



Ripley Town Council

6 Grosvenor Road
Ripley DE5 3JF

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Ripley Town Council Annual Reports 2019 – 2021

Introduction

This report is for the periods 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. We were unable to hold an Annual Assembly in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The information in this report covers both years.

Coronavirus Pandemic – effects of Ripley Town Council

At the onset on the pandemic, Ripley Town Council followed Government guidelines and closed our Town Centre office and our two members of staff started working from home, where they remain. We are hoping to reopen the office at the end of June 2021, in line with government guidance.

We started to hold our Council and Committee meetings online via Zoom. This way of meeting has proved to be a good way of structuring meetings and Councillor attendance has been good. However, this may have put off members of the public attending our meetings, but it hasn't prevented a steady number of them joining us over the past year.

The 2019/2020 Mayor of Ripley, Councillor Tony Holmes carried on as Mayor for the 2020/2021 period. Understandably, Councillor Holmes and his Consort, Councillor Lyndsay Cox were unable to conduct Mayoral business as all events in 2020 were cancelled.

Derbyshire Association of Local Council Awards (DALC)

In 2019, Ripley Town Council was given the Highly Commended accolade from DALC to acknowledge the services we provide to our local community through the free events we organise. We were also recognised for the free youth initiatives we organise like the Extreme Wheels, Ripley Music Hub and Ripley Youth Hub.

In 2020, we were thrilled to receive the Council of the Year Award for a second time (first awarded in 2018). We were given this honour for organising several widely attended community events during 2019. It was also given for Ripley Town Council engaging with the residents in the Ripley Township by consulting them on decisions regarding new play equipment at Cedar Road Playground and film choices for the outdoor cinema and importantly, engaging with young people by providing the Ripley Youth Hub for them to attend on Wednesday evenings.

Planning Applications

The Town Council continues to consider and comment on planning applications submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council for developments within the Ripley Township and has a Neighbourhood Plan in place. However, the Neighbourhood Plan is to be reviewed in the coming year to keep in line with NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).

Play Equipment

After public consultation via our website, social media and newsletter, a new slide and rocking horse was installed at Cedar Avenue and has been a great success. RTC are responsible for the play equipment at Porterhouse Road and Cedar Avenue which is inspected and maintained on a regular basis.

Bus Shelters

RTC have cleaned and maintained the 13 bus shelters the Council previously installed throughout the township.

Ripley Greenway

The Town Council have continued to empty the litter bins on Ripley Greenway in order to keep the area tidy for people to enjoy. The usage of Ripley Greenway increased during 2020 when we were in lockdown and we saw an increase in the amount of litter. Derbyshire Probation Service who usually conducted litter picks and emptying of the bins ceased during the pandemic, therefore we employed a contractor to do this work. RTC have installed another litter bin on the greenway to ease the growing litter problem.

Toilets

The Town Council have continued to manage and clean the toilets on Ripley Market Place and Heage. However, during 2020 and into 2021, we have had to close the male and female toilet due to vandalism. The disabled toilet has remained open and is accessed by a radar key that disabled people can obtain from their local authority.

Policing in Ripley

Ripley Town Council continue to work with the Police to keep the township safe. The Ripley SNT are engaging more with our meetings and send regular reports of crime in the Township and details of new initiatives and campaigns they are working on.

Environmental, Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan

Ripley Town Council have adopted an Environment, Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan and the document is a live document which is updated on a regular basis. The fight against environment, climate and biodiversity change needs extensive co-operation and partnerships between and amongst public and private sector organisations and the role of local organisations will be pivotal, and the Council shall seek to provide as much leadership, enablement, and encouragement as it can.

Ripley Youth Hub

This year, we started the Ripley Youth Hub at the community facility on Greenwich recreation Ground on Nottingham Road in Ripley. This was for young people aged 12-18 to attend on a Wednesday evening. We worked with Blend Youth to devise a programme which they delivered each week. We also held music sessions, delivered by Loz Shaw from Fleet Arts. As the weeks went on, more young people attended. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner which enabled us to purchase games and equipment for the Youth Hub. We also used Extreme Wheels to provide fun and interactive skateboarding and scooter training on the skate park at the venue.

Publicity

The Town Council believes that it is important to keep residents of Ripley informed about its activities. The public and press are welcome at all meetings of the Town Council, and time is allocated at the start of the meetings for public participation. Representatives from the local newspapers are invited to attend meetings in order to report Council matters more fully.

The Town Council publish a newsletter which is delivered to 14,100 properties at least four times a year in the Township, giving various information to residents. We believe we have established a strong, recognisable brand so when the newsletter lands through letter boxes, it is instantly recognisable as a Ripley Town Council publication.

