Councillor Dunn*).

147. Police Report

No report received.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Chair

Date

Town Councillor Representative for Keswick Youth Club Report to Keswick Town Council

Keswick Youth Club continues to offer three weekly sessions for local young people to attend, split into the following school year groups: year 6, years 7/8 and year 9+. Rachel Phillips (lead youth worker) reports that the first 2 groups regularly reach numbers of high 30s.

The Youth Club is primarily run by paid youth workers, Rachel (lead) and Annie who provide a welcoming safe space (currently based across and upper floor of the Rawnsley centre) and an abundance of activities for the young people who attend. The club is reliant upon volunteers, who are required to be DBS checked, in order to meet the ratio requirements to sufficiently supervise the sessions. It is clear that both more volunteers and trustees are required to sustain the future of the club.

The benefits offered to Keswick youth by the club are notable, whether it be the unique, peer transition advice and information prior to going to secondary school, craft, baking and cooking sessions, a kitchen offering snacks and drinks during a cost of living crisis, anti bullying support, summer holiday themed sessions (think bake off, karaoke, chippy and movie night) as well as supporting a Keswick pupil volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

At the recent AGM, discussion was focused upon the visibility of the club and concerns regarding promotion and future funding. To this end, I have proposed that KYC become more involved in KTC events (similar to SusKes involvement) as a way of increasing their visibility amongst the town. Thanks were also given to KTC for the grant received, which largely covers rent and wages.

Keswick Youth Club future plans are to develop an older session (Year 11 plus) however funding would be required to cover the youth worker wages. With the development of other Keswick ministries assets, trustees feel that the club's current home at the Rawnsley centre is temporary and a permanent solution is required.

It is evident that the youth club provides a sense of belonging, inclusion, unity and fun to the young people of Keswick during a pivotal point in their lives during a time of cost of living crisis, impacts of social media and increasing mental health concerns.

Natalie Evans

Planning Applications received between 05/12/2025 - 08/01/2026

Plan ref	Reply by	Location	Description of Proposed Development
T/2025/0239	06-Jan-26	21, Stanger Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5JU	T1 - Multi stem beech - Crown lift over summer house and remove 1 x stem Tree work to be carried out, including creating clearance from buildings, clearance over parking areas, removing deadwood from a number of trees and felling any dead or unsafe tree
T/2025/0251	19-Jan-26	Castlehead Medical Centre, Ambleside Road, Keswick, CA12 4DB	Proposed ground floor extension to side of unit creating stockroom to serve the retail space. Demolition of the existing store room (originally a garage) Tarmac floor finish to external with jetwash areas formed Thermoplastic carpark areas indicated on floor finish
7/2025/2037	20-Jan-26	Derwent Service Station, Penrith Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4JP	
7/2025/2221	07/01/2026 - ext accepted	Laurel Bank, Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4LJ	Change of use of guesthouse to a mixed use of guesthouse, holiday let or residential home.
7/2025/2234	15/01/2026 -ext accepted	Taiwan, The Heads, Keswick, CA12 5ER	Single storey rear extension and extension of loft including proposed front and rear dormers, with detached garage
7/2025/2235	No comments required	21, Lakeland Park, Keswick, CA12 4AT	Non-material amendment to application 7/2025/2074 (Rear extension to provide a larger kitchen/dining room, toilet and utility. Upstairs alterations to allow a midway bedroom, upstairs bedroom and office space) to change roof material from concrete tiles to slate, enlarge kitchen window, add 2 velux windows on front elevation, change dormer window to 2 velux windows on rear elevation, add solar panels to rear elevation, keep existing garage door on end elevation, add ensuite upstairs
7/2025/2236	03-Feb-26	Rivington, Vicarage Hill, Keswick, CA12 5QB	Two storey extension, dormer addition to front roof and installation of pv panels to rear roof
7/2025/2237	05-Feb-26	Unit 2, Southey Hill Industrial Estate, Main Street, Keswick, CA12 5NR	Change of use of existing use from B8 to a gym (Class E)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Interested parties are invited to let the Town Clerk have their comments, in writing or via email to: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk, prior to the meeting regarding any of the planning applications on this sheet.

