



Ripley Town Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023

# W e l c o m e

Ripley Town Council aims to make Ripley a better place. We will try and help all those who need it, by building and strengthening relationships with individuals, groups and communities.

We aim to create a more secure and inclusive Ripley by helping individuals, families and communities to thrive.

We will work towards a more fairly shared society seeking to strengthen opportunities for all in education, health, housing, employment, transport, leisure and culture.

## Ripley Town Council are responsible for the following:

### Events

Spring Market & Well Dressing, Christmas Market and Lights Switch on, Bands on Crossley Park, the outdoor cinema and Remembrance Parade.

### Youth Initiatives

Ripley Youth Hub and the sessions at The Old Farm Bus in Marehay.

### Ripley Neighbourhood Plan & Environmental Action Plan

### Parks

Cedar Avenue and Porterhouse Road

### Hanging Baskets and Floral Displays

### Public Toilets

Ripley Market Place and Heage

### Grants to local groups

### Litterbins along Ripley Greenway

### Allotments

Heage Road, Nuttalls Park (Pit Lane/Fearn Avenue), Greenhillocks, Sandham Lane and Heage Parkside.



The  
Ripley Township  
includes:

Ripley  
Marehay  
Waingroves  
Street Lane  
Upper Hartshay  
Lower Hartshay  
Heage  
Nether Heage  
Ambergate  
Bullbridge  
Sawmills

## Staffing

Ripley Town Council employ the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Jayne Simpson who joined the Council in May 2022, working 35 hours per week.

We also have our Deputy Clerk, Hannah Curzon who has been with us since April 2018, working 33 hours per week.

In September 2022, we introduced the new role of Administration Assistant as the work of the council increased with our new responsibility of managing Greenwich Community Sports Hub. We employed Fiona Barrett who works 20 hours per week.

## Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC)

In October 2022, we were awarded Highly Commended Council of the Year 2022. It was a great accolade to receive as it was for the work we do with the youth in our community.

## 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. The Neighbourhood Plan is currently being reviewed to keep in line with NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework).



## Play Areas

RTC are responsible for the play equipment at Porterhouse Road and Cedar Avenue which is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Towards the end of this year, we embarked upon a project to upgrade the play facilities at Porterhouse Road, having received a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund. The work for this will be completed in May 2023 and will be reported in next year's annual report.

## Bus Shelters

Ripley Town Council have cleaned and maintained the 13 bus shelters the Council previously installed throughout the township.

## Ripley Greenway

The Town Council have continued to empty the 17 litter bins on Ripley Greenway to keep the area tidy for people to enjoy. We use a contractor to do this work. Additional dog litter bins are provided by Amber Valley Borough Council along Ripley Greenway.

## Public Toilets

The Town Council have continued to manage and clean the toilets on Ripley Market Place and in Heage. However, over the past few years, we have experienced several bouts of vandalism in the gents' toilets on Ripley Market Place resulting in them being closed periodically. The usual opening hours of these toilets is 9am until 3pm.





Ripley Town Council

## Youth Initiatives

Ripley Town Council are proud of the youth provision we have in the township. Our relationship with The Old Farm Bus in Marehay is continuing to flourish which is enabling the team there to provide sessions to young people, five evenings per week throughout the year.

Our longstanding commitment with Blend Youth continues. They provide sessions on a Wednesday evening at Greenwich Community Sports Hub which are very well attended.

We started the year working with Sporting Communities to provide a youth club at Sawmills Village Hall. However, attendance from local young people was poor therefore we made a decision to stop the sessions.

## Allotments

The Town Council have six sites from which they collect rent. The individual Allotment Associations deal with the day to day running of the Allotments.

## Citizens Advice

The Council continues to support Citizens Advice sessions at Ripley Library each Monday.



## Policing in Ripley

Ripley Town Council continue to work with the Ripley Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to keep the township safe. The Ripley SNT moved out of Ripley Town Hall in March 2022 and are now permanently placed at the Police Headquarters in Ripley. We offered them desk space in our office on Grosvenor Road where they can host Cuppa with a Copper events, meet with members of the public and have a base whilst working in the town centre. This relationship is working well between the Police and the Council.

