

Ripley Town Council

Annual Report 2015/2016

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 has been to a referendum and voted through with a majority of 9 to 1 and is now “made” making the N Plan a legal document and a “Local Plan” for Ripley as there is no Core Strategy in place by AVBC to date.

Play Equipment

The Town Council have been fortunate to have won an award for £10,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Award Scheme to purchase more play equipment for Cedar Avenue and. RTC are responsible for the play equipment at Porterhouse Road and Cedar Avenue which is inspected and maintained on a regular basis.

Bus Shelters

The Town Council have purchased and installed more bus shelters for Highfield Way, Tavistock Way Porterhouse Road, and Waingroves Road Waingroves all in partnership with Derbyshire County Council making a total of ten in the last two years. In 2017 there will be five more bus shelters installed and purchased solely by the Ripley Town Council.

Planters

The Town Council have installed five concrete planters to add some colour and enhance the areas on Waingroves Road, Butterly Hill, Old Road Heage, Ripley Road Sawmills and Derby Road Ripley.

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 and cut back some of the overgrowth keeping the Greenway looking very picturesque.

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

The Police office in the Old Town Hall, where the Police when not on patrol or called out to incidents, are in situ and 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 pay £7500.00 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:

Ambergate Carnival	500	Heage Windmill Trust	1000
Amber Sound	3,000	Greenhillocks Fellowship	150
Amber Valley Access Group	100	Heanor & Ripley Trefoil Guild	100
Amber Valley Alliance for Learning	150	Highbedge Historical Society	100
Amber Valley Stroke Group	100	League of Zeal M/C Club	100
Butterley United CC	500	Marehay Community Trust	500
Friends of Ripley Greenway	100	Marehay CC	500

Michaelmas Market	1,500	unit)	
Moorwood Moor Angling Club	200	Waingroves Community Ass	150
Nether Heage Methodist	100	Waingroves Drama Group	100
Nether Heage Playgroup	100	Waingroves Methodist Church	100
1st Ripley Guides	100	Waingroves Rainbows	100
1st Ripley Scouts	250	Waingroves Show	100
Ripley Amateur Boxing Club	200	Waingroves Well Dressing	100
Ripley & District Heritage Trust	200	Waingroves Xmas Tree 2014	132
Ripley & District Twinning Ass	250	Waingroves Xmas Tree 2015	132
Ripley Ladies Group	150	ReThink	250
Ripley Morris Men	100	Burma Star	100
Ripley Music Festival	3,000	Ripley Residents Ass	100
Ripley OAP Association	200	Ripley Rangers FC	500
St Luke's Church Heage	100	Grant towards Market Boards	535
Sawmills Village Hall	150	Total	£15,999.00
1st Waingroves Brownies (New	100		

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 employed a Community Officer 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 13,500 properties at least four times a year in the Township, giving various information to residents.

There is a new 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 an account with Facebook and Twitter to keep residents informed of events and items of interest.

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 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 very successful and there were wonderful garden displays and allotment plots to be proud of.

Ripley Fair dates back to 1251 being our 764th 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 2015 and officially opens the Fair'.

Ripley Fair Dinner. This is by invitation only and organised by The Town Council and the Showmen's Guild at Lumb Farm 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. The Church service followed after the parade 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 Mick Hooley for his contributions to the community which Mick has played and administered sport in the area all his life.

Ripley Christmas Lights switch-on. The Town Mayor, assisted by the Certificate of Merit Award winner, switched on the Christmas lights in Ripley Market Place. There were carols with the Derwent Valley Wind Band playing and the Kilburn Community Choir leading the singing; free children's rides, late night shopping, hot food and drinks stalls, with Father Christmas in attendance presenting children with glow items, the Mayor gave out Christmas presents to young children and there was a fancy dress competition. Thanks to Amber Sound 107.2 FM for their live outside broadcast, Derwent Valley Wind Band and the choir for playing and singing Christmas Carols 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 Rethink of the Croft Slack Lane Ripley and is situated on Ripley Market Place. The Spring Festival with Charity stalls, free children's rides many various stalls, 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 6 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 Michaelmas Market was held again 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 8th 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 A Johnston

Tel: 07877 107336 2 Riversdale Ambergate DE56 2EU

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 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

Elms Ward

Councillor A Bridge
 Councillor Mrs J H Gregory
 Councillor C Cutting

Tel: 07877 707768 26 Hawthorn Avenue Ripley DE5 3PJ
 Tel: 01773 744477 43 Peartree Avenue Ripley DE5 3PR
 Tel: 01773 747105 101 Highfield Way Ripley DE5 3RT

Heage Ward

Councillor D Farrelly
 Councillor Mrs L Joyes
 Councillor P Lobley

Tel: 07541 692290 25 Balers Hill Heage DE56 2BL
 Tel: 01773 857320 30 Brook Street Heage DE56 2AP
 Tel: 01773 856874 2a Cookfield Heage DE56 2TF

Marehay Ward

Councillor M Wilson

Tel: 01773 745477 7 Bowler Street Ripley DE5 8HZ

North Ward

Councillor Mrs S Emmas-Williams
 Councillor P Moss

Tel: 01773 746543 29 Porterhouse Road Ripley DE5 3FL
 Tel: 01773 748827 123 Warmwells Lane Ripley DE5 8JE

Waingroves Ward

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 – Cllr Ms L D Cox
- Ripley and District Heritage Trust - Cllr A Bridge
- Ripley and District Town Twinning Association – Cllr M J Missett
- Waingroves Community Association – Cllr D Williams
- Heage Windmill Society – Cllr A Johnston
- Amber Valley Access – Cllr P Lobley
- Police, Parish / Town Liaison meetings – Cllr C Cutting
- William Holmes Court Almshouses and the Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity – **Cllr R Emmas-Williams and Cllr I Fisher till 2018**
- Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee – Cllrs S Freeborn and Mrs C Worth
- Derwent Valley Mills Partnership – Cllrs D Williams
- Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership - Cllrs D Farrelly and M J Missett
- Ripley Chamber of Trade – Cllrs R Emmas-Williams

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 £183,524 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.