

**KNARESBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL TASK & FINISH GROUP FOR 2025
ENCLOSURES ACT COMMEMORATION**

NOTES FROM MEETING ON 27 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Margy Longhurst (ML), Shan Oakes (SO), David Rhodes (DR), Helen Westmancoat (HW) (Notetaker)

13th August 1770 was the day commissioners and local people met to discuss the implications of the Enclosure Act. We propose to make **13 August 2025 Knaresborough Day** to commemorate but also celebrate how things have moved on.

Actions from the previous meeting: HW had contacted Gwen Lloyd about the book and potential play for the Castle Yard Riots that Rowena Lloyd was looking at writing and staging in 2024 for FEVA but had not yet heard back. HW had not yet contacted Knaresborough Silver Band but would do so.

HW had also contacted King James School with a view to them being involved in any play/performance. As the event is taking place in the school holidays it may be difficult to get pupils involved, but Clare Marting, Head teacher would consult with other staff and come back to us. **HW to monitor/action**

ML had been in contact with Knaresborough Museum Association. Notes from their meeting state "Knaresborough Town Council are looking to run a Knaresborough Day as well as a series of events in 2025 for the anniversary of the Forest of Knaresborough and the Enclosure Act. We could do an exhibition about the forest and include for example the castle yard riots; this could also involve a drama production".

ML had also contacted Christine Willoughby and obtained a copy of the pageant staged for the Millennium in June 2000 that could be used as a basis for 2030 celebrations.

ML to follow up with KMA

SO is working with Knaresborough Forest Park for their input, a sort of reversal of the Enclosure Act as it will now be community owned. Once the land purchase has gone through a celebration is planned that would include information about the Enclosure Act Commemoration. They are working towards a community event in 2024 involving local artists, stressing the importance of local people looking after the land, people, nature and community **SO to follow up/action**

ML had distributed the Knaresborough Forest leaflets to Tourist Information and Library. Schools should also be on the distribution list. DR will update the leaflets with current information. **DR to action**

ML had also followed up on the Tourist guide training and produced some information (attached) on what would be needed. It would be good training for those

needing it, and also useful on a CV. Funding for it could be included in the Knaresborough Town Council budget and business plan. **ML & HW to action**

ML would also contact Mark Smith who does walking tours to see if something could be arranged. **ML to action**

David Rhodes' (DR) ideas: There should be an Honour of Knaresborough based on the date in 1130 when the borough, forest and liberty were granted. The gorge is important. RHS Bridgewater is an example of biodiversity that we could use. He had put together a leaflet with key dates in Knaresborough's history. We should look to the Nidd Gorge Advisory Partnership. SO is involved in it. Also the Atkins report on the High Street, and review that. There could be a Visitor Centre at Conyngnam Hall. The County would need to contact the Duchy on our behalf to have representation at the event, but he would contact the Chair of the White Rose Forest. DR would email further plans and ideas for the 2025 event, and the wider castle to the group. **DR to action**

DR thinks that the Duchy lease is the County's responsibility. There has been some discussion about it and Matt Walker is trying to pursue further. DR's thoughts are that we need to have a County officer to attend the Castle Area Projects sub-committee. The Courthouse Museum should be the main museum, although the Museum Association is looking at the feasibility of other locations in the town.

Group to consider the format of the day, the list of people to invite to include Chairs of the Northern Forest, Woodland Trust, the Town Crier etc. so that a more formal plan could be arranged. **ALL to action**

NYC should be involved in publicising and helping arrange the event. HW to contact Janet Deacon once confirmed by DR that this is the person to contact. **HW & DR to action**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC, but end of November/beginning December