Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Group Meeting
Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 7 October 2026

1. Attendance

Present:
Cllr Kathryn Davies – KTC (Chair)
Stg Sam Johnson
Hannah Read – KTC Community Projects Officer (minutes)
Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire and Knaresborough Youth Council
Martin Powell – North Yorkshire Police School Liaison Officer
Evie Griffiths – NYC - Senior Community Safety Officer
Elen Hughes – NYC – Community Safety Officer
Alex Hope – Head Teacher – St John's Primary School

Apologies:
Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC and North Yorkshire Councillor
Cllr James Pickard – KTC
Lisa Holdsworth – King James's School – Deputy Head
Charlotte McEvoy – Chain Lane Community Hub
Sue Vasey – Chain Lane Community Hub

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous meetings held on 8 July and 10 September were approved.

3. Local Police Update

The local Neighbourhood Policing Team continues to work effectively despite limited resources. As noted at the previous meeting, Knaresborough remains a low-crime area by national standards.

- **Operation Tornado:** Recent activity under Operation Tornado was successful, with no issues reported in Knaresborough.
- **Intelligence Gathering and Reporting:** Residents and businesses are encouraged to continue reporting crime, concerns, and suspicious activity through North Yorkshire Police or Crimestoppers.
- **E-Bikes and Public Awareness:** Following the partnership meeting on 10 September focusing on children and young people, the group noted that North Yorkshire Police had circulated the *E-Bikes and the Law* leaflet to schools and local organisations. Members were encouraged to share the resource through their networks. It was recognised that misuse of e-bikes is a national issue and that education and awareness remain key tools in addressing associated anti-social behaviour and safety concerns.
- **Potential Awareness Event:** Cllr James Pickard and Knaresborough Revolution will liaise with the local Police team regarding a possible e-bike awareness event.
- **School Liaison Update:** Martin Powell reported ongoing engagement with primary schools, focusing on early intervention and prevention. Alex Hope advised that St John's Primary School had invited Martin to speak with pupils about the risks associated with vaping. The group agreed that raising awareness across schools and the wider community is essential.

Action: Evie Griffith to investigate whether a public health vaping leaflet is available for distribution.

- **Crucial Crew:** Martin Powell advised that funding reductions have impacted Crucial Crew activities.

Action: Cllr Kathryn Davies and Hannah Read to explore potential opportunities for Town Council support, including awareness raising and funding assistance.

4. Hambleton Grove

Cllr Kathryn Davies shared correspondence from residents of Hambleton Grove seeking information regarding police activity on 30 September 2026. Residents noted similarities to a previous operation involving the City of London Police and expressed concern that there had been no subsequent communication or media coverage. They described both incidents as unsettling and outside their normal expectations.

Action: Sgt Sam Johnson to make enquiries and provide an update.

5. Updates from Group Members and Organisations

- **Vandalism at Public Toilets:** The group discussed recent vandalism at the Castle Yard and Fisher Street public toilets, following an update from Cllr Hannah Gostlow.

Action: Martin Powell and Elen Hughes to liaise with Cllr Hannah Gostlow regarding available CCTV footage and potential intervention support should those responsible be identified as local young people.

- **Inspire Youth Yorkshire:** Inspire Youth Yorkshire continues to deliver successful youth sessions in Knaresborough on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Key issues affecting young people include vaping, e-bike misuse, incidents being filmed and shared online, and threats made via social media.
    - The Spokey-Dokey sessions continue to receive positive feedback.
    - Concerns were raised regarding an increase in suspected drug-driving incidents in Knaresborough and Harrogate, including the reported misuse of nitrous oxide.

- **Community Safety Hub (Harrogate Area):**
    - The team reviews anti-social behaviour reports daily and carries out interventions where appropriate, working closely with the neighbourhood policing team.
    - Preparations are underway for Hate Crime Awareness Week and the 16 Days of Action campaign focused on domestic abuse, in partnership with IDAS.
    - The team is also working with 101 and Crimestoppers to improve understanding of crime reporting processes.

- **Visibeat:** Sgt Sam Johnson advised that the neighbourhood policing team is using the Visibeat platform to identify local crime hotspots and trends, including cross-border burglaries and vehicle theft.

6. Any Other Business

- **Inspire Self:** Members were reminded of the Inspire Self service, which provides tailored support for young people aged 16+. Referrals can be made to Inspire Youth Yorkshire or Jess Ward.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour in Harrogate Town Centre:** The group noted concerns regarding reports of anti-social behaviour involving large groups of young people in Harrogate town centre. It was acknowledged that there is increasing movement of young people between town centres across the area.

Date for next meeting

The next meeting of the group will be on **Wednesday 27 January 2027 at 11am.**

Venue to be confirmed.