We have a website, which as relaunched in April 2021. It has information about what is happening in the Ripley Township, businesses, traders and retailers and links to the Borough and County Council. We also have actively used Social Media to get our information to the public. Our Facebook page proves a positive and popular media vehicle increased to 3784 'likes'. We also have a Twitter page with 192 followers and Instagram followers 714.

In early 2020, we started a subsidiary Facebook page called 'Shop Local – Shop Ripley' to promote the shops, businesses and activities in our Township. To date, this page has 871 'likes' and is engaged with by both businesses and members of the public.

Grant Aid

The Town Council has continued its policy of financial assistance to local clubs and organisations. Grant awards have been awarded as follows:

2019 grant recipients

1	Ambergate Carnival Committee	£500
2	Waingroves Methodist Church	£100
3	Waingroves Well Dressing	£200
4	Sawmills Over 60's Club	£100
5	Greenhillocks Fellowship Club	£100
6	Highedge Historical Society	£100
7	1st Ripley Guides	£100
8	Ripley Girlguiding Headquarters	£100
9	Woodies Wings	£100
10	Ripley Ladies Group	£150
11	Carousel Craft Group	£100
12	Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre	£0*
13	Waingroves Community Association	£100
14	Waingroves Community Woodland Trust	£200
15	Sawmills Village Hall	£100
16	Yellow Daisies Stay and Play	£0*
17	Marehay Community Trust	£250
18	Ripley Running Club	£100
19	Waingroves Show	£100
20	Ripley Morris	£100

21	Stay and Play (Marehay)	£0*
22	AIM Excelsum School of Music	£500
23	4th Ripley Brownies	£100
24	Ripley and District Heritage Trust	£200
25	Ripley and Alfreton Tennis Club	£500
26	Friends of Ripley Greenway	£100
27	Ripley Old Age Pensioners Association (Ripley Tuesday Club)	£200
28	Ambergate Out of School Club	£200
29	B.E.A.R.S Breastfeeding Group (Ripley)	£100
30	The Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust	£0*
31	Waingroves Drama Group	£100
32	Heage Village Hall	£100
33	Amber Valley Movie Makers	£100
34	Waingroves and Codnor Holiday Club	£200
35	Ambergate Cricket Club	£750
36	Butterley United Cricket Club	£750
37	Marehay Cricket Club	£750
38	Ripley Town Football Club	£750
39	Amber Sound	£3,000
40	Ripley Music Festival	£3,000
41	Greenwich Park Sports Partnership	£750*
	TOTAL	£14,750

2020 grant recipients

	RTC Grant Applications	Grant 2020
1	Greenhillocks Fellowship	200
2	Yellow Daisies Stay and Play	100
3	Heage & Nether Heage Carnival	100
4	Waingroves Methodist Church	0*
5	Nether Heage Methodist Church	0*
6	Stay and Play (Waingroves)	100
7	Friends of Ripley Greenway	100
8	Ripley OAP Association	100
9	Ripley Ladies Group	150
10	Marehay Community Trust	250
11	Heage Village Hall	100
12	Woodies Wings	100
13	Ripley Morris Men	100
14	Sawmills Over 60's Club	0**
15	Fritchley Comm Ass (Not in Ripley)	0***
16	Ambergate Carnival	500
17	Ripley Girl Guides Headquarters	100
18	1st Ripley Guides	100
19	Amber Valley Movie Makers	100
20	Ripley Leisure Cent Badminton Club	100
21	Ripley School of Boxing	100

22	Ripley and Alfreton Tennis Club	500
23	Meadow Road Neighbour Watch	100
24	Heage Parkside Allotment Ass	100
25	Waingroves Show	100
26	Waingroves Drama Group	100
27	Friends of Carr Wood	200
28	Waingroves Community Ass	100
29	Marehay Bowls Club	100
30	Marehay Methodist Church	0*
31	4th Ripley Brownies	100
32	SISU	100
33	Sawmills Village Hall	100
34A	Pentrich & SW Revolution	100
34	Ambergate Cricket Club	750
35	Butterley United Cricket Club	750
36	Marehay Cricket Club	750
37	Ripley Town Football Club	750
38	Amber Sound	3,000
39	Ripley Music Festival	3,000
40	Greenwich Park Sports Partnership	750
41	Waingroves Woodland Trust (minute 150219/8)	1,000
42	CAB Derbyshire 2019 / 2020	8,300
	OVERALL TOTAL OF GRANTS GIVEN	£23,150

