



## Ripley Town Council

6 Grosvenor Road  
Ripley DE5 3JF

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### Ripley Town Council Annual Report 2018/2019

#### **Town Council Have Moved to a New Office on Grosvenor Road**

Due to lack of space in the very small office in the Town Hall, the Town Council asked Amber Valley Borough Council if there was more office space it could rent, as there was a great need for more space to function. Unfortunately, Amber Valley Borough Council had no more space available and therefore the Town Council had no option but to find alternative premises in the town. Having found the availability of 6, Grosvenor Road, Ripley the Town Council have now moved into the new office space which is giving the Town Council a presence in the town and availability to the public. Full Council meetings are still held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall but all Committee Meetings are now held in the new office on Grosvenor Road. It also gives window space to Local Groups to advertise their events and displays of other items of interest.

#### **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**

The new see-saw has been 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 work with the Derbyshire Probation Service who litter pick and empty the bins to keep the Greenway tidy for everyone to enjoy. The Town Council are very appreciative of the hard work provided by volunteers who have worked to tidy the Greenway keeping it looking very picturesque. The Town Council installed two more litter bins for the Greenway last year.

#### **Toilets**

The Town Council have continued to manage and clean the toilets on Ripley Market Place and Heage, keeping the toilets fully open.

#### **Policing in Ripley**

Ripley Town Council continue to work with the Police to keep the township safe.

#### **Environmental Policy**

Ripley Town Council have created an Environmental Policy and with these difficult times many people believe there is nothing more important than stopping global warming and putting the health of the environment first. There is a need to radically improve how we treat the environment, locally and globally. Ripley Town Council has no statutory duties for the monitoring and/ or management of the environment. The formal duties and responsibilities belong to the borough and county councils, along with central government departments and agencies. But all of us in organisations and as individuals from both the private and public sectors, are expected to be doing something towards a collective effort. For example (and at the very least) most people have got used to recycling glass, metals and paper.

But Ripley Town Council believes it should encourage local people and local communities to do more to help the environment and we have just taken an important step.

Recently an Environmental Action Plan was approved which sets out action areas under the broad headings of 1. Air quality 2. Waste and re-cycling 3. Open-spaces, parks and land 4. Rivers, streams and drainage and 5. Noise. The final action plan includes several additions and modifications all made because of suggestions put forward by local people during a consultation period. The final approved action plan can be seen on the council's website [www.ripleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ripleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

A number of the action points are specific tasks identified for the Town Council to carry out, but the majority of issues are ones where a number of other organisations need to be involved to make progress. Thus, a key role for the Town Council is to press those organisations and agencies to work with us to make things better. We shall of course be routinely monitoring the progress that is or is not made and over time the Town Council hope to be able to celebrate many achievements.

There is also an Environment budget which monies have been spent giving litter picking equipment to Waingroves Community, Sawmills and Bullbridge Area Society. Carr Wood Association have received monies for purchasing tools and Waingroves Woodland trust have received a grant.

### **Grant Aid**

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

<b>RTC Grant Applications Awarded</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<b>RTC Grant Applications Awarded</b>	<b>£'s</b>
AIM Excelsum	100	Ripley Running Club	100
Ambergate Carnival	500	Sawmills Village Hall	100
Amber Valley Alliance for Learning	100	The Village Hall, Heage	100
Amber Valley Movie Makers	100	Three Churches Holiday Club	100
Carousel Craft Group	100	Waingroves Community Association	100
Friends of Carr Wood and Hammersmith Meadow	100	Waingroves Community Woodland Trust	200
Friends of Ripley Greenway	100	Waingroves Drama Group	100
Greenhillocks Fellowship Club	100	Waingroves Methodist Church	100
Highedge Historical Society	100	Waingroves Rainbows	100
Marehay Community Trust	250	Waingroves Show	100
Marehay Methodist Church	100	Waingroves Well Dressing	100
Moorwood Moor Angling Club	500	Woodie's Wings	100
Nether Heage Methodist Church	100	Yellow Daisies Stay and Play	100
Ripley and Alfreton Tennis Club	500	Ambergate Cricket Club	500*
Ripley Ladies Group	150	Butterley United Cricket Club	500
Ripley Morris Men	100	Marehay Cricket Club	500
Ripley Old Age Pensioners Association	200	Ripley Town Football Club (inc 2 clubs)	1,000*
Ripley and Heritage Trust	150	Amber Sound	3,000
Princes Royal Class Locomotive	250	Ripley Music Festival	3,000*
League of Zeal M/C Club	100	Ripley and District Heritage Trust	200
Nether Heage Yellow Daisies	100		
		Total	13,900

