

Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison Meeting Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, 25 February 2026

1. Attendance

Present:

Cllr Kathryn Davies – KTC (Chair)

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

Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire / Knaresborough Youth Council

Apologies:

Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC / NYC

Cllr James Pickard – KTC

Cllr Helen Westmancoat – KTC

Lisa Holdsworth – King James School

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on 22 October 2025 were approved.

3. Matters Arising / Updates:

Action: Cllr Kathryn Davies to explore concerns relating to planning laws in the context of Trading Standards and safeguarding concerns about the High Street.

Update from Cllr Kathryn Davies: There are no specific restrictions and landlords can change shop use to a barber / vape shop / minimarket etc without planning permission as they count as class E (commercial, business, or service) establishments. However, following concerns about high street decay and potential money laundering nationwide, the UK government has announced plans to give councils more powers to block any ‘unwanted’ businesses, specifically targeting over concentrations of betting shops, vape shops and ‘fake’ barbers. The 25 / 26 planning framework is still in progress and changing rapidly, so watch this space. Consultations are currently being completed at national level which close on the 10th March. The online survey is open to everyone on Citizen Space –

[Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

Cllr Kathryn Davies also raised the question with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office in York as to whether there was any regional or national coordination in managing any organised crime linked with barber or vape shops on our high streets? The response was very non-committal, starting with saying they were not able to answer the questions from an operational policing stance but are aware that proactive visits involving NY Police Officers and Immigration Officers have been working together to check on the welfare of staff and that they were working in line with present immigration restrictions. They also said any crime found would be investigated but they continue to need reports and information and local intelligence. All residents and business owners are encouraged to continue to report concerns to NY Police or Crime Stoppers general enquiries [Report a crime | North Yorkshire Police](#) or [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#)

Update: Jess Ward shared that King James School is working with the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) to educate and raise awareness, and a mini crucial crew event is being planned for July 2026.

4. Police update

Presented by PCSO Matt Murphy

- The National Crime Agency meets each month to discuss and rate organised crime groups (OCG's) nationwide. There are 3 – 4 known OCG's operating in the Harrogate area, but none have reached / hit national level for rating and action.
- New 'visibeat' app for Police is being used and tested locally. The 'visibeat' app shows police activity and crime in a particular area, providing vital information to police officers, especially for out of area Police Officers. The app is proving to be useful and is also providing data to the government.
- The Police are also finding that social media posts are proving to be more effective with a far bigger reach than Community Messenger, so the local force is utilizing social media wherever possible.
- Recent drop-in sessions held at the library have proved successful with good engagement from the local community. Most interactions were with elderly residents reporting generalized antisocial behaviour (ASB) and online fraud.
- Knaresborough continues to be categorized nationally as a low ASB and crime rate area, with the highest figures in the last 3 months being in November 2025 which was partly due to bonfire night related ASB, other reported crimes were mostly within the domestic and burglary categories. Since November reported crime figures continue to drop.
- 'Bradford Dealing' – PCSO Matt Murphy shared an increasing number of scams and crime relating to the buying and selling of quad bikes, E bikes and motorbikes were being reported in the Knaresborough area.

5. Community updates:

- **Inspire Youth Yorkshire:**

Update presented by Jess Ward

The current funding available has had an impact on what services and groups have been running. A funding plan is in progress and work is currently underway to secure funding to expand delivery into schools again.

At the Inspire Youth Yorkshire Community Hub:

Continued support for young people at risk of being out of school.

- **Inspire Growth**

Referrals discussed, with future next steps being developed.

A pop-up café is scheduled for 16 March, 11:30am–1:30pm.

Working to strengthen relationships with local schools.

- **16+ Provision – “Inspire Self”**

Focus on supporting young people aged 16+ to become job/employment ready.

Art session delivered as part of programme activity.

Continued engagement with young people who may not otherwise have access to support.

Increased involvement from older participants within the age range.

Feedback reported as very positive.

Discussion regarding increasing opening times and expanding activity provision (hub development).

- **Youth Council Event**

The Knaresborough Youth Council are currently planning a Colour Run event – “Colour Your Mind” – on 3rd May at Conyngham Hall. Funding through Eventure partnership – Mayoral High Street Fund.

- **Estate Behind Inspire Hub**

Correspondence received from Yorkshire Housing with a proposal for a community

clean-up day with integration-focused activities - planned for May Half Term. Cllr Hannah Gostlow is involved in developing this.

- The group discussed the integral partnership working with King James School that is needed on many subjects discussed in the meeting.

ACTION: Hannah Read to contact Laura Baker, Deputy Head (Year 9, Key Stage 3) and invite her to join group and attend the next meeting.

- **Chain Lane Community Hub**

Update presented by Sue Vasey and Charlotte McEvoy

- **After school homework sessions**

Held on Thursdays after school (4:30pm) and delivered by volunteer teachers, providing support for migrant young people, up to GCSE-level support.

- **Eventure – New Events**

Press release to be issued.

New events supported through the Mayoral High Street Fund include “Pride in the Park” (at Conyngham Hall) during Pride Month (scheduled for first weekend in June). Focus on inclusion.

The Eventure steering group are also looking to support town & North Yorkshire Council’s Safety Advisory Group collaborative work and has plans for Health & Safety training to equip and support future town events.

- **Stockwell Wellbeing Community Hub**

Update presented by Helen Dennis

- Upcoming project - Horizon drug and alcohol outreach team to be based at the centre for 2 days a week starting in March.
- Open Gardens across Knaresborough on 27 June – including at Stockwell Community Hub.

6. Introduction of Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) on Hambleton Grove.

Cllr Kathryn Davies gave an update and asked police to keep eye on ETRO as there are suspicions that this may not be 100% observed by all heavy goods vehicles using this road.

Police advised that the most effective way to report any transgressions is via 'Opsnap', which is a reporting mechanism on North Yorkshire Police's website, and from which information is forwarded directly to NYP traffic officers. Photographs, or preferably video footage, which if possible, shows the road one minute before and one minute after the road traffic offence, can be submitted directly online via 'Opsnap'. The time and date the evidence was collected, along with registration number and colour of the vehicle should also be provided as additional information where possible.

Update received from Cllr Kathryn Davies following the Police and Community Liaison meeting:

The ETRO on Hambleton Grove is not going ahead as planned on the 6th of March due to a legal challenge having been received by NYC. There will be a delay with the introduction of the ETRO.

7. AOB

- The group discussed public concerns reported by Cllr Matt Walker around drug paraphernalia on the street at the junction of Brewerton Street and Cheapside, and police limitations due to privately owned property and a full circle of arrests and warrants. Police will remain aware and vigilant.

- Concerns over speeding at Bond End were raised. PCSO Matt Murphy suggested 95 Alive could provide potential assistance using strip tests.

8. Date for next meeting:

Wednesday 8th July at 11 am

At Stockwell Community Wellbeing Hub