Decisions Received from LDNPA

Planning Decisions Received between 05/12/2025 & 08/01/2026

AGENDA ITEM 8.ii)

Plan Ref	Date of Application	Location	Description	KTC Observations	LDNPA Decision	Appeal	Appeal Decision
7/2025/2174	November-25	11, Fenton, Keswick, CA12 4AZ	Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2023/2161 - Addition of dormer & porch plus alteration of windows on rear. Removal of rear chimney - to change the design of the dormer	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2025/2191	November-25	Clarewood, Lonsties, Keswick, CA12 4TD	Demolition of current garage and construction of two storey double garage	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2025/2197	October-25	Manor Glen, Ambleside Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4AG	Outline application for a residential development comprising of the retention of an existing 3-bedroom 2 storey dwelling and the removal of the ground floor northeast utility room and carport to improve vehicular access and the erection of a new detached double garage. The construction of two self-build/custom-build 3-bedroom 2 storey dwellings with garages. Construction of a new site access off Manor Brow and associated vision splays. Construction of a new access road and turning head serving Manor Glen (existing dwelling) and self-build/custom-build Plots 1 & 2. Formation of parking areas for each plot. Associated external works, construction of bin holding areas and limited tree removal with some matters reserved.	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2025/2206	December-25	Driftwood Cottage, Crosthwaite Road, Keswick, CA12 5PG	Proposed external alteration work to existing dwelling to include construction of a domestic garage and garden store building, and the construction of flood resistant barrier wall following approval of 7/2021/2297 - Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning permission 7/2022/2292 to revise design of dwelling	SUPPORT	GRANTED		

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 15TH JANUARY 2026

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & MEETING ATTENDANCE

For period 5th December 2025 to 8th January 2026

Tuesday 9 December	Attended Keswick Choral Society Christmas concert at St John's church
Thursday 11 December	Chaired town council meeting
Monday 15 December	Debrief meeting on Christmas lights event
Sunday 21 December	Attended Keswick civil service for Christmas at St John's

LDNPA Report for the North Lakes

Issue 24 – December 2025

peter.walter@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Visitor levies

There has been a lot of talk recently of visitor levies. A lot has changed in 2025 and two types of levy have been in the news. The Government has announced that a future Cumbria Mayor would have the power to implement a 'bed tax', and work that the Partnership has been doing on vehicle levies has also been in the [news](#).

The National Park Partnership commissioned a [report](#) on ways money could be raised, specifically, to improve *sustainable transport*. The report only assessed mechanisms that could be implemented under *current* legislation: the main ways being a vehicle levy, a bed tax under the Business Improvement mechanism (where a majority of businesses affected have to vote in favour of the levy), a carpark levy and voluntary giving. The report concluded that the only credible way of raising significant sums was a vehicle levy.

The report identified that a daily charge for driving in the Park would raise £9.2million for every £1 charged. I.e a £2 charge would raise £18.4 million. The millions of pounds raised by such a scheme could be used to transform public transport, improve public footpaths, transform bike usage with point to point hire of electric bikes across the Park and a whole range of other transport related projects.

What [isn't](#) known is how much such a charge would cost to implement and deliver so the report recommended that more work was done, so the overall viability of such a scheme could be understood. Sadly, there wasn't sufficient support from members of the Partnership, to take forward *any* of the report's recommendations. There wasn't even agreement on an ambition for *transformational* change in sustainable travel. We did, however, agree a target to increase the percentage of visitors for whom sustainable travel is the main way of getting around the Park, from 22% in 2022 to 40% by 2030. While I am glad we have agreed a target, I was hugely disappointed that the Partnership rejected the opportunity to learn more about the viability of a vehicle levy. I don't know if such a levy is a great idea or not – which is why I am disappointed that the Partnership has been unable to even ask the question.

While any work of a vehicle levy may have stopped, a major development on a bed tax suddenly took place in the budget. Our new Cumbria Mayor will have a new power to impose a bed tax. After many years in which the subject of charging visitors has been batted back and forward we have suddenly taken a massive step forward. While the Mayor will have the power, they may not necessarily use it: the Conservative candidate has already ruled it out, while Dave Allen (the current Police and Crime Commissioner) has strongly supported the idea. The Government is currently [consulting](#) on the [proposal](#). The consultation is seeking feedback on the detailed implementation of such a scheme – not

whether it is a good idea or not. A future scheme in the Lake District would still need to go to public consultation.

A quick analysis of visitor data provided by Cumbria Tourism suggests that a £2 per night bed tax could raise around £24 million a year (before costs) which could be used by the Mayoral authority for investment in public transport, regeneration of the 'public realm', housing, investing in cultural and visitor attractions or support for businesses in training and skills development. This is a game changing sum of money that could transform many aspects of life for locals and visitors alike. While some business owners are quoted in the press with predictions of wholesale job losses there is widespread public support for the idea. Friends of the Lake District commissioned YouGov to conduct a very credible piece of research that showed 68% of Cumbrian residents and 64% of visitors supporting the idea. Charges are very common across Europe and are becoming increasingly common in the UK. Liverpool and Manchester are already charging, and Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen will be doing so in 2026 or 2027 and Welsh councils have the power to do so from 2027.