### **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. We have now employed a Deputy Clerk to help to work with the community and increase publicity to inform residents and businesses of events and working with all to promote the works of the Town Council.

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.

There is a website which has various information of what is happening in the Ripley Township, businesses, traders and retailers and links to District 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 1848 'likes'. We also have a Twitter page with 1417 followers and Instagram followers 193.

## **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:

**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.

**Ripley Fair Dinner.** This is 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 good 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.

**Long Song Project.** Fleet Arts supported by the Ripley Town Council completed working with schools for various projects commemorating the First World War with localised performances of songs and verses, stories and readings and young bands.

**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 Heage resident, Mrs. Jean Fardoe has been presented with the Certificate of Merit Award from the Mayor of Ripley, Councillor Paul Lobley.

Councillor Lobley gave the presentation of a certificate and bouquet of flowers at the Civic Service which was held in St. Luke's Church in Heage. Mrs. Fardoe was nominated for the award by her sister for her dedication and commitment over the past 30 years to charitable work and volunteering in her local community. Since 1986, Mrs. Fardoe has organised annual garden parties at her home in Heage for her family, friends and the local community, to raise money for Action Medical Research. Over the years she has raised over £133,000 for the charity. Mrs. Fardoe said, 'When I was a midwife, I delivered a baby boy who had Cerebral Palsy. This spurred me on to raise money for a charity which I felt would research his condition and help future children born with the same and other conditions'. She added, 'Sadly, the boy passed away at the age of 18 months and this gave me a bigger drive with my charitable efforts'. Mrs. Fardoe's first garden party raised around £100 and this year's event raised £5,000. Her annual garden party is an event supported by an increasing number of volunteer helpers and attended by hundreds of people every year. For the last 20 years, she has

also organised a Santa sleigh each Christmas which goes around Heage and Nether Heage and an annual fundraising walk ending at her home for homemade soup and cake.

**Ripley's Big Day Out.** This event held at the Midland Railway, Butterley which was a fantastic project giving many partners the opportunity to attend and give help and advice for the older generation. There were free train rides, a church service, brass band playing, all the facilities at the Midland Railway were available and the event was a brilliant success. Thanks to all who attended and we look forward to another but different event for 2019.

**Ripley Christmas Lights switch-on.** The Town Mayor, switched on the Christmas lights in a very busy Ripley Market Place. There were carols with a brass band playing, free children's rides, late night shopping, hot food and drinks stalls, with Father Christmas in attendance presenting children with glow items, and beautiful Christmas Stockings to young children. There were Characters Chase and Belle, also artificial snow which proved a great success. Thanks to Amber Sound 107.2 FM for their live outside broadcast, and a very big thank you to all who came to enjoy the festivities in the Town.

**Ripley Spring Festival and Well Dressing.** This year the Well Dressing located at the Market Place at the side of the Old Town Hall was blessed by Rev John Wigram of All Saints Church and was created by Belper Adult Community Centre and is situated on Ripley Market Place. The Spring Festival with various stalls including some charity stalls, free children's rides, entertainment and many various stalls, Amber Sound 107.2 FM live outside broadcast, hot and cold food and drink, and was very well attended.

**Bands in Crossley Park.** A variety of bands held concerts over 4 Sundays in Crossley Park organised by the Town Council. The Friends of Crossley Park were very pleased that the Town Council had carried on this initiative.

**Ripley Music Festival.** The Festival is supported each year by the Town Council through an annual grant, publishing the programme of events and co-ordinating our events in Crossley Park to coincide with the festival.