Twinning

Ripley is twinned with Chateau-Renault, a small town in the Loire district in Central France. The settlement of Chateau-Renault dates from the feudal wars that occurred in the eleventh century between the Counts of Blois and Counts of Anjou. In the early part of the century a local member of the court of the Count of Blois was charged by the construction of a defensive structure (most likely a simple wooden tower) on the site of the present Chateau. He named this defensive structure after his son Renaud; this was the original of the town's name. However, the defensive structure was not enough, and the area was soon lost to the Counts of Anjou. It was under the new management that land was gifted for the construction of a chapel and a small settlement at the foot of the castle site. The town was renowned through nineteenth century France for the leather produced there, with levels of calcium carbonate in the water giving the leather produced there a thick resistance nature and the arrival of the railway in 1867 ensured that this product had access to the market. There is a copy of the signed Charter between the two Towns in the Town Hall which was signed by Ripley in 1996. There is a separate Twinning Association totally independent of the Town Council, some of whom enjoyed a visit to Chateau Renault.

Events

Ripley Town Council continues to organise a number of events, competitions and awards during the year as follows:

2019

Best kept Allotment and best kept Garden Competition supported by the Midlands Co-operative Society. This competition is open to all residents in the Ripley Area including Ambergate, Bullbridge, Hammersmith, Heage, Lower Hartshay, Marehay, Nether Heage, Ridgeway, Sawmills, Street Lane, Upper Hartshay and Waingroves and the Allotment site holders. This year was again, very successful and there were wonderful garden displays and allotment plots to be proud of.

Certificate of Merit Award

Ripley resident, Alan Carter won the 2019 Certificate of Merit for his work volunteering with Derbyshire Neighbourhood Watch. He was presented with this accolade at the Mayors Civic Service.

Ripley Fair Dinner

This annual event is organised by The Town Council and the Showmen's Guild at various locations with each person attending paying for their meal.

Remembrance Parade and Service

Ripley Town Cllrs attended the service held around the Ripley War Memorial at All Saints Church with several dignitaries and families who had lost members in recent conflicts, laying wreaths and crosses. There was a great turnout for the parade, with people lining the road. The Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion have taken over the running of the Remembrance Parade and Service. Ripley Mayor attended the parade and service in Ambergate and Heage.

Spring Festival and Well Dressing

We were extremely fortunate with the weather for this well attended event. Ripley Market Place was busy with market stalls and entertainment. St. John's School in Ripley designed and installed the well dressing – the theme being the Moon Landing. The Mayor officially opened the event, and the well dressing blessing was conducted by Rev. Wigram.

Wool Bombing

For the first time, we enrolled the local community; schools, businesses, families, individuals and groups to take part in our Wool Bombing project. We dressed trees on Ripley Market Place and in Crossley Park in knitted or crocheted works of art. The community loved getting involved in this project – working together to produce something colourful and fun for everyone to enjoy. It brought people into Ripley to visit the displays and in turn spent time in the town shopping at eating / drinking.

Big Day Out

We again held this event at Midland Railway Butterley. It was extremely well attended by the local community. We had lots of exciting entertainment for young children and held an antiques valuation in the afternoon for residents to bring along items to be valued by Bamford's Auctions. We were pleased that several local groups were able to attend to promote themselves.

Outdoor Cinema

For the first time, we organised a free outdoor cinema on Greenwich Recreation Ground in Ripley. Beforehand, we asked the community to vote for the film they wanted to watch. The result was The Greatest Showman. This was an extremely well attended event for which we received many positive comments.

Harvest Market

This was the first time we held a Harvest Market. We had several food and drink stalls and a live cookery demonstration. This event had a steady number of visitors throughout the day; however, it wasn't as well attended as the usual markets we organise.

Bands on Crossley Park

Throughout June, July and August 2019, we held six live music sessions at the Bandstand on Crossley Park in Ripley. We were fortunate with the weather and all events were well attended.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Ripley Market Place was packed with people for this event. One of the best turnouts we have ever had for the light switch on. Newstead Brass lead the crowds in singing the Christmas Carols and rev Wigram preformed the service. Ripley Lions provided Father Christmas and we gave out hundreds of Christmas advent calendars to excited children. We received many comments congratulating us on the lights in the town.

Christmas Market

This year our main feature was the large Ferris wheel on Ripley Market Place. Free rides were available to the community. We had many market stalls and entertainment for all the family. The event was officially opened by the Mayor and his special guest, 100-year-old Ripley resident who was honoured to have the first ride on the Ferris Wheel with the Mayor.

2020

Best kept Allotment and best kept Garden Competition supported by the Midlands Co-operative Society.