The Mayor will have the power to implement a vehicle levy, a bed tax, or both. Both mechanisms have pros and cons and it will be very interesting to see what position the various Mayoral candidates take on this issue. I am sure there will be lot of heated debate between now and May 2027.

**Keswick Town Council
Council Tax Base DRAFT
January 2026**

I received confirmation on 5th January 2026 about the draft Council Tax base and the Section 151 Officer has designated authority to approve them, therefore it is hoped we receive confirmation soon.

For information, in previous years the approved/actual figure has not differed from the draft figure provided, therefore I would have no issue with setting our budget using the draft figure.

The DRAFT Council Tax Base for Keswick for 2026/27 set by Cumberland Council = 2348.8

This amount represents an increase of £7.43 for the year, or 14p per week, for each Band D property in Keswick – making a total payment of £176.81 for the year.

**Catherine Parker
Responsible Financial Officer
8th January 2026**

For information: -

PRECEPT/COUNCIL TAX BASE WORKINGS								
Year	Precept	Precept Increase/Decrease		CTB	Band D	CTB Increase/decrease for year	CTB Increase/decrease per week	CTB % Increase/decrease
		£	%			£	£	%
2016/17	201554			2001.96	100.68			
2017/18	220930	19376	9.61	2062.61	107.11	6.43	12.4p	6.39%
2018/19	246700	25770	11.66	2046.35	120.56	13.45	26p	12.56%
2019/20	263757	17057	6.91	2058.96	128.10	7.54	14.5p	6.25%
2021/22	273697	9940	3.77	2042.85	133.98	2.65	5p	2.06%
2022/23	307054	33357	12.19	2033.63	150.99	17.01	32.7p	12.70%
2024/25	349627	42573	13.86	2059.17	169.79	7.91	15p	4.89%
2025/26 - ACTUAL	401904	52277	14.95	2372.73	169.38	0.41	0.007p	0.24%
2026/27 - DRAFT RECEIVED 2ND JAN - STILL TBC	415298	13394	3.33	2348.8	176.81	7.43	0.14	4.38%

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2026/27

ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES - DRAFT

	AGREED Budget 24/25	AGREED Budget 25/26	Estimated Out Turn 25/26	DRAFT Budget 26/27	£ Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27	% Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27
Expenditure:						
Salaries, Nat ins & Pension	121775	131268	129029	126523	- 4,745	- 3.6
Payroll - Outsource Costs	442	540	600	600	60	11.1
Rent	7100	7100	7100	7100	-	-
Rates	0	0	0	0	-	-
Building Service Costs	7500	8000	8000	8000	-	-
Repairs - Decorating/Carpets/Upgrades	500	500	500	3000	2,500	500.0
Insurances	900	900	930	950	50	5.6
Subscriptions	990	1100	1450	1477	377	34.3
STAFF - Conferences/Training	850	1985	945	1250	- 735	- 37.0
COUNCILLOR - Conferences/Training	990	650	500	650	-	-
Stationery	1200	1000	900	900	- 100	- 10.0
Postage	300	250	250	250	-	-
Telephone, Website & Internet	1776	1776	1700	1700	- 76	- 4.3
Photocopier/Printer/Scanner	1777	2147	1847	1970	- 177	- 8.2
Computer maintenance/support	4172	4602	4500	4716	114	2.5
Office Equipment	200	200	200	200	-	-
Staff Expenses	200	250	150	150	- 100	- 40.0
Ex Employee Pension	1640	1800	1744	1784	- 16	- 0.9
Health and Safety	70	70	70	70	-	-
Council Chamber/Meeting Expenditure	150	150	800	150	-	-
Staff Recruitment Costs	200	200	0	200	-	-
Worknest	0	1336	1561	1624	288	21.6
Total Expenditure:	152732	165824	162776	163264	- 2,560	- 1.5

	AGREED Budget 24/25	AGREED Budget 25/26	Estimated Out Turn 25/26	DRAFT Budget 26/27	£ Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27	% Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27
Income:						
Council chambers rental	100	100	50	50	- 50	- 50.0
Total Income:	100	100	50	50	- 50	- 50.0

