

# CHAMBER NEWS

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## Banking Update

The loss of all seven banks and building societies, as well as all but two of Knaresborough's town centre ATMs, had a significant impact on the town. Not only due to the loss of local amenities, but also reduced footfall and other challenges for the local business community.

Knaresborough Chamber campaigned against banking closures and more recently has worked with local councillors to help address the needs of local businesses and work towards solutions to the town's banking problems.

Current banking projects include a multi-bank Banking HUB, the re-instatement of a Market Place ATM and a community branch of Newcastle Building Society in the library. Both the Banking HUB and Newcastle Building Society projects will include provision for the business community.



## Dress up for the Jubilee

Chamber are running a 'Dress up for Jubilee' competition in honour of the Queen's upcoming Platinum Jubilee. Simply upload a photo of yourself or your team in your best 1950's or Jubilee themed outfit using the hashtag [#knaresboroughjubileedressup](#) and tag in [@knaresboroughct](#). There is a £50 cash prize and some free publicity for the winner. See our website [knaresboroughchamber.org](#) for more details and terms.

There are also various community events taking place in Knaresborough Market Place and the area surrounding Knaresborough House on Saturday 4 June. If you or any members of your staff are interested in volunteering to help marshal these events, please email [hello@knaresboroughchamber.org](mailto:hello@knaresboroughchamber.org).

## Beginners Guide to Knaresborough

A key thing highlighted by Chamber surveys and group discussions is the importance of local trade for many businesses in the town.

Whilst some do rely heavily on tourists, many are almost entirely dependent on local residents or businesses. The new housing developments on the outskirts of the town will bring new residents to Knaresborough, many of whom may struggle to feel part of the community due to geographical location.

*Chamber recognised an opportunity to engage with this new potential customer base and have worked with Knaresborough Town Council, Connectors, Rotary and Lions to produce a 'Beginners Guide to Knaresborough' booklet, ably narrated by Roger the Town Crier.*

These booklets have been delivered to new residents and also distributed to local estate agents. New residents can also find out more information on the [knaresborough.community](https://knaresborough.community) website, managed by Knaresborough Connectors.



## Support Local Campaign

It has been a strange and often challenging few years for many people, including business owners and staff. Chamber recognised that it was vital to help Knaresborough businesses weather the storm, both with support and advice and also through our 'Support Local' campaign. This ensured that our town's businesses were there to service our local community during the pandemic restrictions and also as we emerged.

Reassuringly our recent 'Trading Conditions Survey' indicated that three quarters of those who responded reported trade had returned to at least pre-COVID levels, although we will obviously continue to monitor this.



## Knaresborough Town Crier

We may be biased, but we think Roger our Town Crier does a fantastic job as an ambassador for our town. So much so, we even treated him to a new outfit a few years ago. You can hear Roger 'crying' each week at Knaresborough's historic Wednesday Market and at community events too.

If you would like to book him for a community event you are organising, or maybe even a business launch, please email [hello@knaresboroughchamber.org](mailto:hello@knaresboroughchamber.org) (note that a small fee may apply for business appearances).

## Member Spotlight

We were delighted to welcome new member, Steve Coe of Coherent Mind, to speak to us about Wellbeing in the Workplace at a recent Chamber meeting.

We discussed the possibility of a few businesses coming together to book Steve for some group sessions with staff in the future and already have interest from some members. If you would like to find out more, please email [hello@knaresboroughchamber.org](mailto:hello@knaresboroughchamber.org).

## Hanging Baskets

Thanks to everyone who has ordered hanging baskets again this year. These will be put up around town shortly, just in time to help Knaresborough shine for the Queen's Jubilee



## Knaresborough Voice

Chamber is part of a group of community organisations that are exploring key issues relating to the [future reorganisation of local government](#). A recent event organised by Chain Lane Community Hub and Knaresborough Connectors, but involving about a dozen other town groups, reviewed findings from several recent local surveys to identify areas where working together could bring positive change. The group includes members of the new Town Council, so we'll hopefully be singing from the same hymn sheet as a town when discussing what responsibilities we wish to see devolved from the new Unitary Authority from April 2024.

Chamber will continue to play a key role in these discussions going forward. You can find out more at [www.knaresboroughvoice.org.uk](http://www.knaresboroughvoice.org.uk).



## FEVA Window Competition

August will see the return of the annual Chamber FEVA Window competition. Let's all turn the town pink again for this fantastic community event.



## Christmas Market

We know it's a long way off, but planning is already well underway for the annual Knaresborough Christmas Market weekend, organised by Knaresborough Chamber, Rotary and Lions. Make sure you have 3 and 4 December in your diaries.

If you are a local retail business, stall applications for this year's market will be opening shortly and there's a 25% discount for Chamber members too.

Find out more at [www.knaresboroughchristmasmarket.co.uk](http://www.knaresboroughchristmasmarket.co.uk)

## Get in Touch

We love to hear from our members and other local businesses. If you have any suggestions, feedback or ideas which you feel could help support Knaresborough's business community, please get in touch, or look out for one of our regular town surveys. Email us at: [hello@knaresboroughchamber.org](mailto:hello@knaresboroughchamber.org).



## Recognition for our Historic Market

We were delighted to contribute to a new Market Place blue plaque, commissioned by Knaresborough Civic Society to commemorate the town's historic Wednesday market.



The market is one of the oldest in the country, with King Edward II granting Knaresborough a Royal Charter to hold a market in 1310, and is an important asset for our community.

Chamber have played an active role in its preservation over the past 5 years and we hope that it will continue to thrive at the heart of our historic market town for many years to come.

## Find Out More

We welcome all types of businesses to join Chamber, from sole traders to much larger organisations. To find out more about what we do, visit [knaresboroughchamber.org](http://knaresboroughchamber.org), email us at [hello@knaresboroughchamber.org](mailto:hello@knaresboroughchamber.org), or come along to one of our meetings.

These take place bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, downstairs at the Mitre from 7pm.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 6 July.