



Ripley Town Council

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Ripley Town Council (RTC) has no statutory responsibilities or powers in respect of the environment per se. Instead RTC is keen to seek improvement in all aspects of the environment for the benefit of all.

RTC shall seek to secure environmental improvement by identifying the environmental challenges the township faces, along with the development of action plans for each challenge. There may be a need to rank the environmental challenges (according to impact), and to prioritise the issues to which RTC shall allocate its limited resources.

Resources shall be found to establish and maintain monitoring arrangements, and to evaluate outcomes from any plan or programme instigated or supported by the council.

AIR QUALITY

BACKGROUND

Air is polluted by a wide range of pollutants, ranging from industrial and commercial organisations of any size to ordinary people going about their lives.

Generally, air quality is measured using EU standards and the Borough Council is the public body tasked with the monitoring of standards, and enforcement if or when necessary. AVBC advise that there is no air quality problem in Ripley township per se.

However, there is CO² and NO² in vehicle exhausts and this will cause localised air pollution issues by the roadside as well as contributing more generally to greenhouse gas emissions.

The major contribution to global warming is the burning of fossil fuels and its reduction is essentially in the hands of governments to achieve. However, small steps might be taken by individual citizens, and individual organisations of all types and sizes. Indeed, this principle can be applied to all forms of positive action for the environment.

ACTION PLAN

1. Provide information to help the communities across the Township find out how they can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Promote the frequent use of public transport for both commuting and leisure trips.
3. Seek to ensure RTC's use of energy in buildings or vehicles is environmentally friendly.
4. Promote the use of sustainable energy supplies.

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- RTC to identify the messages about what can be done on both individual and collective basis.
- RTC to identify resources to create publicity material (maybe use consultants?).
- Promote the use of solar panels generally and seek their installation on all new builds.
- RTC link to and liaise and work with DCC – use either existing material or possibly create bespoke. Perhaps plan a 'big push' with others (Trent Barton etc).
- Promote through all RTC media.
- RTC shall endeavour to be an exemplar of best sustainable practice in how it provides its services.
- RTC to explore energy tariffs that are available for community energy supply schemes, and to consider establishing a scheme for the township.
- RTC to seek information about the recent scheme to install a water driven electricity generator in the River Derwent (to supply Ambergate).
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WASTE AND RE-CYCLING

BACKGROUND

The organisation, administration and delivery of waste collection throughout the Township is the responsibility of AVBC, whilst waste disposal is the responsibility of DCC. Outside of this, many industrial sites and businesses require specialist waste disposal services because of the nature of the by-products etc. of their work / manufacturing processes.

Unfortunately, AVBC has lowest recycling rate in Derbyshire.

There are occasional fly-tipping incidents in the township currently dealt with by AVBC.

Litter is a problem in the town centre especially at weekends and is a general problem along roadsides, but particularly the A38 and A610.

ACTION PLAN

1. Promote recycling and its importance for a sustainable future.

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- RTC to liaise and work with AVBC & DCC – use either existing material or possibly create bespoke.

- Seek provision of accessible recycling sites.
 - Promote the reduction in use of plastic and other non-sustainable (and non-degradable) materials through all RTC media.
 - RTC to recycle as much waste as it possibly can.
2. Monitor the cleanliness of the township environment, including the litter and waste collection and disposal processes.
 - Local town councillors to be encouraged to report persistent problems to the Clerk.
 3. RTC to consider supporting (and maybe undertaking) litter collection and disposal schemes.
 - RTC to liaise and work with DCC, AVBC and community groups.
 - RTC to continue to fund the collection and disposal of litter from the Ripley Greenway.
 - RTC to consider how litter waste might be recycled.
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OPEN-SPACES, PARKS AND LAND

BACKGROUND

Any issue to do with the pollution of land and how any contamination might be removed, is likely to be affected by the nature of the lands usage, and its ownership.

The land in the Township is in both public and private ownership. Its uses are many but can be classified as falling under one of the following categories:

- Domestic use (private or communal);
- Commercial use (shops, offices, pubs & cafes, residential/nursing homes, heritage sites etc.);
- Agricultural;
- Industrial (ie places of manufacture);
- Transport routes (roads, railway, footpaths & canal);
- Leisure (parks, gardens and sports grounds with free public access); and
- Community land (ie owned and managed by a charitable trust for public use).

All changes in land (and building) uses are subject to planning approval processes administered and determined by the local Planning Authority (who is AVBC). The criteria that determine the actions and permissions granted by the Planning Authority are set out in law, and in the Local Plan.

The AVBC Local Plan is complemented by the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan which covers the whole of the Township. The Neighbourhood Plan:

- gives information about the extensive bio-diversity there is;
- establishes two Open Green Spaces (Pit Top and Codnor Common);
- establishes 6 sites to be of special ecological and environmental importance;

- identifies 13 woodlands to be protected; and
- lists all recreation areas in the town and villages.

