



Skipton Town Council

7th March 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 NYCC Police, James Neill Skipton Youth Council, Kirsty Mellin North Yorkshire Youth, Jenny Dean Deputy Clerk Skipton Town Council, Rosemary Simpson Craven College

Apologies: Councillors David Noland, Robert Heseltine and Andy Solloway North Yorkshire Council, Sgt Paul Evans 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 7th December 2023 have been circulated and were approved.

4. Update on actions from the meeting on the 7th December

Action: Jenny to arrange a visit to Young People Count in the new year

Young People count have been contacted, and we are now awaiting some suitable dates for a visit from them.

Action: Sarah to find the cost of purchasing a CCTV camera. Cllr Solloway to look into funding opportunities at NYC to cover the cost. Everyone to consider if there are any other funding streams that could be investigated for the cost of a camera

This has been done. The cost for the camera and the installation is approx. £6500.00. This could potentially be reduced to close to £5500.00. Cllr McDaid will speak to Cllr Solloway to see if there is any potential of NYC funding or part funding the camera. Jenny has been looking into other funding pots, and there is a violent crime fund that could potentially be an option. Jenny will go over the criteria and liaise with Insp Earnshaw. The deadline for that fund is the 2nd May 2024.

Action: Insp Earnshaw to provide some feedback following these events to help inform any future actions by this group.

The event at Overdale had to be cancelled, and the residents there do not feel that they are in need of it being rearranged. Insp Earnshaw's team are running similar events at Long Ashes which have been successful.

Action: Tom to contact Skipton Step Into Action and the Youth Council.

Action carried forward

Action: Jenny to invite Skipton Step Into Action to the next Community Safety Working Group Meeting.

Skipton Step Into Action have been invited to join the working group, and will send a representative to the next meeting, they are also keen to be involved in the Community Day.

Action: Jenny to email those who are interested in assisting with the planning of the event, with a view to meeting in January.

Done and on the agenda.

Action: Jenny to circulate a date for a visual audit on Broughton Road towards the end of January.

Done and on the agenda

5. Update on local crime figures

Inspector Earnshaw gave up date on crime figures for the last 90 days, there have been 227 incidents across the four wards. This is a 14.97% increase on the previous 90 days; however it does take in the Christmas and New Year period which could account for that increase. 12pm to 8pm remain the busiest times of day, and Fri-Sun the busiest days of the week.

Insp Earnshaw had been asked at the previous meeting if the crimes could be broken down into the ages of the offenders. This is not possible with the software that is used.

There has been an increase in burglary with shed breaks, vehicle crime and some residential burglaries. There are some very positive lines of enquiry from an attempted break in on the Regents estate. The new sports centre has also been broken into, which has a big impact on the wider community.

New build sites had been targeted for boiler thefts; however someone has been arrested in West Yorks, and there have been no further new build breaks ins since that arrest. There have also been some break ins on the Allotment sites.

The more organised targeted break ins are conducted by offenders from outside the area.

Insp Earnshaw discussed the use of Community Messenger, and what a useful tool that is for getting information out to the public, and for receiving intelligence from the community.

ACTION: Julie to send Jenny the details of Community Messenger. Jenny to circulate to the group. Jenny to also include the details with the Allotment Tenancy Letters which are due to go out this month.

ASB figures are reduced from the previous 90 days, 45 incidents in the last 90 days.

Rosemary reported students from the College feeling unsafe in Aireville Park, particularly in the area by the canal. There was an assault yesterday, believed to involve people from outside the area. Rosemary reported positive interactions with the Police, and the PCSO coming into college to give talks and support and asked for that to continue.

6. CCTV at the Bus Station

ACTION: Councillor McDaid to speak with Cllr Solloway regarding NYC funding the camera. Jenny to liaise with Insp Earnshaw and Stacey re the PFCC violent crime fund to see if that would be appropriate.

Cllr McDaid raised concerns about issues that people working on the old Dawsons site had discussed with him about people gathering at the alley at the side of the premises. Could CCTV be a possibility there?

Rosemary asked whether putting up CCTV had a significant impact on behaviour, and it is worth the cost. Cllr McDaid felt that CCTV can act as a deterrent, and that the presence of CCTV can give the community confidence and make people feel safer. It also provides vital evidence if incidents do take place. It was felt that CCTV at the bus station should be the priority of this group, and that CCTV at Dawsons could be the responsibility of the Landlord.

ACTION: Sarah to discuss CCTV with the owners of Albion Place.

7. Focus on supporting older people in the community

Cllr McDaid opened the floor to anyone who had suggestions on what this group could do to support older people in the community.

Jenny suggested that it would be beneficial to get a clearer understanding of what is already available, and this could be a good discussion to have with Skipton Step Into Action at the next meeting.

ACTION: Jenny will do some research into what support/activities are already in place, and investigate ways that this group could help promote those activities in the most effective way.

Stacey is planning activities during Safeguarding week in June and will be holding a planning meeting in April. She will circulate an invitation to the planning meeting when a date and time is set.

Cllr Nash felt that a key issue is transport, particularly later in the afternoon when there are very few buses. The lack of public transport position could be something that the Town Council needs to look into.

8. Update on the Youth Bus

Jenny updated the group that unfortunately Inspire Youth do not have capacity to run the sessions in Skipton at the moment. Jenny, Stacey, Kirsty and Cllr McDaid are meeting following this meeting to discuss what options are available to us.

9. Update on the Community Day at Sandylands

Planning is underway, with a date at the end of March to finalise which organisations are attending. There is a poster and a short booking form for any group that want to come. Rosemary offered the assistance some college students on the day, this would be very much appreciated.

Cllr Nash suggested contacting Beyondly- Jenny will contact them.

ACTION: Jenny to circulate poster and booking form. Everyone to circulate to anyone who may want to have a stand.

10.Update from the Youth Council

James updated the group on the Youth Council's plans for their campaign on vaping, including sessions they want to carry out school and the potential for schools/colleges to install vaping alarms. The campaign is to inform people about the legalisation regarding vaping, and also to inform people about the impact of vaping.

Rosemary reported that the College are having some sessions carried out by the Alcohol Education Trust, which includes information about vaping, including spiking of vapes.

For the Keep Skipton Tidy Campaign the litter pick competition will be launched imminently. The Youth Council also want to plan their own litter pick, James will let the group know the date when it is set so that group members can participate and assist with promotion.

Cllr Feather asked if gazebos can be made available for young people to do performances etc outside the Town Hall. Jenny advised that the area outside the Town Hall is owned by NYC, and their permission would need to be sought for any activity in that area. The Town Council does have gazebos that they loan out to people to use on the Market, and depending on what they would be used for there are sometimes spaces outside Rackhams on Market days on the pitches that the Town Council control.

11.Visual Audit Feedback

The visual audit was conducted down Broughton Road. There were a few issues identified such as blocked drains, and some graffiti in the bus shelter, which have been reported.

James reported seeing a lot of rats on the path between Tesco and the Train Station.

ACTION: Jenny will report rats to Network Rail.

Next visual audit to be carried out in the Greatwood area. Date TBC and then circulated.

Open Discussion

There was discussion about the protest planned on Monday 11th March. There will be a March from the Girls School, leaving the school at approx. 4:15pm to make their way to the Town Hall. It is deemed to be low risk. However, there are concerns about the movement of potentially a large number of people along busy roads. Town Hall are aware, STC Staff are aware, Stacey has informed NYC Highways and Prevent Team at NYC.

It was suggested that we make a Community Safety page on the Town Council website, and promote what this group discussed.

ACTION: Jenny to set up website page.

Next Meeting Date TBC.

Summary of Actions

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