

**KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL  
KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE AREA PROJECTS SUB-  
COMMITTEE**

Notes of Meeting held via Zoom at 9.30am on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Present:** Christine Willoughby (CW), Cllr John Batt, Kathy Allday (KA), Bill Rigby (BR) David Rhodes (DR)

**1. Items from KTC**

Discussion re Terms of Reference points “Aims and Roles”

The group agreed that the form of words below would be added to the group’s Terms of Reference.

**Aims**

*To ensure that*

- 1. Knaresborough Castle and its surroundings are a visible presence in the town, clearly signposted from key entry points.*
- 2. Knaresborough Castle and its surroundings is maintained in good order, continues to be an asset to the town and continues to be appreciated by visitors from near and far.*
- 3. To promote more use of the castle and its natural and built heritage for events and performances, to increase visitor numbers and increase the time that visitors spend in the town.*
- 4. To use the castle and its surroundings to promote the town, the forest and the river valley for the benefit of all.*

**Roles**

- 2. To lobby councils and other organisations to improve the castle and its surroundings by increasing the interpretation and understanding of the castle and its unique setting, architecture and its place in history.*
- 3. To develop expertise and knowledge of the castle and pass on information to agencies which may be key in achieving the aims listed above.*
- 4. To identify opportunities and funding streams to develop the aims above.*
- 5. To be “champions” of the castle and its surroundings.*

To appoint a “Note Taker”

No one offered to take notes, CW will use transcription and produce some notes.

**2. Apologies**

Margy Longhurst, Brian Robinson, Matt Walker, Andy Bell

### **3. Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> June meeting and matters arising**

Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> June meeting accepted. No matters arising.

### **4. Task and Finish Group – Enclosures Act Commemoration 2025**

There was some confusion re the different events possibly to be coordinated. The celebration of the 900 years of the castle is very different to the commemoration of the 255 years since the Enclosures Act. CW offered to write a brief paper to Hannah explaining how the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Royal Maundy was marked in the town.

### **5. SWOT Tourism analysis – Margy L**

KA was disappointed that there was no mention of the Knaresborough Museum Association in the document. This was clearly an omission. Margy not at the meeting so item to be discussed at September meeting. Hopefully by September KTC will have discussed the document and we can be informed of the outcome of the discussion.

DR felt it was key that the town have a town brand, as mentioned in the document. KA suggested this could go to the Knaresborough Voice team as a project, it would involve a larger group of town organisations.

### **6. Devolution update**

To note that the election for combined mayor of NY and CoY looks to be set for May 2024. Referendum on HTC would appear to be delayed until May 2025 due to more public consultations.

### **7. Biffa funding – Bill R**

Still work in progress. It may be better for this item to be taken forward by one or other of the task and finish groups which the town council has just set up. Apparently funding of this type can't be sought by a LA so possibly Renaissance Knaresborough could take this on.

### **8. Castle Strategy document**

DR asked to receive a copy of the document. This document has been shared with the North Yorkshire officers who we've had meetings with. It's generally been well received. This is the document that works on the idea of a short term medium term and long term projects for the Castle. Many of those aims and roles that we discussed at the top of the meeting were drawn down from the strategy document.

### **9. Castle re-interpretation plans and 2030 planning**

Defer to the September meeting

## **10. Phase 2 replacement interpretation boards**

The group felt that the right approach was not to overwhelm with information but to provide the welcome message and statutory information, possibly with the addition of QR codes to link to websites with further information. Costings from Vidar have been provided. CW will send out some ideas of designs and text with a view to agreeing in September. The subcommittee can apply to the Environment Committee which has delegated power to spend money.

## **11. Museum update**

KA has submitted a bid to NYC Shared Prosperity Fund for funding for a feasibility study for the museum. This has been linked to 2 other bids for funding for the town. It was discussed at the meeting at NYC on 18th July but nothing has been heard re any decision. KA will contact Marianne Jackson to find out what is happening. KA asked for volunteers to sit on a delivery working group for the feasibility project. CW volunteered to be on it, on the understanding that it would be time limited. KA also suggested a representative from the Harrison Collection Trustees. KMA has done a geophysical survey of the Priory Precinct. It's very exciting and the results will be released to the public at the community archaeology festival.

## **12. Anti-social behaviour at the Castle**

No issues to discuss

## **13. AOB**

CW mentioned an issue with one of the floodlights at the castle which has gone faulty. The problem may have been put right by now but the town clerk has been informed and all relevant parties are happy that the lights are being maintained. JB mentioned that he had been asked to look into ancient charters for Knaresborough and he has discovered that there are 4. Some may be duplicates. There is a charter granted in 1233 which is difficult to access the details. In 1310 a charter was granted to Piers Gaveston which celebrates the feast of St Margaret of Antioch. It allows for a 2 day festival plus the feast day. The feast day is July 20<sup>th</sup>, so potentially that is a 3 day festival. The market charter from 1310 is dated 16<sup>th</sup> August and was granted to Edmund Earl of Cornwall. JB has some more information which he will put in an email as he can't access it currently. JB has been working with AB on a document looking at funding opportunities. CW has the document and will email it around the group. It is currently Work In Progress as AB is on holiday and has had little chance to contribute to the document so far. DR commented that 2030 is not very far off and there are projects at the castle which could cost many millions of pounds. We need to make real progress which we haven't done so far. CW stated the following –

*I just want to mention quite quickly just as we're bringing the meeting to a close that I spoke*

*to John before the meeting began and indicated that I intend to step away from this group for a period of time.*

*I feel as if I need to de stress and declutter a bit. I've been having a few health issues and I just need to concentrate on me a little bit.*

*I'm very happy to join, Kathy's delivery group for the museum. So that's separate from that. But what I'm planning to do is work on the 2 interpretation boards for the castle. And come to the September meeting but then after that I will I will gracefully bow out.*

*Leave the task and finish groups to get started and do their work. And then sort of keep watching brief and I may come back maybe in a year's time or so probably not in the position of responsibility, but just as a sort of advisor.*

*So just to let you know that I'm not leaving town or anything like that, but I just need to have a reappraisal of the things that I'm doing and I just wanted to let you know that the position that I feel that I'm in currently.*

No meeting in August, next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am still on zoom.

JB will speak to the clerk about facilitation of continued meetings via zoom.

C Willoughby 25/07/2023

(From 34 pages of zoom transcript – which anyone can have a copy of if they wish)