This competition is open to all residents in the Ripley Area including Ambergate, Bullbridge, Hammersmith, Heage, Lower Hartshay, Marehay, Nether Heage, Ridgeway, Sawmills, Street Lane, Upper Hartshay and Waingroves and the Allotment site holders. Following government guidelines and social distancing, the Mayor, his Consort and an Independent judge were able to visit all the entrants and conduct the very difficult job of choosing the best three in each category. This year was again, very successful and there were wonderful garden displays and allotment plots to be proud of.

Remembrance Service

This Year, due to Covid-19, there wasn't a Remembrance Parade due to the health and safety of public and those taking place. Instead, invited dignitaries and members of the Ripley RBL attended a short, socially distanced service in the grounds of All Saints' Church, Ripley at the War Memorial. Wreaths were laid throughout the day. They Mayor of Ripley attended to pay his respect to those who lost their lives in conflict.

Wreaths were also laid by Councillors in Heage, Ambergate and Waingroves.

Certificate of Merit. The Certificate of Merit is awarded to a person who has been nominated for their contribution to public life and must live or work in the Ripley Township. A Selection Committee, chaired by an independent person then selects the nominee from the nomination forms sent in by the general public. This year the Certificate of Merit was awarded to Ripley resident, Mary Foster for her voluntary work with The Friends of Ripley Greenway. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 guidelines, the Mayor was unable to present her with her certificate at a Civic Service, so it had to be posted to her.

Ripley Fair opening

Unfortunately, for the second time in its history, the Ripley Charter Fair was cancelled. However, the Mayor of Ripley continued the tradition of reading the Charter of the evening that the Fair was due to open. It was a small, socially distanced affair with the Mayor, his consort and a couple of members of the Showman's Guild, who brought along with them a wonderful, musical organ. The proceedings were recorded, and the video was broadcast on Facebook and on the Ripley Town Council website for the residents to see and feel part of.

Ripley's Big Day Out

This event had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19 and government guidelines.

Ripley Christmas Lights switch-on

This popular event also had to be cancelled, however a video of the lights on Ripley Market Place was published on social media to let residents know they were on and that the waving Snowman was back!

Ripley Spring Festival and Well Dressing

This event had to be cancelled.

Community Wool Bombing

This event had to be cancelled.

Bands in Crossley Park

These events had to be cancelled.

Ripley Music Festival

This popular community event had to be cancelled.

Outdoor Cinema

This event was cancelled.

Ripley Family Christmas Market

This event was cancelled.

Civic Service and Civic Dinner

We weren't able to hold either of these events due to government guidelines and lockdown preventing this.

Hanging Baskets –

The Council has again, for the 13th year contracted for Hanging Baskets to be put up around the Township and baskets along the railings on the Market Place opposite the top of Grosvenor Road, what a fantastic display again this year. There are also 5 concrete planters planted up around the township and this year there was tiered floral displays in 4 locations on entrances to the township.

Ripley Town Council – Full list of Councillors details (2019 to May 2020)

Ambergate Ward

Cllr. C. Worth 01773 853571 24 Derby Road Ambergate DE56 2GE

Cllr. N. Weaving 01773 856375 9 Riversdale, Ambergate, DE56 2EU

Butterley Ward

Cllr. S. Freeborn 01773 749000 56 Alfred Street Ripley DE5 3LD

Cllr. T. Holmes 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

Central Ward

Cllr. R. Ashton 01773 745420 28 West Avenue Ripley DE5 3JD

Cllr. L. Cox 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

East Ward

Cllr. S. Carter 01773 741600 37 Bridle Lane Ripley DE5 3BL

Cllr. M. Jones 01773 742225 9 Manvers Avenue Ripley DE5 3ER

Cllr. C. Manterfield 07507 116931 23 Dannah Crescent, Ripley, DE5 3BE

Cllr. R. Emmas-Williams 01773 746543 29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL

Cllr. I. Fisher 01773 745221 54 Waingroves Road Waingroves Ripley DE5 9TD

Elms Ward

Cllr A. Bridge 01773 744119 26 Hawthorn Avenue Ripley DE5 3PJ

Cllr. J. Gregory	01773 744477	43 Peartree Avenue Ripley DE5 3PR
Cllr. C. Cutting	01773 747105	101 Highfield Way Ripley DE5 3RT
Heage Ward		
Cllr. P. Boles	01773 747664	291 Derby Road, Marehay, Ripley, DE5 8JN
Cllr P. Lobley	01773 856874	2a Cookfield Heage DE56 2TF
Cllr. M. Gascoigne	07710 441936	12 Bentfield Road, Nether Heage, Belper, DE56 2AX
Marehay Ward		
Cllr M. Wilson	01773 772712	7 Bowler Street Ripley DE5 8HZ
North Ward		
Cllr P. Moss	01773 748827	123 Warmwells Lane Ripley DE5 8JE
Cllr C. Saunders	07980 191916	61, Warmwells Lane, Ripley, DE5 8JB
Waingroves Ward		
Cllr. D. Williams	01773 744754	19 Queens View Drive Waingroves DE5 9TP