To be allocated:	152,632	165724	162726	163214	- 2,510	- 1.5
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	AGREED Budget 24/25	AGREED Budget 25/26	Estimated Out Turn 25/26	DRAFT Budget 26/27	£ Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27	% Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27
Allocation:						
General Fund - (60%) 2026/27 (50%)	91580	99434	97636	81607	- 17,827	- 17.9
Hope Park - (20%)	30526	33145	32545	32643	- 502	- 1.5
Fitz Park - (20%) 2026/27 (30%)	30526	33145	32545	48964	15,819	47.7
	152632	165724	162726	163214	- 2,510	- 1.5

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2026/27

GENERAL FUND - AGREED - DRAFT

Expenditure:	AGREED Budget 24/25	AGREED Budget 25/26	Estimated Out Turn 25/26	DRAFT Budget 26/27	£ Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27	% Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27
General Administration	91580	99434	97636	81607	-17827	-17.93
Grants to outside bodies	18977	20315	20315	12000	-8315	-40.93
Christmas Lights	34445	35615	35615	37195	1580	4.44
Mayors Allowance	2000	2000	2000	2000	0	0.00
War memorial	1600	1600	1600	1600	0	0.00
Open Spaces	1000	1000	1000	1000	0	0.00
Fitz Park - Grant from KTC (deficit)	203297	225988	225988	263361	37373	16.54
Communications (including Councillor surgeries)	500	600	200	0	-600	-100.00
Audit Fee/Accounts Preparation	2015	2275	2275	2340	65	2.86
Contingency Sum	4000	3000	3000	3000	0	0.00
Keswick Events	8510	8167	7000	9918	1751	21.44
Events Co-ordinator & Communications Officer (inc email subscription)	6104	6954	8500	19637	12683	182.38
Floral displays	600	600	600	600	0	0.00
Allotments Expenditure	600	2600	2600	600	-2000	-76.92
Annual Parish Meeting (inc room hire & refreshments)	100	150	100	150	0	0.00
Advertising	550	490	340	455	-35	-7.14
CCTV Annual Maintenance Cost - Police	4000	4200	2034	1700	-2500	-59.52
Elections	500	500	0	500	0	0.00
Grasscutting - Churchyards - TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY	4000	4000	4000	4000	0	0.00
KCERP Support - General Fund	6500	6500	6500	6500	0	0.00
KCHT - 2024, 25 & 26	3000	3000	3000	3000	0	0.00
Card Reader	200	100	0	50	-50	0.00
New External Notice Board	0	800	800	0	-800	0.00
Reserves Top Up	0	20000	20000	0	-20000	0.00
Town Improvements Fund (via VMWG) - NEW FUND	0	0	0	20000	20000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	394078	449888	445103	471213	21325	4.74

Income:	AGREED Budget 24/25	AGREED Budget 25/26	Estimated Out Turn 25/26	DRAFT Budget 26/27	£ Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27	% Inc/red Agreed 25/26 to draft 26/27
Precept	349627	401904	401904	415298	13394	3.33
Grant to Fitz Park - Cumberland	20000	20000	20000	20000	0	0.00
Bank/Investment interest (inc War Memorial) - INC IN NEW FUND	3000	3000	4800	5000	2000	66.67
Walker Park rent	14130	14130	14130	18875	4745	33.58
Allotments Income - Rent	600	600	600	600	0	0.00
Keswick Events Contributions	4721	8254	8000	8440	186	2.25
Christmas Light Contribution	2000	2000	2000	3000	1000	0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	394078	449888	451434	471213	21325	4.74
<i>Estimated Surplus</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6331</i>	<i>0</i>		

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL FUNDS

Earmarked	As at 30 Sept 2025	Top Up Using Surplus	DRAFT Budget 26/27
Contribution towards local housing - available balance	£200	0	0
Elections - Co-option and By-Elections - available balance	£5,000	0	£5,000
Office & chamber (decorating, repairs & carpeting)	£720	2280	£3,000
Professional Advice	£0	2000	£2,000
Equipment - IT & furniture	£3,000	0	£3,000
CCTV - PCC	£8,396	1604	£10,000
War Memorial - stonework, repairs & cleaning	£2,000	0	£2,000
	£19,316	5884	£25,000

IF THERE IS A SURPLUS

Move to General Fund

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
15 JANUARY 2026

Future participation of Keswick Town Council in Keswick Ministries' Town Forum

The Keswick Ministries holds a 'Town Forum' at which information is exchanged with members of the town. The meeting is organised by the Keswick Ministries. KTC is invited to represent the community's residents.

