

Ripley Town Council

Annual Report 2014 / 2015

Planning Applications

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

The Council have created a Neighbourhood Plan after working with and arranging many meetings and consultations with local residents, businesses and AVBC for house building which must take place and RTC are trying to use less green space and green field sites than AVBC are proposing in their Core Strategy. The Planning Inspector has, with a few amendments, passed the Neighbourhood Plan and this will now go to a referendum.

Play Equipment

The Town Council have purchased fencing which has been installed on Porterhouse Road play area to keep the children safe when playing on the site. RTC are responsible for the play equipment at Porterhouse Road and Cedar Avenue which is inspected on a regular basis.

Bus Shelters

The Town Council have purchased more bus shelters one on Chapel Street Ripley, one on Parkside Heage, two on Victory Avenue Ripley and there are others on order for one on Highfield Way Ripley, one on Tavistock Way Ripley and one on Waingroves Road Waingroves all in partnership with Derbyshire County Council.

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. Permission has been requested from Derbyshire County Council where necessary but at present there has been an objection to the one for the junction with Old Road and Bowling Alley Heage, we are trying to overcome this at the moment. The other four are all ok and the utility companies, some have come back with no problems but there is a company we are waiting for comments from. When these items are clarified the planters will be installed.

Ripley Greenway

The Town Council have purchased a further two litter bins to add to the previous 11 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 another 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 now taken over the Heage toilets which are fully open.

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 are paying £7000.00 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:

Highedge Historical Society £100, Greenhillocks Fellowship £150, Waingroves Community Association £350, Waingroves Christmas Tree £110, Nether Heage Methodist Church £100, Sawmills Village Hall £100,

1st Waingroves Rainbows £100, Waingroves Methodist Church £50, Waingroves Well Dressing £100, Moorwood Moor Angling Club £200, St Luke's Church Heage £100, 1st Ripley Scout Group £150, Ripley & District Twinning Ass £150, Waingroves Show £100, AV Stroke Group £100, Carousel Craft Group £50, Ambergate Carnival £500, Amber Sound 107.2fm £2500, Friends of Carr Wood £100, Ripley Old Age Pensioners Ass £50, 1st Ripley Guides £100, Waingroves Drama Group £50, Ripley Music Festival £2500, Rethink £200, Ripley Amateur Boxing Club £200, Friends of Carr Wood Boardwalk £929.18, Michaelmas Market £1500, Burma Star Ass £100, Marehay Community Trust £500, Marehay Cricket Club £340, Ripley Rangers FC £500, Ripley Branch of the Royal British Legion £600, Derbyshire Police grant for office rent £7000.

All awards totalling **£19679.18**

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 at least four times a year in the Township, giving various information to residents.

There is a new website constructed which has various information 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 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.

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 and the Allotment site holders. This year was very successful and there were wonderful garden displays and allotment plots to be proud of.

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 25th 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 2014 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 attending 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 have taken over the running of the Remembrance Parade and Service with support and a grant from the Town Council. The Church service followed with the church packed both inside and out. Afterwards there was a service in Crossley Park commemorating World War One.

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 Mr & Mrs Hill for their work in running the Greenhillocks Fellowship for six years making the club very successful due to the hard work of Ann and David Hill.

Ripley Christmas Lights switch-on. The Town Mayor assisted by the Merit Award winners switched on the Christmas lights in Ripley Market Place. There were carols with the Newstead Brass 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, Newstead Brass 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 Dressing located at the Market Place at the side of the Old Town Hall 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 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.

Michaelmas Market. The first Michaelmas Market was held this year organised by Tony England of England Barker Jewellers supported by the Ripley Chamber of Trade and was a brilliant success, supported by the Council and a grant given.

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

Civic Dinner - The Civic Dinner was held at the Village Inn Marehay

Hanging Baskets - The Council has again for the 7th year had Hanging Baskets put up around the Township.

Ripley Town Council – Full list of Councillors details

Ambergate Ward

Councillor Mrs 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 Ms 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 Missett

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 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

Heage Ward

Councillor D Farrelly

Tel: 07541 692290 25 Balers Hill Heage DE56 2BL

Councillor Mrs A S Ward

Tel: 01773 857057 127 Parkside Heage DE56 2AF

Councillor A Johnston

Tel: 07877 107336 2 Riversdale Ambergate DE56 2EU

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 Mrs 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 T Tester
- Ripley and District Town Twinning Association – Cllr M J Missett
- Waingroves Community Association – Cllrs Mrs I Harry and R Emmas-Williams
- Heage Windmill Society – Cllr A Johnston
- 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 two from the Conservatives one to be Cllr R Ashton and one to be named
- Amber Valley Access – Cllr S Daley
- Police Parish / Town Liaison meetings – Cllrs A Bridge and D Farrelly
- William Holmes Court Almshouses and the Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity – **Cllr R Emmas-Williams and Mr Ian Fisher till 2018**
- Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee – Cllrs S Freeborn and Mrs C Worth
- Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – Cllrs D Farrelly and M J Missett
- Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership - Cllrs D Farrelly and M J Missett
- Ripley Regeneration Board – Cllrs R Emmas-Williams and S Freeborn

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 £199,501 the precept was reduced this year as previously it had been increased in preparation for the Town Council taking over the Old Town Hall, however AVBC would not allow this to happen and therefore the precept was reduced.

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 previously agreed 5 year minimum licence for each site.