## Hanging Baskets & Floral Displays

The Council provides hanging baskets installed around the Township and baskets along the railings on the Market Place opposite the top of Grosvenor Road. We also have planters outside the Co-op Supermarket on Derby Road in Ripley and on the wide pavement outside Greenwich Community Sports Hub.

There are also 5 concrete planters planted up around the township and tiered floral displays in four locations on entrances to the township. We are always grateful to receive feedback from the community about how beautiful the floral displays are.

## Flags

For the first time this year, we have purchased flags for Remembrance, Union Flags and Ripley Town Council Flags to put up for events throughout the year down Oxford Street and on our office on Grosvenor Road. We had to seek permission from Amber Valley Borough Council to do this.



## Greenwich Community Sports Hub

Ripley Town Council is the owner of the recreation ground and Community Hub on Nottingham Road in Ripley – the home of Ripley Town Football Club and Butterley United Cricket Club.

We are pleased that we have been able to secure the long-term future of the land as a sports and cultural hub for the Ripley community.

Greenwich Community Sports Hub has many uses for everyone and are not just the changing facility for the cricket and football teams.

There is a kitchen and bar facility that is available for hire by any group or individual. It is typically used for business meetings, community groups, training events and parties.

Since September 2022, Ripley Town Council have been taking the bookings for the Hub. We now have an Admin Assistant who does this and a Caretaker who looks after the maintenance of the building. We have established good working relationships with the regular hirers of the facility.





Ripley Town Council

## Community Engagement

We love nothing more than interacting with our residents and keeping them informed about our activities.

The public and press are welcome at all our full council and committee meetings of the Town Council. We regularly have members of the press present at our monthly meetings.

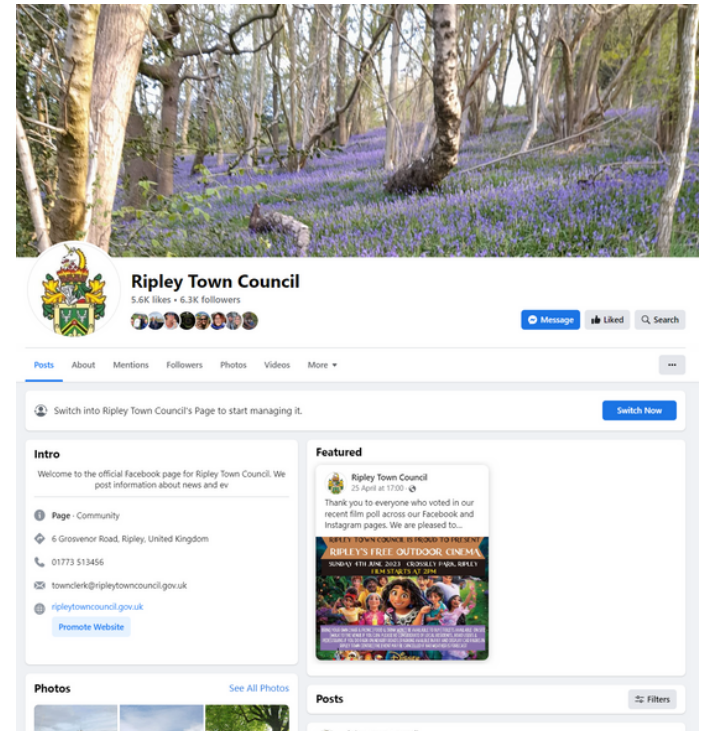
We publish a newsletter which is delivered to 14,500 residential properties at least four times a year in the Township, giving various information to residents. We continue to have a strong, recognisable brand so when the newsletter lands through letter boxes, it is instantly recognisable as a Ripley Town Council publication.

Our website is regularly updated and has information about events in the area, news, local information such as walking routes, local businesses, and tourist attractions.

We actively use social media daily, whether it is to promote the work we are doing or to share information from local groups, charities or schools. We also use it for public consultations, asking for their view on decisions regarding new play equipment and which film to show at our outdoor cinema.

Our Facebook page proves a positive and popular way of sharing information to our 6,312 'followers'. We also have a Twitter page with 253 followers and 1031 Instagram followers.

In early 2020, we started a subsidiary Facebook page called 'Shop Local – Shop Ripley' to promote the shops, businesses, and activities in our Township. To date, this page has 985 'followers' and is engaged with by both businesses and members of the public.





