



**North Yorkshire Council  
County Hall  
Racecourse Lane  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AD**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

***Vote of No Confidence in North Yorkshire Council's Management of Knaresborough's Services and Assets***

Dear Richard Flinton and Carl Les,

This letter is submitted to formally record Knaresborough Town Council's grave concern regarding the persistent and systemic neglect of Knaresborough's historic assets, public amenities, and essential infrastructure under the management of North Yorkshire Council.

For too long, decisions affecting our town have been taken at a distance, with budgets and priorities determined in Northallerton rather than through meaningful engagement with the people and place they impact. The result has been a prolonged deterioration of Knaresborough's heritage, public realm, and core community facilities.

This Council draws particular attention to the following serious examples of neglect, which are neither isolated nor incidental:

- **Knaresborough House** – Our historic civic centrepiece has fallen into significant disrepair, demonstrating a profound lack of routine maintenance and civic stewardship.
- **Knaresborough Castle** – A defining landmark of our town and a cornerstone of the local visitor economy, now requiring urgent structural repair and sustained investment.
- **The Viaduct Terrace** – Long-term neglect has resulted in structural failure, creating both an immediate safety hazard and a damaging visual blight.
- **Waterside Public Toilets** – Essential facilities left in such poor condition that they pose a direct environmental risk to the River Nidd.
- **Town-Wide Public Conveniences** – A wider pattern of inadequate maintenance and upgrading, failing residents, visitors, and the town's reputation.
- **The Paddling Pool** – A valued community asset currently unfit for use, depriving local families of an important recreational amenity.
- **Historic Setts** – A chronic failure to reinstate missing setts or repair existing ones, creating severe accessibility barriers and compromising public safety, particularly for disabled residents.

- **Tourist Information Provision** – A complete absence of visible, effective, and coordinated tourist information services, undermining the local visitor economy.
- **Town Centre Signage** – Outdated, inadequate, and poorly designed directional signage that is wholly unfit for purpose.
- **High Street Enforcement** – A sustained failure to address illegal parking, contributing to congestion, reduced pedestrian safety, and worsening air quality.

**This Council believes that:**

- The centralised management model operated from Northallerton is fundamentally failing the people of Knaresborough.
- We cannot stand by while our town’s heritage, assets, and essential facilities continue to deteriorate due to bureaucratic inaction and a lack of local accountability.
- It is our democratic responsibility to champion our community and to act decisively to protect the dignity, safety, and future of Knaresborough.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

1. **To declare a formal Vote of No Confidence** in North Yorkshire Council’s ability to effectively manage, maintain, or safeguard any service or asset within the town of Knaresborough.
2. **To demand an immediate and substantial capital investment package** from North Yorkshire Council to address urgent repairs, upgrades, and improvements at:
  - Knaresborough House and Knaresborough Castle
  - The Viaduct Terrace
  - Waterside Public Toilets and all town-wide public conveniences
  - The Paddling Pool
  - Town centre sett-paved areas, with a particular focus on accessibility
  - Town centre signage and visitor infrastructure
3. **To request the immediate commencement of negotiations for a comprehensive Devolution Deal.** Should North Yorkshire Council be unable or unwilling to maintain Knaresborough’s assets and services to an acceptable standard, responsibility for these must be transferred—together with the necessary funding—to Knaresborough Town Council and the local community, who are committed to their proper care and long-term future.

We submit this letter in the strongest terms, reflecting the deep concern of this Council and the community we serve.

Yours sincerely,

*Angela Pulman*

Clerk to ***Knaresborough Town Council***