

Knaresborough Police and Community Liaison meeting
- **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**

Attendees

Cllr Kathryn Davies -KTC (Chair)
Sergeant Danny Copperwheat
Cllr Helen Westmancoat - KTC
Cllr Hannah Gostlow – KTC and NYC Councillor for Knaresborough East
Charlotte McEvoy – Chain Lane Community Hub
Jess Ward – Inspire Youth Yorkshire
Lisa Holdsworth – Assistant Head at King James’ School
Hannah Read – Community Project Officer, KTC (minutes)

Apologies received by:

Cllr James Pickard – KTC
Inspector Holly Nicholls

1.Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 2nd October 2024 and actions arising:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved

Actions arising from meeting 2nd October updates:

Primary Schools. Action: Jess Ward to invite Primary School head teachers to attend the next meeting.

Knaresborough House CCTV. The CCTV cameras have not been re-installed to date. Cllr Hannah Gostlow informed the group that she was aware that the re-installation job is on NYC’s system.

Traffic at King James’ School (KJS) and entrance to Knaresborough Leisure and Wellness Centre. Lisa Holdsworth updated the group that she’d passed on suggested options of a VAS sign discussed at the last meeting to the senior management team at KJS, but no further action had been taken, and the feeling is that the problem wasn’t specifically speeding.

The group heard that issues tend to be around potential hazards caused by parents’ cars pulling in and out at school pick up / drop off times, and the bus stop positioned so close to the zebra crossing; and danger of children crossing the road, stepping out behind a bus or other vehicle.

Cllr Hannah Gostlow reiterated that these potential hazards had been raised with NYC highways, and that she would continue to raise the issue, but also encouraged wider discussion amongst the group to find other possible solutions, mentioning Zero Carbon Harrogate’s ‘Car Free Fridays’ initiative as a way of raising awareness.

Sgt Danny Copperwheat asked if King James’ School had been involved in Operation Traffic organised by the Police? The next Operation Traffic was planned for March. **Action: Lisa Holdsworth will take suggestions to KJS senior team and be in touch.**

Retail Crime week – 14 October 2024 update. Cllr Kathryn Davies confirmed that she had put Inspector Holly Nicholls in touch with Knaresborough Business Collective regarding access to Ring Doorbells installed on many retail businesses in town.

Sgt Danny Copperwheat confirmed that the ability to obtain CCTV footage can make a real difference to the Police when tackling retail crime. He also shared about the NICE Investigates which businesses can sign up to and then upload CCTV footage to assist in the fight against retail crime.

The group heard that the retail crime week in October 2024 had gone well. There had been increased police visibility at St James retail park and a focus on organised crime groups and other travelling offenders from the A1 corridor. Sgt Copperwheat also shared that there are Project Servator Officers based in Harrogate focused on driving up detections, and that they are seeing a lot of positive outcomes from this work resulting in arrests and convictions.

Jess Ward asked about any potential funding for CCTV to be installed at the Inspire Youth Yorkshire building on Half Penny Close. It is suspected that those involved in recent boiler thefts from the new houses being built on the old Trelleborg site, parked outside the Inspire Youth Yorkshire building. The building and road would benefit from CCTV coverage.

Operation Hamlet. Lisa Holdsworth confirmed that PCSO Ronnie Woods is now the single point of contact for KJS and sharing information regarding any young person who might be vulnerable or at risk of involvement with county line organised crime groups (OCG) and associated activities.

Bright Friday. Cllr Hannah Gostlow confirmed that the Bright Friday event on 28th November 2024 was a great success, however, the event organisers did face challenges with street hawkers turning up and trying to sell potentially unsafe goods in the event area. It was noted that PCSO Ronnie Woods had been very helpful in supporting the event stewards in requesting street hawkers vacate the event area. It was noted that the event has grown significantly over the years, therefore future event planning will need to take into account extra support that may be needed by the police. **Action: Sgt Danny Copperwheat to feedback to Police and make a note of Bright Friday event date for 2025 (Event tbc confirmed by KTC at next Council meeting).**

Knaresborough Youth Council. Jess Ward updated the group and confirmed that the Youth Council had recently agreed on their terms of reference and that she would circulate to the group.

3. Police update:

- **Operation Tornado.** Happened in Craven on 9 October 2024. The day of intensification is a proactive response targeting problems in a priority area, with a county wide focus aiming to disrupt criminality and provide support to communities. Op Tornado in Craven was a success, and Sgt Danny Copperwheat explained that partnership is essential, encouraging community organisations to get in touch if they wish to be involved in the future.

-**Operation Hamlet.** Sgt Danny Copperwheat shared that the Police have had some significant recent wins in their response to feuding county line Organised Crime Groups (OCG) in the Harrogate and Knaresborough areas.

-**Christmas drink driving campaign results.** Sgt Danny Copperwheat to report back with an update.

-**Operation Thaw.** Created in response to the recent increase in boiler thefts from new houses being built around Knaresborough.

