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pr 1078.Knaresborough market town initiative.doc DATE: 23 November 2004

RENAISSANCE TEAM GOES TO MARKET

WHEN someone in a wonderful ancient market town like Knaresborough has something to sell, they usually take it to ‘market’. That is why members of the Knaresborough Renaissance Town team will be manning a stall in the Market Place on Saturday 4 and Wednesday, 8 December. Members of the team, who come from different walks of life in the town, have been working hard with consultants funded by Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency) to try and put a vision together of how Knaresborough might look in 20-30 years’ time.

A lot of ideas have come out, some controversial such as:

- Should there be a one-way system around the town to relieve traffic on the High Street?
- Establishment of a concert/theatre complex in a riverside setting
- Relocation of the Knaresborough Railway station
- A lift or funicular railway from Waterside to the castle top
- A real time interpretation facility for the castle and its environs?

Councillor Bill Hoult Chair of the Town team comments: “We need to know what people want for the future, not just about the team’s ideas but any burning issues that individuals and groups feel strongly about. There will be a lot more consultation over the next few months with local organisations to get as wide range of opinions as possible before a final report is produced.

“The importance of hearing local people’s views cannot be stressed too highly. Many residents will remember that there was wide consultation on our Market Place, which resulted in major changes to the then consultant’s ideas. English Heritage recently cited Knaresborough Market Place as an example of good practice. That’s why your views are so important.”

While being a Renaissance Town doesn’t necessarily attract funding it will help open up a few investment opportunity doors. A factor in Knaresborough’s favour is that a lot of pre-planning has already taken place in the town via a variety of local partnerships, particularly the successful Knaresborough Regeneration Partnership.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Bill Hoult is available for comment on 01423 867804.