KTC representatives attend the meeting to discuss and resolve the two areas of concern to the community:

1. Lessening the negative impact of the convention on trade and residents and
2. Improving community relations.

However, following regular attendance at the Forum, and ongoing discussions with the Ministries about how the Forum operates, KTC representatives have found that the forum is not an effective meeting to table and resolve matters of concern with concrete actions, nor for community engagement. **Therefore, it is proposed to Council that KTC withdraws from the forum.**

To ensure dialogue remains ongoing and focused on issues of importance to the Town, we will invite the leadership of Keswick Ministries to Town Council meetings. Agenda items can be requested via the Clerk and there is also an agenda section where matters can be raised by the public. The TC meetings are fully transparent and open to the public/all interested parties. We will also be happy to meet with Ministries management to enable them to prepare for any public discussions at Town Council.

KTC will also continue work with the regulators (Cumberland Council), the Police and event organisers to encourage a more locally-informed, joined-up approach to large annual events that take place in the Town.

Recommendation – that Keswick Town Council withdraws from the Keswick Ministries Town Liaison Forum.

Cllr. Dunn
Cllr. Houghton
The Clerk, Vivien Little.

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL & KESWICK PARKS

COMMERCIAL WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of Commercial Working Group

The Group is appointed to advise the Council on all aspects of commercial activities within the organisation, including but limited to leases and licences.

The group has delegated authority to negotiate the current leases within Hope Park and Fitz Park and to discuss any issues relating to commercial activities as and when requests are received.

Composition of Commercial Working Group

The Group shall comprise of up to four Councillors/Trustees appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting.

Terms of Reference

- To look in detail at the existing leases/licences including Sports Clubs
- To meet with tenants/clubs to discuss and negotiate lease/licence terms in a timely manner prior to the term ending
- To familiarise themselves with the existing premises and land currently leased or licenced to tenants
- To research ideas for future commercial activities within the organisation with a view to increasing income
- To negotiate the existing contract, when the term ends, in relation to the management of Crosthwaite Road Car Park
- To make recommendations and draft reports for approval by the Council or Parks Trusts

Commercial Working Group Established November 2025 - Ref Min No 47

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
15 JANUARY 2026

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE KESWICK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON IN 2026

SITUATION

Keswick Town Council (KTC) proposes making changes to arrangements for switching on the Christmas lights from next year (2026). The increasing popularity of the switch-on event has heightened safety concerns at the Town Council.

The attendance levels have been increasing year on year. In addition, we have been influenced by new legislation over the safety aspects of large events which is coming into force in 2027 (Martyn's Law). The main concern is that there is no way of controlling the number of people that enter the confined space of the market square as it is a public space with multiple access points. At the 2025 event, the town square became overcrowded as many people entered the square for the countdown. It would have been hard to reach someone in a medical emergency. People in wheelchairs and with impaired mobility were struggling to get through town, or to the accessibility area. There were also people taking glass containers into the crowd from the pubs.

The number of people attending the event now means that professional management is required, and the Town Council is not willing to ask the residents of Keswick to foot the bill for this (we believe it will be £10-15k). Currently the event is solely funded by the Town Council (or rather the local council tax payers) and staffed by volunteers.

TARGET

The Town Council proposes introducing measures intended to reduce the size the 'switch on' event in future and make it more of an event for local residents. This is consistent with KTC's greater focus on community events, rather than events that primarily cater to visitors (who are well served by the local tourist economy).

PROPOSAL

We propose that we consult with the community on the following:

- Staging the Christmas lights switch on mid-week (Wednesday) not at weekend when town is busier.
- Revert to a simpler and more traditional, family-friendly format with local choirs, Christmas carols and recognition of community heroes.
- Creating more space, with a smaller stage, no market etc.
- Improve the flow of people in and out of the square, with the help of marshals.
- Retaining the accessibility area
- Re-evaluate after the 2026 event

As a further measure to improve safety in the Town Square all year round, the Town Council will be requesting that Cumberland Council install retractable bollards to prevent vehicle access to the square when the area is busy with pedestrians.

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council Events Committee held at Quaker Meeting House, Keswick, on Monday 15 December 2025 at 11.30am

Present: Councillor Louise Dunn (Chair)
 Councillor Steve Harwood (SH)
 Councillor Natalie Evans (NE)
 Councillor Claire Houghton (CH)
 Councillor Richard Scott (RS)
 Yvonne Booth (Events Coordinator) (YB)
 Catherine Parker (RFO) (CP)
 Vivien Little (Town Clerk) (VL)

30. Election of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Dunn be elected as Chair for this meeting.

31. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ania Mylnczak.

32. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on the 10 November 2025 be approved (page 11).

