

## **Knarborough Police and Community Liaison meeting**

**– Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 minutes**

### **Attendees**

Cllr Kathryn Davies (Chair)

Cllr Helen Westmancoat

Inspector Holly Nicholls

Sergeant Chris Hind

PC Steve Bromley

Jess Ward – CEO Inspire Youth Yorkshire

Hannah Read – Knarborough Town Council Community Project Officer

### **Apologies had been received from:**

Clare Martin – Head of King James' School, Knarborough

Cllr Hannah Gostlow – Mayor of Knarborough 2023 – 24 and NYC Councillor for

Knarborough East

Cllr James Pickard

Charlotte McEvoy – Chain Lane Community Hub

Sue Vasey – Chain Lane Community Hub

### **1. Welcome and introductions to new members.**

### **2. Action points arising from last meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023:**

- a) **Community Speed watch and online reporting.** Having shared the website link [www.roadside.co.uk/usingtheroad/speedconcerns](http://www.roadside.co.uk/usingtheroad/speedconcerns) following the last meeting, Inspector Holly Nicholls shared with the group that plans are progressing for operations focusing on speeding and in particular safety around schools. The Police are planning an action week towards the summer focusing on 'speeding', the police would like to work with local Headteachers on this.

**This led to a discussion around inviting the primary school headteacher's to join the police liaison meetings.** Jess shared that she had attended a cluster meeting with some of the primary school headteachers in Knarborough where some concerns were raised about children from year 4 and up and that the headteachers were keen to be involved in future police liaison meetings.

Cllr Kathryn Davies asked the group for opinions, and the consensus was that it's good to have as many partners involved in this group as possible. Inspector Holly Nicholls expressed the positive opportunities for early intervention, and that the police liaison meetings facilitate better relationships for the police service.

**Action: Jess Ward to liaise with and invite primary school headteachers to next meeting.**

It was also mentioned that there had been a plan for a town Councillor to represent each school in Knarborough, and that this plan may need to be revised / looked at again by the town council. **Action: Helen Westmancoat to revisit with Town Councillors.**

Cllr Helen Westmancoat asked a question about the ‘20’s plenty’ speeding campaign. Inspector Holly Nicholls led discussion about ‘speeding’ campaigns and explained that the police approach is about ‘driving to the road’ and not particular speeds. The approach being taken is to look at the data, identify areas of risk and then allocate resources to specific areas as appropriate.

- b) **Knaresborough House.** PC Steve Bromley shared that there is a meeting to discuss police recommendations regarding Knaresborough House coming up. Positives since the police project at Knaresborough House are that it’s been quiet in recent months, and no incidents have been reported, indicating that the police patrols and cameras have been effective. The boards have been taken down at the back of the property and it’s looking much better. The cameras still haven’t been replaced, but this will hopefully happen following the meeting. Tom Ireland from NYC has said that they are planning to put the cameras back up. The group highlighted the urgency of cameras needing to be up before May school half term.
- c) Cllr Hannah Gostlow to take **issues to NYC regarding new Wellness Hub in respect of car parking, access and traffic problems due to the proximity of King James’ School.** Apologies received for this meeting from Cllr Hannah Gostlow.  
**Action: item moved to next meeting – Cllr Hannah Gostlow.**
- d) **Neighbourhood watch.** Inspector Holly Nicholls restated that the **digital ‘Community Messenger network’** is taking the place of previous community neighbourhood watch groups / schemes. There is a push from and by the police to use social media platforms to exchange information and also the new Police UK app. The message is, please encourage people to sign up to community messenger.

Inspector Holly Nicholls said that the police are looking to increase and improve their use of social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to communicate and engage with the community, and encourage community feedback.

Inspector Holly Nicholls said she’d like to attend one of the Inspire Youth Yorkshire youth work sessions to ask young people what they would like to see and encourage them to engage with the community messenger network.

**Members of the community can sign up to North Yorkshire Community Messaging for up to date information about what is happening in your area: [Home Page - North Yorkshire Community Messaging](#)**



### 3. Operation Respond.

North Yorkshire Police's current operation for tackling burglary offences update.

Cross-border groups are operating on the A1 corridor with a focus on boiler thefts from the unoccupied properties on the new housing development sites.

