

**A joint initiative between
North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner
&
York Advanced Motorists**

Background

- **AJ 1** was the first registration number issued in the North Riding of Yorkshire when number plates were introduced in 1903. Its first use was in that year on Chief Constable Major Sir Robert Bower's Argyll car. The plate was no longer in use and in June 2019, NYPF&CC Julia Mulligan and Chief Constable Lisa Winward agreed to sell the registration number with the money raised to be invested in road safety initiatives. The number was sold for £190k, and the '*AJ 1 Project Road Safety Fund Grant*' was established. Our bid has won just under 5% of the total fund.
- We won the funding because we identified an imperative area of road safety - to keep CHILDREN SAFE. We want ALL DRIVERS to feel that they can transport their children safely – especially during car journeys to and from school. We described the advantages of the IAM Advanced Driver Course in considerable detail, and this convinced NYPF&CC that we could make a significant improvement to road safety in our area.

Our Project explained

- We will offer school children's parents, grandparents, guardians or other family members who hold a current GB full driving licence the opportunity to train for the Advanced Driver's Test with a full fee reimbursement on completion.
- The objective being to improve the SAFETY of CHILDREN both during car journeys and around the environs of the school and other busy 'drop off' areas. We have entered a contractual agreement with the NYPF&CC which will involve detailed progress reporting, customer satisfaction assessment, and ongoing long-term road safety measurement. We are committed to normal course delivery which will include various 'classroom' activities – we are progressing well with these plans, and IAM have promised full support as required. We will also have visitors from N Yorkshire Traffic police which will benefit all members.
- When possible, and within any relevant social distancing guidelines, we will welcome additional attendance by any members in order to provide ideal experience sharing opportunities – it will be wonderful to look forward to these occasions when it is finally deemed safe to return to 'normal'!
- We will ensure that you are fully informed with an events diary for 2021.
- Our planned start date is 1st July 2021 (covid permitting), and the project will run for an 18-month period. The N Yorks Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner has awarded a huge contribution to the cost of 100 Advanced Driving courses, and IAM are also helping by heavily discounting each course for us.



York Team are ready!

- We are absolutely delighted to have a new and exciting initiative to enjoy in 2021 - bringing a gradual intake of 100 new members to York IAM, but also opening up opportunities for interesting member interaction, as well as providing an ideal link-up with the NYPF&CC in our local area.
- Our Observer team are looking forward to getting started with driving again post lockdown, and we have new Observers waiting to start training.
- It is important to assure you all that all our current Full and Associate members will not be neglected! We are all working hard to provide a full calendar of driving and events for you in 2021. Refresher drives (from Dobbies Garden Centre, A59) will be bookable, we hope from July (covid permitting), and events will recommence as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. We will greatly value your contribution to welcoming these new members and sharing your experience of Advanced Driving.
- A special thanks to all of you who spent time on the phone with Sue during October & November last year (apologies to any who were not reached) – lots of ideas were put forward and are currently in planning. Please feel free to contact Sue with any queries, either about this project, or generally about events / ideas for 2021.

Prospective Candidates – can you help?

- Anyone living within our postcode areas who regularly drives with school children as passengers can apply.
- The initiative will be publicised on York Group website and social media as well as similarly by NYPF&CC. We will also be contacting schools in a planned mailout, and will attend parent teacher meetings when requested. We are organised to manage a phased intake of candidates – all will initially have to be conversationally assessed (very friendly!) to ascertain their level of interest and to ensure that they fully understand the commitment that the course requires. They will then be given an activation code to enable course purchase at a reduced rate via IAM in the normal way. Upon completion of the course they will then receive a full refund which will be activated and controlled locally by our Membership Secretary and our Treasurer.
- Do you know anyone living in our area who may be interested? Please discuss with them and supply them with Sue's contact details below – we will be delighted to hear from any serious applicants, and we are confident that you can all describe the course perfectly! Also – any queries, concerns, congratulations (!) – contact any of the committee.

Sue Kemp

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