RTC has a Planning Committee that comments on planning applications. It is for the Planning Authority though (AVBC) to determine all applications in accordance w

ACTION PLAN

1. Review the amount of Community and Leisure land across the township, and establish current activity to protect, maintain and safeguard these sites.
2. Work with relevant partners to promote cycle routes and cycling as a sustainable and healthy form of transport.
3. Encourage and contribute to maintenance of public footpaths and other walking routes.
4. Work with partners to establish a network of support for wildlife.

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- RTC to ask Derbyshire Wildlife Trust if there are updates of the bio-diversity data and plans first provided to RTC 4 years ago.
- Using local councillor's knowledge, in liaison with community organisations, and with DCC and AVBC, review current activity to protect, maintain and safeguard all Community and Leisure land (as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan and herein).
- RTC to liaise with AVBC & DCC & the Friends of Ripley Greenway about ongoing management of Ripley Greenway etc.
- RTC to consider the location of facilities to park bicycles around the township.
- Promote through all RTC media.
- Liaise with AVBC & DCC re potential for new routes.
- RTC to facilitate a whole series of circular-walks leaflets around the township, working with partners.
- Monitor the condition of the public footpaths (and other walking routes) throughout the Township, and work with DCC and other agencies to undertake necessary maintenance.
- RTC to consider employment of a maintenance worker (to cut grass at 2 x play-areas, assist with greenway and public footpaths maintenance).
- Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors to enhance wildlife habitats, especially by utilising species native to the UK.
- Seek to raise public awareness of the importance of local wildlife.
- Consider supporting initiatives such as planting schemes etc.

- Support community initiatives to develop wild-flower meadows with native species planting.
5. Work to protect our woodlands and trees.
 - Work with AVBC and seek to ensure that all planting schemes associated with Planning Conditions utilise UK native species only
 - Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors to protect our woodlands and trees.
 - Consider supporting initiatives that enable an increase in the woodland (and other habitats) in Community Ownership.
 6. Support the pro-active use of land.
 - Publicise the issue of the underuse of land, both developer-owned sites with planning approval but not built-out, and fallow agricultural land.
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RIVERS, STREAMS AND DRAINAGE

BACKGROUND

The Amber and Derwent rivers, together with several streams pass through the township. Responsibility for monitoring the water and bank-side habitat quality does not lie with the town council, instead it falls to the borough and county councils, together with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency. The legal framework is principally provided by the EU and the post-brexit position is unknown.

There is some flooding risk associated with these rivers and streams although recent flood prevention schemes along the River Derwent have improved the situation there. Despite this, persistent issues remain at Ambergate – including foul sewers ‘backing up’ - and a significant amount of agricultural land abutting the River Amber is prone to flooding.

Agricultural processes use weed controls, pesticides and fertilizers which can leech into watercourses causing significant pollution.

There is little public access to the river or stream banks as most of these are in private ownership.

ACTION PLAN

1. Establish the water quality in rivers and streams throughout the township.

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- Request information from the Environment Agency and other authorities about the water quality in all watercourses in the township.

2. Work with partners to manage flooding risk to properties.
 - Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors to minimise the risk of flooding to properties.
 - Seek provision of areas of land where flood water might be held back to ease pressure on existing drainage systems (in times of flood).

 3. Work with authorities and voluntary organisations to eradicate pollution in the water-courses and improve the aquatic environment, including river and stream bank habitats.
 - Develop a working relationship with a range of authorities and bodies from the public and private sectors and support activities that ensure clean water (eg controlling the use of phosphates in agriculture).
 - Support the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership, especially the schemes relevant to the township

 4. Seek to improve public access to the watercourses throughout the township.
 - Seek to liaise with landowners and farmers about opening-up public access to watercourses.

 5. Reduce the use (and waste) of water.
 - Seek to ensure that design of new-builds makes full use of 'white and green' water (eg collecting run-off for use flushing toilets etc.), and that it minimises water consumption (eg install showers rather than baths).
 - Explore the potential of developing community schemes to store and re-use white and green water.
 - Encourage Severn Trent to retro-fit existing homes to use white and green water.
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NOISE

BACKGROUND

Noise is most commonly a problem associated with work-places and as such is largely regulated through Health and Safety legislation that governs work-places. However, noise is emitted from work-places and the impact of such noise is generally monitored (and enforced where necessary) by the Environmental Health Officer from AVBC. It must be noted that some sites concerned with either mineral extraction or waste disposal are monitored and subject to planning approvals and controls enforced by DCC.

The most common noise pollution problems experienced by the general population is that of traffic noise generated in 2 main ways. Firstly, that caused by vehicle movements to and from workplaces whose operating hours include early morning and / or night-time working. Secondly, that caused by the high volume of traffic along the A38 and A610.

Other noise pollution is generated on an occasional basis by some leisure activities such as Ripley's annual fair, the outdoor music performances, shooting clubs, late-night entertainment in the township etc.

ACTION PLAN

1. Research and consider the extent of noise pollution issues reported to AVBC and DCC.

DELIVERY CONSIDERATIONS

- Seek information from AVBC and DCC about any reported noise problems, and if any issues remain unresolved to consider how they might be resolved.
 - To seek information from planning officers about how they judge the potential impact of noise in the planning process.
 - Consider the extent of noise issues caused by leisure activities and the inter-play with wider social and community issues.
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