

Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Meeting
Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, 22 October 2025

1. Attendance

Present:

Cllr Kathryn Davies – KTC (Chair)
Sergeant Pierre Olesqui
PCSO Matt Murphy
Hannah Read – KTC Community Projects Officer (Minutes)
Helen Dennis – Active North Yorkshire Stockwell
Sue Vasey – Chain Lane Community Hub
Charlotte McEvoy – Chain Lane Community Hub
Cllr Helen Westmancoat – KTC
Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire / Knaresborough Youth Council

Apologies:

Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC / NYC
Cllr James Pickard – KTC
Lisa Holdsworth – King James School

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on 19 August 2025 were approved.

Matters Arising / Updates: Chain Lane Community Hub

- Collaborative work continues with King James School on cultural integration initiatives. Staff from Chain Lane Community Hub and the new Swift project have engaged with the school regarding support for economic migrant families and establishing a new homework club.
- The joint funding application to the Combined Authority Mayoral High Street Fund has been successful. This funding will support free community events across Knaresborough, including new initiatives. Chain Lane Community Hub will work with partners to oversee delivery and ensure long-term sustainability.

3. Police Update

Presented by Sgt Pierre Olesqui

- Ongoing local operations include Operation Magic, Respond, Retail, and Rock, with positive results across the district.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents remain low, reflecting the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and partnership work with community organisations.
- Some increases in criminal damage (linked to recent graffiti) and burglary were noted, in line with population growth.
- Overall crime rate remains low; policing and community efforts continue to yield positive outcomes.
- New PCs and PCSOs will join the neighbourhood team following a recent recruitment drive.

Group Discussion:

- Community representatives reported ongoing concerns about ASB and criminal behaviour in Stockwell area (Inspire Youth Yorkshire Hub and Active North Yorkshire Stockwell); Police took note of details.
- Observations that residents are sometimes reluctant to report incidents due to system complexity.

Action: *All to promote reporting channels (101, QR codes, community messenger).*
- Police confirmed no local increase in hate crime following recent national events.
- Chain Lane Community Hub plans to deliver free community ‘bystander’ training in the New Year via the Swift Project. Further details to follow.

4. Operation Machinize (Trading Standards)

Discussion led by Cllr Kathryn Davies.

- Police continue to work with Trading Standards and Safeguarding to address High Street concerns.

Action: *Encourage residents and business owners to report suspicious or criminal activity directly to Police.*

Action: *All organisations to promote use of the Community Messenger system.*

Action: *Cllr Kathryn Davies to explore concerns relating to planning laws.*

5. Update from Knaresborough Youth Council and Inspire Youth Yorkshire

- Ongoing focus on protecting vulnerable young people.

Knaresborough Youth Council

- The Youth Council has 13 active members representing a broad range of young people and they have big aspirations.
- Planned visit to Parliament on 28 October for tour and Q&A with MP Tom Gordon.
- Group developing three campaigns.
- Following this group’s earlier discussions on barriers to reporting crime, Jess Ward will propose to the Youth Council that they consider the topic and investigate what crime reporting might look like for young people in Knaresborough.

Inspire Youth Yorkshire:

- Monday Youth Club: 30+ older youths attend weekly; and earlier inclusive session.
- Thursday Youth Club: 35+ younger children attend weekly with a prevention and skills focus. Extra help and support are always needed and welcomed.
- One current challenge is the increased number of children on reduced school timetables and children out of school (for multiple reasons including newly moved families waiting for school places, and children being homeschooled) who are out and about during the daytime and parents looking for alternative daytime activities.
- Inspire Youth Yorkshire are currently exploring the opportunity to set up an alternative provision for secondary-aged pupils.
- Funding pressures persist; King James School drop-in funding ends soon.

Action: *Explore collaboration opportunities with the Swift Programme at Chain Lane Community Hub (suggested by Sue Vasey).*

6. Upcoming Community Events & Bright Friday Christmas Lights Switch-On

- Charlotte McEvoy provided update on successful Mayoral High Street Fund application; more details to follow.
- A request to link Youth Council and Inspire Youth Yorkshire with events such as Bright Friday and the Christmas Market to be fed back to the event teams. **Action:** *Hannah Read to connect Inspire Youth Yorkshire and Knaresborough Youth Council with Bright Friday and Christmas Market teams.*
- Discussion about Bright Friday Christmas Lights Switch-On Event covered event security, Police presence, dispersal powers (Section 37), and the possible involvement of the Community Safety Hub. **Action:** *Hannah Read to liaise with local Police team on event coordination.*

7. Any Other Business

- Cllr Helen Westmancoat noted that the Harrogate and Boroughbridge Community Alcohol Partnership is considering a merger.

8. Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Venue: Active North Yorkshire Stockwell / Stockwell Wellbeing Hub