33. Christmas Lights Debrief

Members discussed the Christmas Lights switch on in depth. This year raised a number of concerns around overcrowding in Market Square, as the event has becoming more popular year on year. This is important to look at ahead of Martyn's Law being introduced in 2027, and the responsibilities on event organisers.

Discussion points were:

- As KTC pay for the lights, via the precept, it should be an event for locals, not aimed at tourists.
- Keswick however will always be busy, as the lights are a draw – it is part of the overall tourism package.
- Health and Safety of attendees must be the highest priority, with Martyn's Law on the horizon, and the responsibilities that brings on the Council.
- The size of the stage, and the band playing was a factor in regard to the crowds. Could we look to bring it back to a more family-friendly event with carols with school children?
- KCERP Trustees have agreed to lend KTC Events most of their radios for events such as the Lights Switch on, on the understanding that they will still have a skeleton service available.
- Marshalling needs to be improved, with clear, concise instructions, and people remaining at their post for the duration of the event. To bring in external marshals would be beyond what the Town Council was willing to pay (in excess of £10,000 for one event of less than 2 hours). A one way system could be looked at to be implemented as well.
- Need to liaise with Packhorse Court, as it is a separate but linked event.
- Is the market and funfair necessary? Need to gauge how much added value these bring. Need to liaise with Cumberland's market Manager (Action – VL).
- There are ways to tweak the timing and format of it, so these should be looked at – possibly have the switch on earlier, with carols afterwards.

- Terrorism is a risk – VL to contact Cumbria Police to talk to them and explain our concerns (Action – VL).
- Hotels and other agencies have been pushing the event, but without contributing to the cost of it. There also needed to be discussions with hotels about
- The only sponsors for 2025 were Hope Leisure, who sponsor the Christmas Tree, and Fibrus Broadband, who gave out free glowsticks, however it was noted that Lake District Hotels and Friars sponsor in kind with their lights on their buildings. Sponsorship is something to look heavily into for 2026 onwards.
- Councillor Dunn said that she would start to canvas opinion about the possibility of holding it on the Wednesday.
- Discussion was had over who could be involved in it – ideas put forward were local primary schools, Keswick School, the Youth Club, and KAOS.
- It was agreed that there would need to be careful publicity surrounding it, as there could be a lot of push back. LD would prepare a document which would seek to answer a lot of the questions in advance (Action – LD).

Overall, the feeling was that scaling back next year’s lights switch on as a trial, to focus on locals was the best way to approach the event.

RESOLVED that for 2026, the Christmas Lights Switch on be moved to Wednesday 18 November, and that it be a scaled back event.

34. Events 2026

Discussion was had over the other events scheduled for next year. YB was busy preparing all of them, except for Keswick Games, which was scheduled for August. Members were asked if they would like Kasios, who played at the Christmas Lights switch on to play at Party in the Park, possibly instead of the Abba Tribute, and it was agreed that YB would ask if they were free on that day.

35. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED that date and place of next meeting are yet to be confirmed.

The meeting finished at 12.45pm

Chair

Date

From: Cumbria Police <CumbriaPolice@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: 15 December 2025 17:02
To: Ania Mlynczak
Subject: Cockermouth and Keswick

[View as a webpage / Share](#)



Neighbourhood Policing Team Updates



Cockermouth and Keswick

November 2025

A welcome from Inspector Waddell

As the festive season approaches, our team remains committed to keeping our communities safe and connected.

In this issue, we'll share updates on our recent activities.

Over the festive period we are running a number of operations to keep our communities safe.

We are also running media campaigns over the festive period to keep safety advice at the forefront of people's minds, so they can take steps to protect themselves from crime.

Please follow the campaigns on our social media, share the messages and spark those important conversations with friends and family.

You can find out who your local officers are here - [Allerdale | Cumbria Police](#) select 'Your area', then 'On the team'.

Inspector Steve Waddell
Allerdale Neighbourhood Policing Team



Essential News and Updates

Neighbourhood Policing Conference and Awards

We won two awards at the Neighbourhood Policing Conference which was held on 24 November 🎉

The conference was attended by Sarah Jones, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire of the United Kingdom.

Eight awards were presented to officers and PCSO's by the Constabularies Neighbourhood Policing Lead Chief Superintendent Andy Wilkinson and Police and Fire Crime Commissioner Dave Allen in recognition of their contribution to neighbourhood policing.

🏆 Cumberland PCSO of the year – Clare Parker, Allerdale Neighbourhood Policing Team (Unfortunately Clare could not make the awards and it was collect on her behalf by Sergeant McKinnell)



PCSO Parker has been recognised for her outstanding intervention work within the local community. Over a period of 12 months Clare dealt with a particular complex hub referral which resulted in significant improvement and reduction in calls for service.