Cllr Hannah Gostlow suggested that any preventative or briefing information that the Police compile could be sent to both KTC and NYC planning committees to raise awareness and potentially warn developers to be vigilant.

Cllr Kathryn Davies highlighted the development at the bridge where Abbey Road meets Wetherby Road as a potential target for boiler thefts, Sgt Danny Copperwheat made a note of both points raised.

4. Knaresborough Youth Council and Youth Work generally – update from Jess Ward, Inspire Youth.

Jess Ward reported to the group that the recently established Youth Council had agreed their terms of reference and decided on the first campaigns / issues they wish to focus on:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Litter and paraphernalia in woods and parks

Jess Ward shared that Inspire Youth Yorkshire are incredibly busy with high demand for their services across all areas of their work. The recent snow and ice at the start of January that caused schools to close meant Inspire Youth really felt the brunt with so many young people not being in school.

Positives include being back in KJS on Thursdays allowing youth workers to touch base with children they haven't seen in a while, and the Inspire Youth Yorkshire building which allows the work to hold safe spaces indoors multiple times a week. The weekly younger youth group now has a significant number of regular attendees, which is positive, but also poses questions and challenges for what happens as the young people get older and an equally sized older age group is required? Inspire Youth Yorkshire is also working in partnership with Harrogate Town Football Club, overcoming barriers faced by young people to access football training sessions and currently have a funding application awaiting response to offer yoga to young people.

The group heard how Inspire Youth Yorkshire have been working with York City Council on local youthwork partnerships. Jess Ward suggested that Knaresborough and Harrogate could really benefit from something like this and learn a lot from what is happening in York.

Jess Ward also shared that she'd recently met with MP Tom Gordon to share some of the challenges that Inspire Youth Yorkshire are facing in the area and the need for funding, and the unseen gap in Knaresborough. She explained that Tom Gordon is considering the potential to draft a proposal to take to parliament.

5. Youth Voice survey results – what young people are saying about their safety – Charlotte McEvoy, Chain Lane Community Hub.

Charlotte McEvoy shared an overview of some of the key statistics that have come from the Youth Voice survey results, in particular some key data points that she felt would be of interest for Knaresborough Policing. Chain Lane Community Hub are currently analyzing the data to establish key points of discussion and engagement for an artist day with young people, and to be used by Knaresborough Youth Council.

Charlotte McEvoy expressed that the results of the survey present a unique set of data for the town, and that Chain Lane Community Hub intends to produce a survey report by the end of March 2025. Once the data and report have been used by young people to create a 2030-35 vision art piece, the report will become an open source and will be shared with everyone.

Charlotte McEvoy updated the group that Chain Lane Community Hub has also recently been awarded funding from NYC to support migrants in the community. This new initiative will start in April, and Chain Lane Community Hub will share more with the group as the work begins.

6. Speeding and red light jumping around town and dog control – issues raised with local Councillors.

Speeding and red light jumping. Cllr Kathryn Davies shared that she'd had several complaints from residents regarding speeding and red light jumping at the bridge where Abbey Road meets Wetherby Road. Sgt Copperwheat said they would carry out some observation work in the area over the next few weeks and will raise this issue as a concern from residents. He also explained that all PCSO's are trained to use speed detection devices which could be helpful in monitoring the location of the concern and that results gathered could lead to traffic calming measures. Kathryn Davies requested to be kept informed of any action the police might take.

Cllr Hannah Gostlow suggested that the data gathered from KTC and NYC's speed surveys in the town from two years ago could be helpful. **Action: Hannah Gostlow to send the information to Sgt Danny Copperwheat.**

Dogs off leads on Abbey Road. Cllr Kathryn Davies reported to the group that several residents had raised concerns over dogs being off leads on Abbey Road. Sgt Danny Copperwheat explained to the group that a dog being off lead is not a criminal offence and that where the law talks about a dog being 'dangerously out of control' it is more about aggressive behaviour in dogs and not just dogs being off leads. Unfortunately, this is not something that the Police can become involved with, unless violence or aggression occurs.

7. AOB

Annual Town Meeting on 3rd March at 7pm. **Action: Cllr Kathryn Davies to liaise with Inspector Holly Nicholls to present the work of this group at the meeting.**

Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) – update from Cllr Helen Westmancoat.

The next CAP meeting will be held on 24th January.

-Challenge 25 resources have been delivered to local off licenses in town, and there are CAP banners in both Tesco and Lidl in Knaresborough.

-Talk About Trust, offers help to parents. Suggested circulating the CAP Padlet link to the group again, and to KJS and Knaresborough Youth Council.

-CAP intends to have a stall at the Wednesday Knaresborough market in 2025 and suggested it would be good if KTC could also be involved.

-link to Youth Council agenda and focus item of Drugs and alcohol.

Action: Hannah Read will circulate the CAP Padlet resource link to the group.

Date for next meeting – Action: Cllr Kathryn Davies to liaise with Inspector Holly Nicholls and confirm date and time for next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1st May 2025 at 3:00pm (Venue to be confirmed)