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Cllr. C. Worth	01773 853571	24 Derby Road Ambergate DE56 2GE
Cllr. N. Weaving	01773 856375	9 Riversdale, Ambergate, DE56 2EU

Butterley Ward

Cllr. S. Freeborn	01773 749000	56 Alfred Street Ripley DE5 3LD
Cllr. T. Holmes	01773 742574	12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

Central Ward

Cllr. R. Ashton	01773 745420	28 West Avenue Ripley DE5 3JD
Cllr. L. Cox	01773 742574	12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

East Ward

Cllr. S. Carter	01773 741600	37 Bridle Lane Ripley DE5 3BL
Cllr. M. Jones	01773 742225	9 Manvers Avenue Ripley DE5 3ER
Cllr. C. Manterfield	07507 116931	23 Dannah Crescent, Ripley, DE5 3BE
Cllr. R. Emmas-Williams	01773 746543	29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL
Cllr. I. Fisher	01773 745221	54 Waingroves Road Waingroves Ripley DE5 9TD

Elms Ward

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Cllr. J. Gregory	01773 744477	43 Peartree Avenue Ripley DE5 3PR
Cllr. C. Cutting	01773 747105	101 Highfield Way Ripley DE5 3RT

Heage Ward

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Waingroves Ward

Cllr. D. Williams	01773 744754	19 Queens View Drive Waingroves DE5 9TP
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Representatives on outside Bodies (2019 – 2020)

- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Executive Committee – Cllrs: L Cox & T Holmes
- Ripley and District Heritage Trust - Cllr A Bridge
- Ripley and District Town Twinning Association – Cllr A Bridge
- Waingroves Community Association – Cllr D A Williams
- Heage Windmill Society – Cllr N Weaving
- Amber Valley Access – Cllr S Freeborn
- Police Parish / Town Liaison meetings – Cllr A Bridge
- William Holmes Court Almshouses and the Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity – Cllr R

Emmas-Williams and Cllr I Fisher till 2022

- Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee – Cllrs Mrs C Worth and S D Freeborn
- Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – Cllr Mrs M Gascoigne
- Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership – Cllr C Worth
- Ripley Chamber of Trade – Cllr R Emmas-Williams
- Law Centre – Cllr M Wilson
- Cllr R Emmas-Williams to represent Ripley Town Council on the Greenwich Sports Partnership Committee.

Representatives on outside Bodies (2020 – 2021)

- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Executive Committee – Cllrs: L Cox & T Holmes
- Ripley and District Heritage Trust - TBA
- Ripley and District Town Twinning Association – TBA
- Waingroves Community Association – Cllr D A Williams
- Heage Windmill Society – Cllr N Weaving
- Amber Valley Access – Cllr S Freeborn
- Police Parish / Town Liaison meetings – TBA
- William Holmes Court Almshouses and the Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity – Cllr R Emmas-Williams and Cllr I Fisher till 2022
- Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee – Cllrs Mrs C Worth and S D Freeborn
- Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – TBA
- Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership – Cllr C Worth
- Ripley Chamber of Trade – Cllr R Emmas-Williams
- Law Centre – Cllr M Wilson
- Cllr R Emmas-Williams to represent Ripley Town Council on the Greenwich Sports Partnership Committee.

Financial Situation 2019 - 2020

The Town Council's income is obtained from Ripley Township council taxpayers, collected via a precept on the Amber Valley Borough Council. The precept (i.e., the amount of money we ask from residents each year) was £277,000. This represented a 10p per week increase on a Band D property (which is based on an average property) and would raise a further £30,000 for the year to help enable Ripley Town Council to achieve its aims and objectives. This was sent out to the electorate for consultation.

Financial Situation 2020 - 2021

The Town Council's income is obtained from Ripley Township council taxpayers, collected via a precept on the Amber Valley Borough Council. The precept (i.e., the amount of money we ask from residents each year) was £310,000. This represented a 10p per week increase on a Band D property (which is based on an average property) and would raise a further £33,000 for the year to help enable Ripley Town Council to achieve its aims and objectives. This was sent out to the electorate for consultation.

Allotments.

The Town Council have 6 sites from which they collect rent. The individual Allotment Associations deal with the day to day running of the Allotments.