PCSO Parker provides crime prevention advice to both individuals and her work with the housing association was invaluable when building trust and confidence for the victims.

🏆 Cumberland Neighbourhood Policing Police Officer of the year – Sam Steele, Allerdale Neighbourhood Policing Team



PC Steele has been recognised following his successful application for a closure order notice to an address in Maryport which had seen years of anti-social behaviour.

PC Steele has gathered evidence and worked with legal services to present an application to the courts.

His continuous commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and the success he has achieved is outstanding.

Safer Business Action Week - 10 to 16 November

We took part in the national Safer Business Action Week, which is action led by the National Business Crime Centre focusing on tackling retail crime, anti-social behaviour and other crimes impacting businesses in local communities.

We conducted a joint operation with Trading Standards to target illicit tobacco.

During the operation officers located illicit tobacco and cigarettes at a store in Maryport under a bin bag with assistant by a dog.

Items were also located at stores on Vulcans Lane and Washington Street in Workington.



Safer Business Action Week – 10 to 16 November

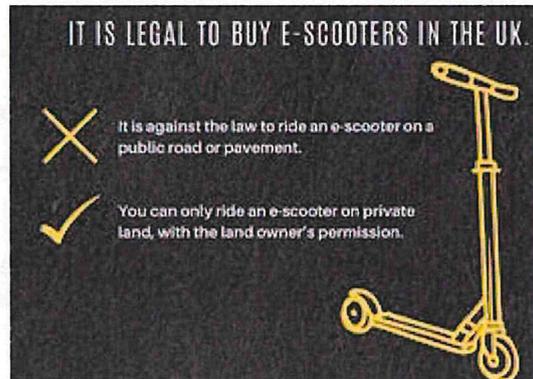


Operation Colossus: More than 1,500 vehicles stopped during anti-social driving crackdown

A three-month long Cumbria-wide operation promoting road safety whilst targeting anti-social behaviour – including the anti-social use of vehicles - has concluded.

The 15-week operation alongside the Constabulary's long-running ASB and serious violence operation – Operation Enhance – focused on road safety in anti-social behaviour hotspots around the county.

It began on 4 August 2025 and resulted in 1,530 vehicles being stopped and 22



Police advise people to understand the laws on e-scooters

Officers are asking parents and carers who may be considering buying or gifting an e-scooter this Christmas to be aware of the laws and potential serious injury they can cause.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#). This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence and insurance.

[Read more here](#)

arrests being made – the majority for drug driving.

[Read more here](#)

Mini police conduct community survey

Fairfield school mini police has been on Cokermouth main street after school today conducting a community survey.

The mini police spoke to many members of the public, asking several questions about any community issues they may have.

The group done very well and showed great confidence.



Mini police get tour of police van

It was a very wet session for Fairfield's mini police on 1 December.

But they all still had great fun. They enjoyed exploring the marked police van and learning about our role within the police.

This term has been great, getting to know the new mini police recruits, who have all done amazing.

I am looking forward to next year and a whole new topic.



[Read More News Here](#)

Our Priorities - *You said, we did*

Officers continue to tackle anti-social behaviour and support the community

Officers in Allerdale are continuing to tackle and prevent anti-social behaviour to make your streets safer. Police are out day and night in the winter weather speaking to residents and businesses, making arrests and securing community behaviour orders to protect our communities.

Patrols continued throughout November including [Bonfire night](#) when our officers were out preventing anti-social behaviour.

Across the whole of Op Enhance in October, Officers carried out 36 stop searches, 40 intel submissions, 3 uses of ASB powers and 7 traffic offences were reported.

You can keep up to date on the work of Op Enhance by also following the [Allerdale Police Facebook](#) page where we post regularly about the work that is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Op Enhance has been made possible thanks to £1 million of extra funding secured by David Allen, Cumbria's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner from the Government's Hotspot Response Fund.

As part of the operation, the public is encouraged to report anti-social behaviour by visiting the constabulary's website <https://orlo.uk/gKvGc> or our non-emergency number 101. In an emergency always call 999. Information and intelligence from the public is vital so we can work together to tackle issues in their communities.

Find out more about Operation Enhance: <https://orlo.uk/ec9p7>

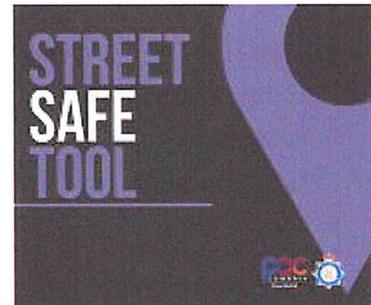


StreetSafe is a service

That allows you to report safety concerns in public places without giving us your name.

