

RIPON CITY PLAN

Making a Better Place



Keeping you informed 7 December 2013

Welcome to this drop-in event. In these panels we set out how the plan began, what has been done so far, what is left to do and how we expect to do this.

We'll invite you to answer a short questionnaire.

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How the plan was started

The Coalition Government passed the Localities Act in 2011 that includes the ability for Parish/Town Councils and other neighbourhood bodies to prepare a Plan for their area so as to give communities more power in planning local development.

As long as a majority of residents vote for the plan in a community referendum then it would become part of the district Council's Local Plan.

Decisions on planning applications will then take into account what local people have agreed.

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In October 2011, five Ripon organisations - *Ripon City Council, Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership, Ripon Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Ripon Civic Society and the Chapter of Ripon Cathedral* - got together and signed a letter to Harrogate Council asking that Government add the city to the list of places wishing to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and for assistance with the costs of preparing the plan.

Approval was received and the plan area, the city boundary, was designated formally on 12 December 2012.

The City Council has set up a City Plan Committee, including representatives from the signatories.

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Back in 2011 the Plan's priority issues were:

- revitalisation of the city centre including...use of empty shops, parking and use of land...
- rebalancing and growth of the local economy
- provision of community infrastructure and financial benefit from new development in the city
- establishment of neighbourhood development orders where desired...to speed up development
- the potential of Ripon's built and natural environment, especially for tourism and business growth
- promoting more sustainable growth...and respect for the setting of Ripon

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...but changes happen including

- the review of health service delivery in the city - “Healthy Ripon”
- the Ministry of Defence announcement about closure of Claro Barracks
- new investments in city centre shops, businesses and restaurants and fewer vacant shops
- more details from Harrogate Council’s Local Plan.

As there’s more for our plan to do, so we’re now calling it

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...and there are other ideas for Ripon

These can be traced back to the involvement of the Prince of Wales' Architecture Foundation in the 1990s, the Ripon regeneration programmes of the early 2000s followed by a proposal in 2004 for Ripon to be Yorkshire's Rural Capital of Culture and Enterprise.

Today, important definitions of Ripon can be found in Harrogate Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the emerging strategy of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership and Ripon Chamber of Trade and Commerce has just embarked on preparing a business strategy for the Ripon area.

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“Making a Better Place”

Our first major task was asking for thoughts and ideas on what would make the city a better place. This initial consultation was held April - June 2013. We suggested 6 themes to help discussion and debate:

- Getting Around - transport
- Earning and spending - businesses and shops
- Looking after Ripon - environment
- Healthy Ripon - community, voluntary and health
- Living and Learning - homes and education
- Meeting and greeting - attractions

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What you told us

We received over 200 responses, some of them in a lot of detail. Perhaps this was a disappointing number but we are confident that similar issues kept emerging on which we would be able to carry forward preparing the plan.

An important feature was the distinction between issues that concern the management and maintenance of the city and others that we could take forward in the City Plan.

In September we published what you had told us. We invited those respondents who wanted to keep in touch with us directly to a Focus Group event on 11 September.

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Although the original six themes had been useful to most people, we noticed that these did not give us sufficient direction to go forward. We have made some changes and now have eight areas on which to move to the next stage. These are

- strengthening the city centre
- improving accessibility
- protecting and allocating site for community purposes
- conserving and enhancing the city's character
- contributing to meeting the need for new homes
- facilitating regeneration
- attracting resources
- opportunities for the City Development Initiative

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Being clear about the next steps

Now that we've got these eight areas we need to spell out how you can expect us to proceed. So, we've prepared a Mission Statement to guide making the plan.

You can read this on the next panel.

