

# Ripley Town Council

## Annual Report 2013 / 2014

### **Planning Applications**

The Town Council considers and comments on planning applications submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council for developments within Ripley Township.

A major part of our work has been in opposing the 'Ripley Gateway' (i.e. the building of a supermarket, plus numerous houses and a Ripley By-Pass). The Town Council consider that another supermarket is not wanted or needed and would do irreparable harm to Ripley Town Centre and the Morrison's application was refused by AVBC.

Ripley Town Council have received a decision on their application for making Nottingham Road recreational area Village Green, this was refused.

The Council have taken steps to creating a Neighbourhood Plan to work with local residents and AVBC for house building which must take place and trying to use less green space and green field sites than AVBC and their Core Strategy.

### **Play Equipment**

The Town Council have purchased play equipment for Cedar Avenue and Porterhouse Road the play equipment projects have cost £20,000.00. Fencing will be installed on Porterhouse Road play area from the 2014 / 2015 budget to keep the children safe.

### **Bus Shelters**

The Town Council have purchased two bus shelters one on Heage Road Ripley and one on Derby Road near the junction with Bowler Street Marehay in partnership with Derbyshire County Council.

There are four more bus shelters to be installed in the 2014 / 2015 year.

### **Planters**

The Town Council have purchased five concrete planters which will be installed in various locations around the township when all permissions have been granted.

### **Ripley Greenway**

The Town Council have purchased 11 litter bins which have been installed along the Greenway and working with the Derbyshire Probation Service who litter pick and empty the bins to keep the Greenway tidy for everyone to enjoy. There was also a donation of £200.00 to the Friends of Ripley Greenway to purchase bulbs / plants to add to the very generous donation from David Clarke from Clarkes of Ripley for bulbs and the hard work of all the volunteers who have planted the bulbs and cut back some of the overgrowth the Greenway is looking very picturesque.

### **Toilets**

The Town Council have re-opened the toilets on Ripley Market Place managing and cleaning them and have tried to take over the Heage toilets but are still in negotiations with Amber valley Borough Council regarding this.

### **Policing in Ripley**

There is a Police office in the Old Town Hall, the Police when not on patrol or called out to incidents, are in the office. The Police and the PSCO's are always supportive of the Council's events, participating in activities in the Town. Their involvement is always very welcome and appreciated by the Council. Ripley Town Council have agreed to pay £7000.00 to pay the annual rent for the Police to keep them in the Town Centre Office otherwise the township would have lost a valuable asset.

## 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:

Notts & Derby Youth Cricket	£50.00	1st Ripley Scout Group	£50.00
Hiredge Historical Society	£50.00	Waingroves Drama Group	£50.00
Greenhillocks Fellowship	£100.00	Ripley & District Twinning Ass	£100.00
Nether Heage Methodist Church	£50.00	Marehay Community Trust	£50.00
Sawmills Village Hall	£50.00	Waingroves Show	£50.00
1st Waingroves Rainbows	£75.00	Ripley Womens Institute	£25.00
Waingroves Well Dressing	£50.00	Carousel Craft Group	£25.00
Amber Valley Access Group	£50.00	Ripley Heritage Trust	£100.00
Butterley United Cricket Club	£100.00	Ripley Heritage Action Group	£250.00
Moorwood Moor Angling Club	£100.00	Amber Valley SOS	£50.00
		Ambergate Carnival	£500.00

Other grants were awarded to – Amber Sound £2500.00 (Amber Sound then attend our events) – Ripley Music Festival £2500.00 – Wood Street Methodist £1000.00 – Rethink £200.00 – Ripley Heritage Action Group £250.00 – Salvation Army £250.00 – Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion £2500.00 – Friends of Ripley Greenway £200.00. All awards totalling **£11325.00**

## 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 13,500 properties four times a year in the Township, giving various information to residents.

There is a new website being constructed which will be completed early in June 2014 which will be more informative of what is happening in the Ripley Township, businesses, traders and retailers and links to District and County Council.

## 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 towns 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 separate Twinning Association totally independent of the Town Council.

## Events

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

**Best kept Allotment and Best kept Garden Competition.** 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, unfortunately due to poor weather and lack of entries, this was not held this year.

**Ripley Fair** dates back to 1251 being our 763rd 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 2013 and officially opens the Fair'.

**Ripley Fair Dinner.** This is by invitation only and organised by The Town Council and the Showmen's Guild with each member paying for their meal.

**Remembrance Parade and Service.** The Mayor attended the service held around the Ripley War Memorial with several dignitaries and families who had lost members in recent conflicts, laying wreaths and crosses. There was a good turnout on the parade, with people lining the road. The Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion was started up again and from 2014 will be taking over the running of the Remembrance Parade and Service. The Church service followed with the church packed both inside and out. Rev. Jason Kennedy from All Saints produced an excellent Remembrance Service for the Township.

**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. An award was not given this year as there were no nominations, however a Special Certificate of Merit was awarded to Colin Picken, for his work over many years raising hundreds of thousands of pounds and ordering wreaths and poppies for Remembrance Day and is well known as Colin stood in Ripley Library where wreaths and poppies could be collected.

