Notes: Public Meeting regarding Skipton Bus Station 30th March 2026 18:30pm

Panel Members

- Cllr Brian McDaid (Chair, Skipton Town Council)
- Cllr Winston Feather (Mayor, Skipton Town Council)
- Cllr Andy Solloway (North Yorkshire Council)
- Insp Paul Crabtree & Sgt Paul Evans (North Yorkshire Police)
- Louise Close (Chief Officer, Skipton Town Council)

Overview

- Cllr McDaid welcomed attendees and introduced the panel.
- The Community Safety Working Group outlined ongoing work:
    - Funding Youth bus sessions
    - Funding Support for resources for the Youth Club at Broughton Road Community Centre
    - Temporary CCTV installed over the festive period
    - Ongoing efforts to secure permanent CCTV funding from North Yorkshire Council

Meeting minutes are available on the Town Council website. Community Safety Working Group - Skipton Town Council

Key Updates

CCTV & Ownership

- The bus station is owned by North Yorkshire Council (NYC)
- A county wide CCTV review is underway.
- A temporary CCTV camera will be considered by NYC until the review is completed.

Police Update

- Incidents near the bus station are often linked to the night time economy, not always occurring at the station itself.
- Issues involve both:
    - Adults (related/night-time activity)
    - Young people gathering in the area

- Skipton remains a low-crime and is a safe place to live.

Cllr McDaid read a statement from Sir Julian Smith MP:

'Last Friday I met with the Police, North Yorkshire Council, local councillors and the Town Council. It was a positive cross-party meeting. I am pleased that the Police have increased their presence at the Bus Station.

North Yorkshire Council are currently undertaking a Review of CCTV in Skipton but in the meantime, they have committed to looking at installing a temporary camera. This is not finalised but I am continuing to push NYC.

I am grateful to the joint working from councillors, council officers and the Police.'

Public Concerns Raised

- Drug use/dealing (Devonshire Place & nearby car park)
- Poor lighting (bus station & Devonshire Place)
- Fear/intimidation from large groups of young people
- Anti-social behaviour (e.g. drinking/urinating near Gallows Bridge)
- Reports of assaults
- Lack of youth facilities/activities
- Poor first impression for visitors (including canal users)
- Bus station condition and layout concerns
- Questions about CCTV coverage, bus company liaison, and data sharing

Responses & Discussion

Police

- Ongoing partnership work (including licensing teams)
- Plain-clothes operations targeting drug activity
- Recent arrests made
- Emphasis on reporting incidents to build intelligence
- Proactive work with identified young people and their parents
- Some individuals involved come from outside Skipton, and other Police forces are liaised with.
- Arrests made in all but one recent assault case
- Communication sent to parents via schools

Environment & Infrastructure

- Lighting and design issues to be raised with North Yorkshire Council
- Aim to "design out crime" through environmental improvements

Kirsty Mellin from North Yorkshire Youth gave an update on the provisions for young people. Details can be found online: Craven-Youth-Directory-Autumn-Winter-2025_11zon.pdf

- North Yorkshire Youth:
    - Ongoing consultation with young people
    - Youth Club active at Broughton Road
    - Activity directory available
    - Strong engagement (200+ survey responses from Skipton Academy students)

Sarah Howsen reported on the CCTV provided by Skipton BID. Skipton BID funds town centre CCTV (effective and used for evidence).

The Service Delivery Manager for Keighley Bus Company was in attendance, and gave an overview of the CCTV in place on the buses, and that they will continue to liaise with police.

Agreed Actions

- North Yorkshire Council to consider temporary CCTV until review completion
- Continued lobbying for permanent CCTV installation
- Community Safety Working Group to push for physical improvements to the site
- Police to continue patrols and proactive engagement.
- Cllr McDaid is exploring a central location for community activities.