**Ripley Family Christmas Market.** The Christmas Market was held again this year organised by Ripley Town Council and was a brilliant success, with lots of stalls, food & drink & entertainment, plus free children's rides. The weather was perfect, the town was extremely busy and the event was very well attended.

**Civic Service** - The Civic Service was held at St Luke's Church, Heage.

**Civic Dinner** - The Civic Dinner was held at Lumb Farm.

**Ripley Fair** dates back to 1251 and 2017 being our 766th Fair and pre-dates the famous Nottingham Goose Fair. The Fair is organised by the Derbyshire, Notts Mid and South Section of the Showmen's Guild. The 'Precis of Charter' to be used by the Ripley Town Mayor and stated each year as follows; 'By the powers invested on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1251 by King Henry III it should be known that there is a Charter which allows for all time use of land in the former manor of Rippeleg (now Ripley Market Place) for a Fair for a period of 3 days every year and the Ripley Town Mayor confirms that the Kings Charter is upheld for the year of 2016 and officially opens the Fair'.

**Hanging Baskets** - The Council has again, for the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 for 2019 there will be tall tiered floral displays in 4 locations on entrances to the township.

### **Ripley Town Council – Full list of Councillors details (2018 to May 2019)**

#### **Ambergate Ward**

Councillor Mrs C Worth  
Councillor N Weaving

Tel: 01773 853571 24 Derby Road Ambergate DE56 2GE  
Tel: 01773 856375 9 Riversdale, Ambergate, DE56 2EU

#### **Butterley Ward**

Councillor S D Freeborn  
Councillor T E Holmes

Tel: 01773 749000 56 Alfred Street Ripley DE5 3LD  
Tel: 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

#### **Central Ward**

Councillor R P Ashton  
Councillor Ms L D Cox

Tel: 01773 745420 28 West Avenue Ripley DE5 3JD  
Tel: 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

#### **East Ward**

Councillor S Carter

Tel: 01773 741600 37 Bridle Lane Ripley DE5 3BL

Councillor I Fisher	Tel: 01773 745221 54 Waingroves Road Waingroves Ripley DE5 9TD
Councillor M G Jones	Tel: 01773 742225 9 Manvers Avenue Ripley DE5 3ER
Councillor M J Missett	Tel: 01773 749968 2 Broadway Ripley DE5 3LJ
Councillor R Emmas-Williams	Tel: 01773 746543 29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL
<b>Elms Ward</b>	
Councillor A Bridge	Tel: 07877 707768 26 Hawthorn Avenue Ripley DE5 3PJ
Councillor Mrs J H Gregory	Tel: 01773 744477 43 Peartree Avenue Ripley DE5 3PR
Councillor C Cutting	Tel: 01773 747105 101 Highfield Way Ripley DE5 3RT
<b>Heage Ward</b>	
Councillor D Farrelly	Tel: 07541 692290 25 Balers Hill Heage DE56 2BL
Councillor Mrs L Joyes	Tel: 01773 857320 30 Brook Street Heage DE56 2AP
Councillor P Lobley	Tel: 01773 856874 2a Cookfield Heage DE56 2TF
<b>Marehay Ward</b>	
Councillor M Wilson	Tel: 01773 745477 7 Bowler Street Ripley DE5 8HZ
<b>North Ward</b>	
Councillor Mrs S Emmas-Williams	Tel: 01773 746543 29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL
Councillor P Moss	Tel: 01773 748827 123 Warmwells Lane Ripley DE5 8JE
<b>Waingroves Ward</b>	
Councillor D A Williams	Tel: 01773 744754 19 Queens View Drive Waingroves DE5 9TP

### **Representatives on outside Bodies.**

- 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 M Missett
- 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 D Farrelly
- Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership – Cllrs M Missett
- Ripley Chamber of Trade – Cllr R Emmas-Williams
- Cllr R Emmas-Williams to represent Ripley Town Council on the Greenwich Sports Partnership Committee.

**Financial Situation** 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.

**Allotments.** The Town Council have 5 sites from which they collect rent. The individual Allotment Associations deal with the day to day running of the Allotments and the Ripley Town Council have agreed new 15-year licences for each site.