**Ripley Christmas Lights switch-on.** The Town Mayor switched on the Christmas lights in Ripley Market Place. There were carols with the Salvation Army playing; free children's rides, late night shopping, hot food and drinks stalls, with Father Christmas in attendance presenting children with safety candles. Special thanks to Amber Sound 107.2 FM for their live outside broadcast, Ripley Salvation Army for playing Christmas Carols and to all who came to enjoy the festivities in the Town.

**Ripley Spring Festival and Well Dressing.** This year the Well Dressings was blessed by Envoy Kevin Wibberley and was created by Rethink of the Croft Slack Lane Ripley and is situated on Ripley Market Place. The Spring Festival with Charity stalls, free children's rides, Bouncy Castle and Trampoline, Amber Sound 107.2 FM live outside broadcast Hot and cold food and drink, free children's temporary tattoos and Carlo the Clown was very well attended.

**Bands in Crossley Park.** A variety of bands held concerts over 5 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.** This festival has a separate committee which arrange the event, although Ripley Town Council is supportive and awards a grant towards the event.

**Civic Service** The Civic Service was held at All Saints Church.

**Civic Dinner** The Civic Dinner was held at Lumb Farm Denby

**Hanging Baskets** The Council has again for the 6<sup>th</sup> year had Hanging Baskets put up around the Township.

### **Ripley Town Council – Full list of Councillors details**

#### **Ambergate Ward**

Councillor C Worth – Tel: 01773 853571 24 Derby Road Ambergate DE56 2GE

Councillor D T Ward – Tel: 01773 857057 127 Parkside Heage DE56 2AF

#### **Butterley Ward**

Councillor S D Freeborn – Tel: 01773 749000 56 Alfred Street Ripley DE5 3LD

Councillor T E Holmes – Tel: 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

#### **Central Ward**

Councillor R P Ashton – Tel: 01773 745420 28 West Avenue Ripley DE5 3JD

Councillor L D Cox – Tel: 01773 742574 12 Wall Street Ripley DE5 3DE

#### **East Ward**

Councillor A Tester – Tel: 01773 748245 3 Albion Street Ripley DE5 3ET

Councillor S M Daley – Tel: 01773 747708 11 Park Avenue Ripley DE5 3FD

Councillor M G Jones – Tel: 01773 742225 9 Manvers Avenue Ripley DE5 3ER

Councillor M J Misset – Tel: 01773 749968 2 Broadway Ripley DE5 3LJ

Councillor D A Williams – Tel: 01773 744754 19 Queens View Drive Waingroves DE5 9TP

#### **Elms Ward**

Councillor A Bridge – Tel: 07877 707768 26 Hawthorn Avenue Ripley DE5 3PJ

Councillor J H Gregory – Tel: 01773 744477 43 Peartree Avenue Ripley DE5 3PR

Councillor C Cutting – Tel: 01773 747105 101 Highfield Way Ripley DE5 3RT

**Heage Ward**

Councillor D Farrelly – Tel: 07541 692290 25 Balers Hill Leage DE56 2BL

Councillor A S Ward – Tel: 01773 857057 127 Parkside Heage DE56 2AF

**Marehay Ward**

Councillor M Wilson – Tel: 01773 745477 7 Bowler Street Ripley DE5 8HZ

**North Ward**

Councillor R Emmas-Williams Tel: 01773 746543 29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL

Councillor M J Godfrey – Tel: 01773 743235 27 Hardwick Close Ripley DE5 3SR

**Waingroves Ward**

Councillor I Harry – Tel: 01773 742672 18 Queens Drive Waingroves DE5 9TP

**Representatives on outside Bodies.**

Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Executive Committee – **Cllr Ms L D Cox**

Ripley and District Heritage Trust – **Cllr M Jones**

Ripley and District Town Twinning Association – **Cllr M J Missett**

Waingroves Community Association – **Cllr I Harry and R Emmas-Williams**

Heage Windmill Society – **Cllr M B Gent**

Ripley Business Engagement Forum – **Cllrs D Williams, T Holmes and S Freeborn**

Amber Valley Local Plan Forum – **Cllrs A Bridge and Ms L D Cox**

Cinderhill Liaison Group – **Cllrs S Freeborn and Mrs A S Ward**

Ripley Heritage Action Group – **Cllrs: A Bridge, S Freeborn, Ms L D Cox, T Holmes, D Williams** and one or two from the opposing side

Amber Valley Access – **Cllrs S D Daley**

Police Parish / Town Liaison meetings – **Cllrs A Bridge and S Daley**

William Holmes Court Almshouses and the Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity – **Cllrs T Holmes and M Jones till 2014**

Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee – **Cllrs: S D Freeborn and Mrs C Worth**

Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – **Cllr M B Gent and D Farrelly**

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership - **Cllr M B Gent and D Farrelly**

Ripley Regeneration Board – **Cllrs S D Daley and A Bridge**

**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 £230,250.00 the precept was increased in preparation for negotiating a Lease with Amber Valley Borough Council for the Old Town Hall, which included advice of building surveyors and solicitors, unfortunately Amber Valley Borough Council have now withdrawn the Town Hall from the market, however AVBC pulled out of the negotiations a few days prior to signing the lease.

**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 agreed 5 year minimum licence for each site.