



# Skipton Town Council

## Community Safety Working Group

10:00am 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Meeting to be held Skipton BID Office, above Oxfam Book Shop on the High Street**

**In attendance:** Councillor Brian McDaid (Chair), Councillors Winston Feather, Claire Nash & Lewis Morgan Skipton Town Council, Cllrs Andy Solloway and David Noland NYC, Sarah Howsen Skipton BID, Stacey Reffin Community Safety Officer NYC, Sheila Forder PFCC Office, Kirsty Mellin North Yorkshire Youth, Louise Close Chief Officer Skipton Town Council, Jenny Dean Deputy Clerk Skipton Town Council, Sgt Neil Sisson North Yorkshire Police, Noah Garbutt-Skipton Youth Council, Chloe Thwaites Skipton Youth Council, Stephanie Hawkesworth Public Convenience Officer NYC, Victoria Alderson and Rosemary Simpson Craven College, Jonathan Dunk NYC Assets, Karla Burton North Yorkshire Sport, Amy Robinson Craven Community Hub Ltd

### 1. Chair's Welcome

Cllr McDaid welcomed everyone to the meeting, it is two years since the group was set up and these meetings have proved to have a positive impact on partnership working to make people feel safer in Skipton.

### 2. Introductions and apologies

With there being several new members in attendance a round of introductions was done. Sheila explained her role as Inclusivity & Public Confidence Manager at the York and North Yorkshire Office of Police, Fire, Crime and Commissioning Office. Going forward, her colleague Emma will attend the meetings.

Apologies had been received from Insp Earnshaw and Sgt Evans, Emma Nicholson, Jibran Khalil Skipton Academy, Adam Jackson Ermysteds, Karen Martin SELFA

### 3. Minutes from the last meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate representation of the meeting.

### 4. Actions from the last meeting

Several of the actions were on this agenda for discussion, or had been completed. Cllr McDaid had been in contact with Skipton Step Into Action, funding is a concern and the loss of the community café could have a detrimental impact on the community. Cllr Solloway volunteers for SSIA and reported that keeping the community bus running was expensive to fund, Sheila suggested contacted her to see if there were any appropriate grants from the PFCC office that could be applied for.

The Bus service to Greatwood and Horseclose has been extended by North Yorkshire Council to include Saturdays. This is initially for a 12 month period.

## **5. Police**

Sgt Sisson gave the group an update on local crime figures for the period Oct- Dec, comparing 2023 with 2024. 2023 had a total of 213 crimes and 2024 194. Violent crime was reduced from 88 incidents to 59.

There has been a recent spike to residential burglaries with 11 taking place in one night, a suspect from out of area has been identified and investigations are ongoing. The Police are undertaking operations to raise community awareness of burglary.

There had been a series of fires in the Wilderness, the young people involved in those have been identified and dealt with using the Police 4 stage approach. Jenny thanked the Neighbourhood Police Team for attending a recent meeting of the Friends of the Wilderness, it was very informative and much appreciated by the group.

Operations are also taking place re shop lifting, using both high vis and plain clothed patrols. Sarah reported shops such as Cotswolds being targeted. The communication system the shops use is working well and being well utilised. The Police use information on the peak days and times to inform when to do their patrols.

ASB cases were 41 in 2023, and 56 in 2024. However, when Sgt Sisson looked at each case, he identified 12 cases from 2024 that had incorrectly been identified as ASB.

The Bus station remained on the neighbourhood patrol plan, on some occasions there have been 20/30 people gathering in this location. There has been some loud/abusive behaviour from the group, but they have moved on when asked.

There was a discussion about how gathering in the bus station, isn't always for a negative reason, and that feedback from the Youth Bus Sessions was that young people gather there as it is light, there is shelter and WIFI.

There are groups and activities, such as sports, that young people can get involved in, but these can be cost prohibitive for a large number of young people/families.

Stephanie reported that there are occurrences of vandalism to the toilets, and that is little else that can be done to the structure of the toilets to reduce items that can be vandalised.

Reduced funding to both Councils and the police has had a big impact on diversionary activities available.

More use could be made of the notice boards by both the Bus Station and Town Hall car park toilets. Jenny has previously enquireboards and Entwistle at NYC about the Town Council putting items in the notice boards, and was told this was not possible. Stacey will investigate this.

## **6. CCTV at the Bus Station**

There are currently two options available for the CCTV at the bus station, a fixed camera using Connexin who supply the cameras managed by BID and a deployable camera through NYC. The camera would cover the back area of the bus station which is not currently monitored.

If the Connexin Camera was installed, the BID would add it to the existing system, which they have an agreement for until 2029. There may be some ongoing maintenance costs that are very much dependent on NYC street lighting department.

Cllr Andy Solloway has agreed to fund £4500.00 from his locality budget towards the camera, and Stacey Reffin can commit £2000.00 from the community safety budget.

It was agreed that some further information on the two options be sought and the group to have a Teams meeting in January to confirm which option is the most appropriate and cost effective.

## **7. A community hub in Skipton**

Jenny gave a brief update of the community survey and will circulate the results. Most people were interested in a community hub in the town centre. There were issues raised regarding issues such as costs to groups hiring space and duplication with other venues.

Amy gave the group an overview of the old Craven College building, and her vision for how this could be used as a community hub. There is a huge amount of space, including two kitchens, space for a community café and various rooms of differing size including storage space. The space does need to be sustainable, and have regular bookings. Amy is aiming to have some spaces available to hire from Jan/Feb. Anyone is welcome to have a look around the space.

Cllr McDaid reported that he/the Town Council are speaking with community groups to gain information on their requirements and interest, with a view to discussing at the January council meeting.

Jonathan Dunk reported that NYC are reviewing all its property assets, but that this option of the old college building seemed to suit the requirements of a community hub.

## **8. Youth Provision**

Kirsty gave an update on the Youth Bus Sessions, and feedback from the young people that attended. The Youth Club at Broughton Road Community Centre will be opening in January and is open to all young people. As the Youth Bus was not able to attend as many sessions as originally planned, some of the funding will be used for resources for the Youth Club based on consultation with the young people. Information on the club has been sent directly to schools in the area, this does rely on the schools passing the information on to their students.

A consultation session was also held at Greatwood and Horseclose Community Centre to gauge interest in a youth club there. There is an online survey that will stay live until the new year. The survey can be completed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C3RBKJF>

## **9. Active Communities Manager**

Karla Burton, Active Communities Manager for North Yorkshire, introduced herself and explained her role. Their key focus is preventative work and involves encouraging communities to be active including living well and active travel.

Cllr Nash suggested that Karla get in touch with Louise Close at the Town Council who has been working on active travel with the Councillors.

## **10. Update from the Youth Council campaigns**

Noah updated the group on the Youth Council campaigns. Details of the session in January on behavioural change have been circulated to the group. The Youth Council has also been working on the Nature Recovery Strategy at Aireville Park and are working with Trading Standards to become test purchasers.

### **11. Open Discussion**

Cllr Feather reported that there will be a new Army Cadet group setting up in Skipton soon, he will make the group aware of the details when he has them.

Stacey reported that there will be a knife bin located in Skipton by the end of January. This is a preventative measure so that anyone has a place to dispose of any unwanted knives safely.

Next Meeting- Teams meeting in January 2025 to discuss CCTV