This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you.

Report an issue here: [StreetSafe | Cumbria Police](#)



Upcoming community police events 🚓

📍 **Cockermouth Library**
📅 Thu 18 December
🕒 10am-11am

📍 **Cockermouth Library**
📅 Thu 15 January
🕒 2pm-3pm

For more information, please visit our website and enter your postcode in the Your Area section.

Visit your area

 **Keswick Library**
 Sat 03 January
 10am - 11am



Your local officers

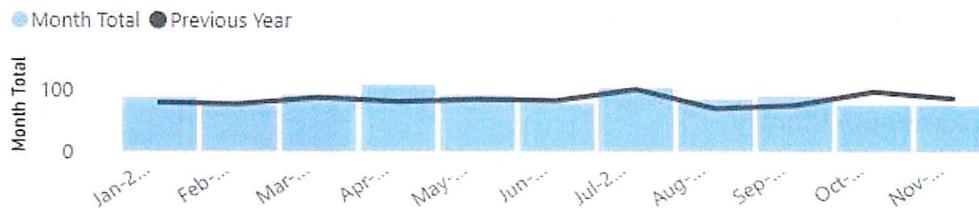
Not only will you be able to find out who your named local officers and PCSOs are, you will also be able to view our local policing priorities and details of any meetings or events we will be attending.

[Meet your local officers](#)

Crime Figures

Further information can be found on Police.uk

Offence Class	Current Period	Previous Period	Change	% Change
Arson and Criminal Damage	7	9	-2	-22.2 %
Burglary	2	2	0	0.0 %
Drug Offences	8	1	7	700.0 %
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	1	2	-1	-50.0 %
Possession of Weapons	1	2	-1	-50.0 %
Public Order Offences	7	10	-3	-30.0 %
Sexual Offences	6	7	-1	-14.3 %
Theft	9	7	2	28.6 %
Violence Against the Person	35	46	-11	-23.9 %
Total	76	86	-10	-11.6 %



Join us!

Have you ever thought about being a police officer?

You could make a real difference to people in Cumbria and help keep them safe.

Not sure if policing is for you? This short quiz should be able to help [↓](#)

Take the quiz

Which route is right for you?

**POLICE CONSTABLE
DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP**

- £29,907 starting salary increasing to £48,231
- Three year academic course
- Completed while working operationally
- Graduate with a BSc (Hons) Professional Police Practice degree

Apply today

The image shows two police constables in uniform, one in the foreground and one slightly behind, both wearing high-visibility yellow vests with 'POLICE' written on them. The background is a dark blue gradient.

Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship

Did you know you can join Cumbria Constabulary as a degree apprentice and work towards a degree whilst serving as a student officer with active frontline duties?

**POLICE CONSTABLE ENTRY PROGRAMME
APPLY NOW
(PCEP)**

www.cumbria.police.uk/careers

The image shows two police constables in uniform, one in the foreground and one slightly behind, both wearing high-visibility yellow vests with 'POLICE' written on them. The background is a dark blue gradient.

Police Constable Entry Programme (PCEP)

This is a two year programme which gives a blend of practical on-the-job experience and classroom-based learning. You will then go onto to your allocated station.

Professional Policing Degree Graduate (PPD)

To be eligible to apply, you will need to have taken a three-year BSc professional policing programme offered by universities that are licensed and validated to deliver the degree by the College of Policing. For more information about the entry route and the role visit: [Job profile](#)

PCEP DC pathway

Our Detective entry programme (PCEP DC) is open for applications. The two year programme is designed to equip you with all the skills and training necessary to ensure that on completion you will be a highly competent detective constable.

Transferees

Do you or someone you know work for another force? Looking for a new challenge? When you join Cumbria Police you will have new opportunities and with this, you will be able to make a positive difference to the lives of those who live here.

We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated people to apply now to join us.

For more information on police officer entry routes and staff roles, please visit www.cumbria.police.uk/careers.

Did you find this email helpful?



A dark blue rectangular menu with white icons and text. On the right side is the Cumbria Constabulary crest. The menu items are:

- Visit our website (with a cursor icon)
- Make a report (with a document icon)
- Share this (with a share icon)
- Feedback (with a speech bubble icon)

At the bottom, it says: Manage preferences or unsubscribe | Subscriber help

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

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