



# Knaresborough Town Council

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### Ambitious plans for Knaresborough's ancient market

Following the setting up of a Market Working Group and the appointment of a consultant with experience of market operation, councillors have discussed ambitious plans for the future of the town's ancient market.

"Our market has been at the centre of life in Knaresborough for over 700 years", says Councillor Hannah Gostlow, "and we are determined to secure its future and to encourage new traders to join us. The town grew up around the market place. It's where the town can come to life, and we want there to be activities alongside the traditional market to involve everyone in the community."

Activities could include educational opportunities for schools, an informal stage for local musicians, and an information point where residents can talk to local support groups. "but of course", says Hannah Gostlow, "first and foremost we need to support the local economy by looking after our traders and local businesses."

Detailed discussions are underway with officers from North Yorkshire Council about the potential transfer of the market's management and operation to the Town Council, but these will take time.

"It's one step at a time", says the Town Clerk, "because we are dealing with people's livelihoods as well as ancient laws; and we also need to act in the best interests of the residents of Knaresborough".

The transfer of the market is part of North Yorkshire Council's 'Double Devolution' strategy to provide opportunities for town and parish council and community groups to manage services and assets. Any transfer needs to be at no cost to North Yorkshire Council and, in the case of Knaresborough Market, to be financially viable for the Town Council.

The final decision on the transfer will be taken by the Executive of North Yorkshire Council when all arrangements and financial considerations are in place.

**For further information please contact us through our website  
[www.knaresboughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.knaresboughtowncouncil.gov.uk)**