



# **Knaresborough & District Chamber Limited<sup>1</sup>**

## **Annual Report for the period October 2024 to March 2025<sup>2</sup>**

### **1 Introduction**

This is the second year of Chamber as an incorporated company limited by guarantee, extended to align with the financial year, therefore covering 18 months. During that year volunteer Directors and additional supporters have served Chamber in different roles as follows:

Directors serving during the year: Peter Lacey (Sept 22); Charlotte Gale (Sept 22 to Nov 24); Garrey Haase (August 24); Andrew Hart (August 24); Kelly Young (Sept 22).

Other members of the core volunteer team serving for part of all of the year include: Phil Kilner (Web support); Tracey Kilner (membership admin support); Uliana Reshetnyk (social media); Neil Webster; Steve Teggins (Market liaison).

Under the rules of the Company Directors are required to step down after three years but may stand for re-election. Having been incorporated in September 2022 no current Directors are up for re-election.



### **2 Achievements for the year**

Chamber is rightly proud of its contribution to the Town with a number of signature contributions including:

- Town Criers – Mark and Andrew's contribution to the Town goes from strength to strength. In addition to the weekly Market Day cries they attended 34 events across 2024. Mark also won the Best Themed Cry at the Loyal Company of Town Criers British Championships in Sleaford, achieving 3rd place (out of 16) overall. The Town Crier Facebook page has 657 followers, and the regular posting of the weekly Market Place cry regularly receives 500 views.
- Open meetings for members and supporters – Chamber has continued to hold its regular bi-monthly



<sup>1</sup> Company Number **14383494**, incorporated September 2023. Not for Profit, Directors are voluntary.

<sup>2</sup> Photo credits Mike Whorley & Charlotte Gale.

meetings to introduce new businesses to the town, discuss typical issues and network.

- Other membership support – Chamber has struggled to maintain the high standards of communication delivered by Charlotte Gail who stood back temporarily from this role in the Autumn of 2024. We will endeavour to improve on this important area during 2025/26.
- Lobbying for the town – Chamber has played an active role in lobbying for a number of key issues facing the town including:
  - ⇒ The Post Office service in the town, including its temporary closure and relocation.
  - ⇒ The market, where Chamber members have actively engaged with market traders, the Town Council and North Yorkshire Council members and officers to secure the future of our historic market.
  - ⇒ Town centre parking, where Chamber has lobbied North Yorkshire Council over the introduction of EV charging points and are now actively engaged with the head of Car Parks at North Yorkshire Council to seek to address wider parking issues in the town.
  - ⇒ Chamber has engaged actively with the new York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Authorities initiative on High Streets and are hopeful that a grant application as part of the first round of funding will be successful.
- Events:

- ⇒ Christmas Market – Chamber continues to be part of the working group that puts on the annual Christmas Market, regularly considered better than any other within a day's travel (and we all know who that includes!)
- ⇒ Party in the Castle – the second Party in the Castle was a great success again, fast establishing itself as another major annual event on the Town Calendar.



- Economic Development – Chamber's success in securing a major grant to explore Town Connectivity provides a basis on which to bring businesses and other together to explore future investment (see below for next steps).



- Sponsorship – Chamber has provided support and sponsorship for a number of community events, showing our commitment to support and enable increased footfall in the town. These have included the Christmas Tree festival, the Bed race and Henshaw's arts and crafts Centre.

### 3 Financial summary

Summary accounts shown below for the 18months to March 2025 show a reduction in funds available (excluding hypothecated funds for SPF Connectivity Project and Party in the Castle) of £517.39. The available balance going forward was £2,074.94.

The main source of income is from Membership fees, with major items of expenditure being the Town Crier (£1,000 over 18mths); Accounting (£544 covering two years); Insurance (£1,215 over two years), meeting expenses (£500) and sponsorship of town community events (£630). Chamber also invested in a new branded Gazebo for its own promotion at a cost of £343, which is an investment for a number of years.

Fundraising for the Party in the Castle 2025 had already started before the end of the financial year with a total of £949 raised at that point. Chamber also held £10,000 against the completion of the Town Connectivity report being prepared by Ben Carey Tourism.

Knaresborough & District Chamber Ltd accounts for October 23 to March 25 (18 months)					
[Subject to audit]					
<b>Brought forward (1st October 2023)</b>				£2,592.33	
<b>General activity</b>	Income	Expenditure			
Membership	£2,322.50		*		KEY
Christmas market stall	£180.00				* 2yrs
Town crier	£120.00	£1,000.00	**		** 18mths
Accounting		£544.00	*		
Admin		£60.00			
Advertising		£72.00			
AGM & mtg expenses		£500.00			
Bank charges		£90.80	**		
Gazebo		£342.98			
Insurance		£1,215.01	*		
Sponsorship/events		£630.00			
Town maps	£3,767.00	£2,923.60			
Web support		£300.00			
Other misc income	£584.00				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,973.50</b>	<b>£7,678.39</b>		<b>-£704.89</b>	
<b>Projects</b>					
Land train	£714.00	£714.00		£0.00	
Party in the castle '24	£5,468.14	£5,280.64		£187.50	
Party in the castle '25	£948.69			£948.69	
Town Connectivity	£21,000.00	£11,000.00		£10,000.00	
<b>Account as at 1st April 2025</b>				<b>£13,023.63</b>	
	<b>Committed:</b>				
	Town Connectivity			£10,000.00	
	Party in the Castle '25			£948.69	
	Available balance			£2,074.94	

## 4 Looking ahead

Chamber's priorities as we enter a new financial year are:

1. To continue to support our ***Town Criers*** in their excellent work across the Town.
2. To improve ***membership support*** with more regular newsletters and other information of interest.
3. To continue to lobby on behalf of the Town for improvements in ***car parking***.
4. To build on the 2025 Carey Report being launched at the AGM by holding a workshop event to explore ***improvements in town connectivity*** as set out in that report.
5. To work constructively to generate resources for the town to invest in ***Economic Development*** through an enhanced relationship with both North Yorkshire Council and the York & North Yorkshire Mayor.
6. To play an active part in any development of a ***Community Partnership*** being proposed by North Yorkshire Council building on the engagement within the Knaresborough Voice initiative.

These priorities will be aired at the AGM on the 13<sup>th</sup> March for comment, support and where appropriate adding to. We are always ready to facilitate activities consistent with the Chamber objectives, particularly where people are able and willing to contribute to realising their ambition for the town. We are a membership organisation, and the core group and Directors are only there to support the ambition of its members.

We want to thank the whole team and wider group of supporters who have made all of these initiatives possible and look forward to continuing to work with them and others in the years ahead.