## 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 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

This is supported by Central England Coop. This competition is open to all residents and allotment plot holders in the Ripley Township.

This year, we were inundated with entrants to the competition and the standard of garden displays was very high. We introduced new categories including best community space, best school garden and best business floral display.

### Certificate of Merit Award

Nether Heage resident, Cheryl Roulston was presented with the 2022 Certificate of Merit by the Town Mayor at the Mayors Civic Service in November. Cheryl co-runs the Nether Heage Community Neighbourhood Watch group. She was nominated for all the dedication she gives by volunteering in her local community.





Ripley Town Council

## Events

### Ripley Fair Dinner

This annual event is organised by Ripley Town Council and the Showmen's Guild at various locations with each person attending paying for their meal.

### Remembrance Parade and Service

The 2022 parade and service was organised by Ripley Town Council. It was attended by the Mayor of Ripley and other dignitaries and representatives from local groups. All of which paid their respects and laid wreaths at the War Memorial.

Other Councillors attended the parade and services in Waingroves, Ambergate and Heage.

### Spring Market and Well Dressing

The 2022 Spring Market was really well attended. It was the first event since the Covid Pandemic struck. The Mayor officially opened the market and we were entertained by local dancers and singers.

Unfortunately, we couldn't have the well dressing as work was being carried out on Ripley Town Hall where the well is situated.

### Wool Bombing

Once again, the local knitting community didn't disappoint with their contributions for the community wool bombing project in Crossley Park and on Ripley Market Place.



## Events

### Outdoor Cinema

We were due to hold an outdoor showing of 'Grease' but unfortunately the death of Queen Elizabeth II was announced the day before, therefore as a mark of respect, we cancelled the event.

### Bands on Crossley Park

Throughout June, July, and August 2022, we held six live music sessions at the Bandstand on Crossley Park in Ripley. We were fortunate with the weather for some of the performances. All events were well attended.

### Civic Service and Civic Dinner

The Mayor's Civic Service was held in November 2022 at All Saints' Church, Ripley. The Civic Dinner was held at The Excavator in Ambergate in April 2023.

### Christmas Market and Lights Switch On

For the first time, we combined both these events and what a success it was! The turnout from the local community was amazing. The main attraction was a carousel in the centre of Ripley Market Place which looked particularly amazing at night when it was all lit up amongst the wonderful Christmas lights.

Eleven-year-old Ripley resident, Kori shared the stage with the Mayor to officially turn on the Christmas lights. Kori has received two heart transplants and unfortunately is now receiving palliative care, therefore we wanted to make this Christmas one for him and his family to remember.



We provided free rides and entertainment for people of all ages. The stallholders had a great day too.

We installed several large Christmas trees throughout the villages and entrances to Ripley as well as Christmas lights to lampposts in villages where they were able to go.

## Financial situation 2022-2023

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 £342,000.

## Funding Received 2022-2023

£9900 from the Community Fund for new play equipment at Porterhouse Road play area.

£300 from Derbyshire County Council for bunting for the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.



## Queen's Jubilee Grants

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Ripley Town Council gave financial grants to the following local groups to organise events for the local community to attend:

Amber Valley Stroke Group.....	£200
Cromford Road Residents Group.....	£200
Hammersmith Community Focus Group.....	£200
Marehay Community Trust.....	£200
Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch & Community Group.....	£200
Nether Heage Community and Neighbourhood Watch.....	£200
Ripley Music Festival.....	£300
Ripley OAP Association.....	£200
Sawmills Village Hall.....	£200
Heage WI.....	£100

