



Skipton Town Council

5th July 2023 Community Safety Working Group

Present: Councillor Brian McDaid (Chair), Councillors Winston Feather, Lewis Morgan and Claire Nash Skipton Town Council, Stacey Reffin Community Safety Officer CDC, Sarah Howsen Skipton BID, Inspt Julie Earnshaw and Sgt Paul Evans NYCC Police, James Neill & Alice Skipton Youth Council, Chloe Thwaites North Yorkshire Council, Louise Close Chief Officer and Jenny Dean Deputy Clerk Skipton Town Council, Rosemary Simpson Craven College

Apologies: North Yorkshire Police Crime & Fire Commissioner Zoe Metcalfe, Amanda Bowers Community Engagement Officer, Councillors David Noland and Andy Solloway North Yorkshire Council, Sera Brook- STAND, Jibrán Kahil Skipton Academy and Adam Jackson Ermysteds

1. Welcome

Councillor McDaid welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Introduction

A round of introductions took place, and welcome to those who were new to attending the meeting.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the last working group on the 25th April 2023 have been circulated and were approved.

4. Update on actions from the meeting on the 25th April

Action: Chloe to liaise with Stacey and Sarah regarding the details of the Youth Bus

This has been done, and Stacey has organised an application for Target Hardening Funding for approximately £2000.00 which will fund in the region of 10 sessions to take place from September in the Bus Station.

Action: Cllr McDaid to contact Sandylands and discuss the potential of holding this event again.

This is an agenda item.

Action: Jenny to invite a representative from Greatwood Community Centre and Broughton Road Community Centre to come to future meetings of this group.

This has been completed.

Action: Cllr McDaid to arrange a meeting with the Youth Council to discuss the campaign, and to see if there is any assistance required.

This is an agenda item.

Action: Cllr McDaid and Jenny to discuss arranging an Environmental Visual Audit

Cllr McDaid and Jenny have discussed a plan to have an initial visual audit in September combined with a litter pick. A date will be circulated shortly. Visual audits will then be carried out every quarter. **New Action: Jenny to circulate a date for a first visual audit, everyone to put forward suggestions of locations if they have an area that they think should be covered.**

Action: Jenny to circulate the link to the Park Strategy Questionnaire.

Completed. Over 300 responses have been received. The survey will remain open over the summer, and then the results will be collated.

5. Update on local crime figures

Sgt Evans reported that in the last 6 weeks the incidents have been:

ASB- Skipton West 21, Skipton East 1, Skipton North 10, Skipton South 9

Violence- Skipton West 12, Skipton East 0, Skipton North 12, Skipton South 15

Crime- 8 burglaries, this includes dwelling, non dwellings and businesses. 4 thefts from vehicles and 9 incidents of damage.

Overall crime levels remain low. Cllr Feather asked if there are still issues on the Canal. Sgt Evans reported that these issues have resolved following actions taken. Cllr Feather asked about domestic violence incidents. Inspector Earnshaw explained how the police respond to domestic violence incidents.

Cllr McDaid asked if there was still a reluctance to report issues. Insp Earnshaw and Sgt Evans discussed the importance of reporting, if they don't know about something they can't respond to it. Insp Earnshaw reported that they were seeing an increase in reporting issues using the online system, as many people found it easier and more convenient.

Sarah Howsen asked about how many local businesses are victims of incidents. Sgt Evans will arrange for some further analysis on this.

Action: Sgt Evans to provide Sarah with some detail on crime involving local businesses.

Cllr Feather asked about vapes. This is primarily an issue for Trading Standards, but the Police have supported them on some visits to premises selling vapes in Skipton. The use of vapes is an issue that has been raised by young people at the Youth Council as well.

6. Community Day at Sandylands

Initial discussions have been held with Daile and the Committee at Sandylands regarding holding a community day there to showcase everything that is available there and in the wider community.

Initial proposals are to hold the event in May 2024 to allow for proper planning. The next step is to arrange a planning meeting.

Cllr Nash suggested that the sports development officer at North Yorkshire be invited to any planning meeting.

Action: Jenny to circulate dates for an initial Community Day Planning Meeting.

7. Keep Skipton Tidy

James gave an update on the campaign planning and showed the two logo designs that had been selected by the Youth and Politics Group. Designs had been submitted by Water Street School. The Group was asked for their opinion on the design that should be chosen for the logo. It was agreed that an amalgamation of both designs would be the preferred option.

The Youth Council have received £300 from Skipton Town Council for prizes/incentives for classes taking part in the campaign in September. This will include assemblies and a video created by the Youth Council.

Once the logo is completed the campaign can be launched. Stickers could be put on bins in the parks, and a social media used to promote the message. Cllr Morgan offered to assist with making a video. Stickers could be put on other bins, and the number and type of bins in the Town Centre looked into.

Action Cllr Morgan to liaise with the Youth Council regarding making a video to help launch the campaign.

8. CCTV

Sarah informed the group how CCTV images can be viewed if needed. Stacey reported that the CCTV had proved to work well and be useful during the investigations into a recent incident in the town centre.

9. Begging and Homeless Individuals

Sgt Evans reported that there had been 2 or 3 individuals who were regularly coming into town, but who now seem to have moved on. If someone is in genuine need they can be signposted to the appropriate agency, but there have been some occurrences of organised groups dropping someone off for the day to beg on the street. These people could potential be being exploited or be part of the organised group, so it is important to try and identify them so that the appropriate help and support is given, and intelligence gathered.

A Master Log has been created for reporting these issues in Skipton:

Report to the Police with the Master log Ref– 1222 0126793 Time / Date Did they have a sign displayed? What were they asking?

10. Open Discussion

James reported the results of the Youth Council Survey. 75 responses were received. The majority of young people felt safe. Issues identified were vaping, and not knowing what was available for young people to do afterschool. They would like to see more Youth Clubs, art and crafts activities.

Action: James to put together a report on the Survey findings for circulation

There was a discussion about how a Youth Club means a safe space to go and hangout that is preferably free. Could there be an opportunity to work with Craven Arts House to provide something for young people to attend there.

The Police raised some issues that have been identified surrounding one of the Pride activities taking place in the library this week. They are monitoring the situation, and there will be a Police presence on the High Street.

Cllr McDaid raised concerns about the lack of services and waiting times for young people with Mental Health issues. Rosemary Simpson, Student Services Manager at Craven College, agreed. Sgt Evans reported that a lot of Police work is mental health related.

At the college they do have access to counsellors, but they may not have the specific expertise that the young people require. They are working to enrich their students experience of being at college, aiming to help young people make the best of their time at college, making students happy, confident and resilient.

The work of this group can highlight where services, groups, activities and safe spaces are.

At the Yorkshire Day event, there will be a mural 'painting by numbers'. The mural has been designed by students at Skipton Academy and will be in the bus station.

Next Meeting Date TBC.

Summary of Actions

Action: Jenny to circulate a date for a first visual audit, everyone to put forward suggestions of locations if they have an area that they think should be covered.

Action: Sgt Evans to provide Sarah with some detail on crime involving local businesses.

Action: Jenny to circulate dates for an initial Community Day Planning Meeting.

Action Cllr Morgan to liaise with the Youth Council regarding making a video to help launch the campaign.

Action: James to put together a report on the Survey findings for circulation