Inspector Holly Nicholls shared that they are reviewing all processes to make sure that all early evidence is collected to support arrests and prosecutions. The police are currently focusing on some retraining of officers to ensure all the right steps are taken to lead to successful identification and arrest of suspects.

North Yorkshire County figures for burglary are currently quite high, mainly due to the boiler thefts. Police are hoping to detect a number of these, and will continue to have high visibility in these areas.

A recent county lines operation has concluded with a lot of information coming in from the general public.

### 4. Local Bike Theft – police update

The police don't collect abandoned bikes anymore because they have had so many handed in, unless it has been stolen. Resurrection Bikes in Harrogate or local youth organisations will usually welcome abandoned bikes in working order.

Jess Ward shared that she is liaising with the police to come to youth work sessions and do some **property marking**.

Inspector Holly Nicholls shared that the police are looking to buy some property marking kits.

PC Steve Bromley gave an update on positive police operations in the community.

- The theft of 2 golf buggies in recent months has resulted in one individual being arrested and they are due to appear in court.
- A group of 5 individuals associated with moped and other bike thefts from Harrogate and Knaresborough have been arrested and are currently under investigation.

Inspector Holly Nicholls praised the police work involved and the positive outcome of being in the right place at the right time, which was a result of police patrols and intelligence.

### 5. Intelligence support

Police proactivity in Knaresborough is positive and effective but the police need intelligence to act on. Emphasis on the continued need for the public to report and feed information to the police.

**Mechanically propelled vehicles MPV's are an ongoing problem.** Encourage members of the public to call 999 if they see them being ridden dangerously (specifically individuals they believe to be underage, do not have a license or not wearing a helmet).

The local police have a new off road bike team to deal with people riding electric scooters, electric bikes, or quad bikes without licenses or without helmets. Use of the off-road bike team will be based on the assessment of threat, harm, and risk.

## 6. Early Intervention – planning for the summer months

Inspector Holly Nicholls shared that there is a firm message from the Police to all in the community that if the police tell you to do something, then you must do that regardless of age.

There will be zero tolerance for any instances of PCSO / STAFF being assaulted.

Inspector Holly Nicholls has been to King James' School and spoken to all year groups, emphasising firm boundaries over behaviour and that young people in particular should be aware that the police will deal firmly with this.

Antisocial behaviour incidents normally increase in the summer months. Inspector Holly Nicholls shared that there is legislation that gives the police 'dispersal powers' (legal power) to remove large groups that are causing problems and where there is risk of 'harassment, alarm and distress'. Dispersal powers can be used by police to remove groups from areas affected for up to 48 hours.

Calmwater Bay was mentioned as a place where there had been problems with young people and antisocial behaviour in the summer a few years ago. PC Steve Bromley shared that because it is private land the police need to owners to take some responsibility and engagement. Through working with the police, there are now CCTV cameras in place at that location.

In preparation for the summer months, Inspector Holly Nicholls explained the need to have teams in place with the right mapping and focusing patrols on potential problem areas and having tactics such as dispersal powers available to use. It was recognised that it is not possible to get it right 100% of the time. This is where the encouragement of the community and local residents to share intelligence and information with the Police is very important.

The group discussed some **summer event dates** that may require extra policing.

- D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration and beacon lighting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (in the evening 7pm – 10pm).
- The Great Knaresborough Bed Race on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Glastonbury live streaming in the Castle Grounds on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## 7. Any other business

**Meeting times.** The days and timings for the police and community liaison meeting in the future were discussed. The group agreed to continue with a daytime meeting due to evenings already being busy for various members of the group.

A service level agreement was mentioned by Inspector Holly Nicholls as a suggestion to ensure that people's commitment to the quarterly meeting was prioritised. **Action: further discussion required ALL – agenda item at next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.**

**Vaping and energy drinks.** Jess Ward shared that she has observed a rising issue with vaping amongst young people, and the selling between young people, witnessing children as young as 11 years old vaping. The massive rise of children drinking energy drinks is also causing concern. A local PCSO has visited the new vape shop in Knaresborough to discuss legal responsibilities in the selling of electronic cigarettes.

**Date and times of meetings for next 12 months:**

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 3pm at Knaresborough House
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at 3pm
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 3pm
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 3pm

Venues to be confirmed and communicated to the group.