## Financial Grants given in 2022

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

1st Waingroves Rangers.....	£100	Ripley & Alfreton Tennis Club.....	£100
AIM Excelsum School of Music.....	£200	Ripley Infant School PTA.....	£100
Ambergate Cricket Club.....	£750	Ripley OAP Association.....	£100
Amber Sound FM.....	£3000	Ripley Man Cave.....	£100
Amber Valley Movie Makers.....	£100	Ripley Masonic Hall.....	£100
Butterley United Cricket Club.....	£750	Ripley Morris.....	£100
Fearn Avenue Allotment Association....	£200	Ripley Music Festival.....	£3000
Friends of Carr Wood.....	£300	Ripley Women's Institute.....	£100
Friends of Ripley Greenway.....	£100	Rogue Runners Ripley.....	£100
Friends of Ripley Junior School.....	£100	Ripley Salvation Army Foodbank.....	£2000
Friends of Waingroves Primary School..	£100	Ripley Town Football Club.....	£750
Greenhillocks Allotment Association....	£100	Sawmills Over 60's Club.....	£100
Greenhillocks Fellowship Club.....	£200	Sawmills Village Hall.....	£100
Greenwich Park Sports Partnership.....	£750	SISU.....	£100
Grow Outside CIC.....	£100	The Village Hall at Heage.....	£100
Heage Parkside Allotment Association..	£100	Waingroves Community Association....	£100
Heage Windmill Society.....	£500	Waingroves Community Woodland .....	£1000
Marehay Community Trust.....	£250	Waingroves Drama Group.....	£100
Marehay Cricket Club.....	£750	Waingroves Show.....	£100
Meadow Road Neighbourhood Watch...£100		Waingroves Well Dressing.....	£100
Midland Railway Trust Ltd.....	£1000	Woodies Wings.....	£200
Nether Heage Community & NW.....	£100	Yellow Daisies Stay and Play.....	£100
Pentrich Revolution Group.....	£100		



Ripley Town Council

## Ripley Town Council

### Full list of Councillors details (May 2022 to May 2023)

#### **AMBERGATE WARD**

Cllr. Christine Worth (Resigned November 2022)

Cllr. Nigel Weaving | 01773 856375 (Lab)

#### **BUTTERLEY WARD**

Cllr. Steve Freeborn | 01773 749000 (Lab)

Cllr. Tony Holmes | 01773 742574 (Lab)

#### **CENTRAL WARD**

Cllr. Ron Ashton | 01773 745420 (Con)

Cllr. Lyndsay Cox | 01773 742574 (Lab)

#### **EAST WARD**

Cllr. Sean Carter | 01773 741600 (Con)

Cllr. Matt Jones | 01773 742225 (Lab)

Cllr. Roland Emmas-Williams | 01773 746543 (Lab)

Cllr. Ian Fisher | 07836 734005 (Lab)

Cllr. Steven Williams | 07837 263344 (Con)

#### **ELMS WARD**

Cllr. Janis Gregory (Died January 2023)

Cllr. Matt Allwood | 07426 027184 (Lab)

Cllr. Trevor Spencer | 07982 943944 (Con)

#### **HEAGE WARD**

Cllr. Tony Harper | 07730 044021 (Con)

Cllr Paul Lobley | 01773 856874 (Lab)

Cllr. Lynn Joyes (Resigned March 2023)

#### **MAREHAY WARD**

Cllr. Mick Wilson | 01773 772712 (Lab)

#### **NORTH WARD**

Cllr. Paul Moss | 01773 748827 (Con)

Cllr. Matt Murray | 07598 284313 (Con)

#### **WAINGROVES WARD**

Cllr. David Williams | 01773 744754 (Lab)



Ripley Town Council

## Ripley Town Council Representatives on outside bodies (2022-2023)

- Derbyshire Association of Local Councils Executive Committee
  - Ripley and District Heritage Trust
  - Ripley and District Town Twinning Association
  - Waingroves Community Association
  - Heage Windmill Society
  - Amber Valley Access
  - Police Parish / Town Liaison meetings
  - William Holmes Court Almshouses & Ernest Joseph Ellis Fermor Charity
  - Amber Valley Parish Liaison Committee
  - Derwent Valley Mills Partnership
  - Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership
  - Ripley Town Centre Traders Forum
  - Butterley Ironworks Trust
  - Derbyshire Law Centre
  - Greenwich Park Sports Partnership Trust
- Cllr L Cox & Cllr T Holmes  
Cllr R Emmas-Williams  
Cllr M Allwood  
Cllr D A Williams  
Cllr N Weaving  
Cllr S Freeborn  
Cllr R Emmas-Williams  
Cllr R Emmas-Williams & Cllr I Fisher  
Cllr T Holmes & Cllr S Freeborn  
Cllr S Freeborn  
Cllr N Weaving  
Cllr R Emmas-Williams  
Cllr S Freeborn  
Cllr M Wilson  
Cllr L Cox

**Jayne Simpson**  
**Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer**  
**May 2023**