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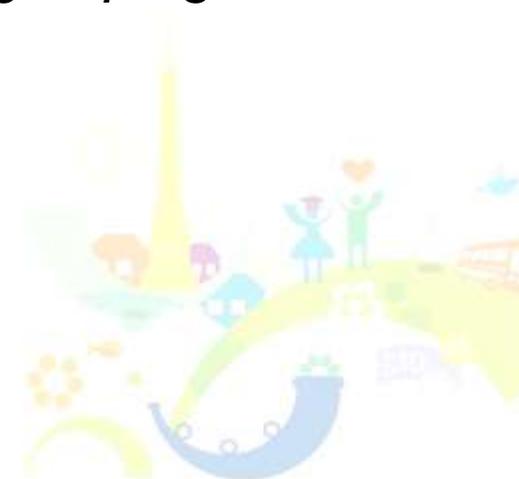


RIPON CITY PLAN Mission Statement

Our aim is to draw up a plan for the city of Ripon that will provide a framework for its physical change into the 2020s – making Ripon a better place.

Ripon will change, as does every place. We want the plan to provide the best opportunities for development, enhancing the city's good points, protecting our unique and irreplaceable assets and grasping the chance to play a stronger role in our area of North Yorkshire.

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We will invite your perceptions and ideas for what you want Ripon to become and will consult you as we reach important stages in drawing up the plan. After all, you will have to vote for the plan to be approved.

There will be things you suggest that would make Ripon a better place but which we may not be able to include. This is because the plan has to focus on policies and proposals for how land and buildings are used.

Some changes, for example, new traffic control measures, more regular environmental maintenance, different parking charges or frequency of bus services cannot be included. Others, such as provision of a new swimming

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pool or hospital, could be beyond what the plan can propose with confidence. We will try and find the best way to include them, record your concerns and do our best to get them taken on by other means. We will tell you what we have done.

Although our plan needs to be aware of what the Borough Council's Local Plan says about the role of Ripon, we can put our local knowledge and understanding to good use in the policies and proposals we think should be included.



Ripon does not exist in isolation of its wider area of North Yorkshire although the plan is restricted to within the city boundary, So we will ensure that in preparing the plan we seek out information that will help make the city better for its neighbours and visitors as well as its residents and businesses.

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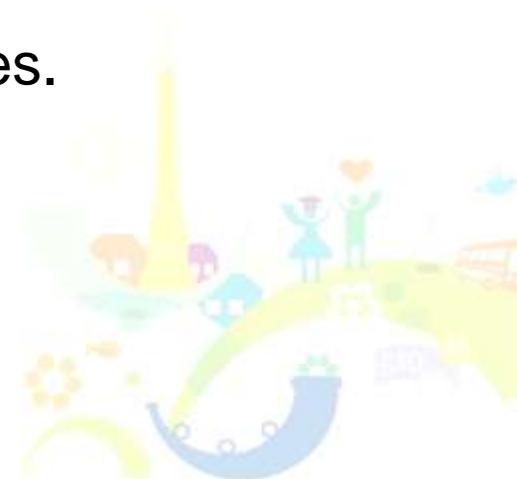
The City Development Initiative

The Mission Statement refers to some of what you told us being better placed for others to deal with. An important means is through the City Development initiative set up through the City Council for Ripon partners to work together.

The “CDI” has three parts of which one includes partners supporting the new **Discover Ripon** brand. This has four different strands:

- Promoting Ripon – marketing, promotion, events
- Welcoming Ripon – cleaner, greener, safer, attractive
- Invest Ripon – attract new business
- Proud Ripon – reconnecting with the communities.

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CDI also includes Future Ripon (having the right strategies and action plans) and Performing Ripon (collecting, analysing and reporting data that tells us how Ripon is doing).

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What you told us about Ripon into the future

It's important that we have some idea of what sort of place Ripon will be so that the Plan can promote appropriate policies and proposals.

We have the general picture that people liked the city and would prefer changes to be gradual. It's important to look after the best of its character. Sites and buildings that fall vacant for new development should be re-used in preference to using the remaining green fields.

We've used these principles along with other more specific ideas to write a Vision for Ripon into the 2020s. You can read this on the next panel.

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Ripon City Plan Vision

By the 2020s the city of Ripon will be the acknowledged centre of the predominately rural area of western North Yorkshire between the A1 and the Yorkshire Dales National Park north of the Harrogate and Knaresborough urban area and south of Richmondshire and Bedale. It will be:

- *a meeting place of choice for culture, leisure and tourism for residents and visitors*



- *a centre for financial and commercial services, well connected to high quality digital communications for business and home-working*
- *providing services and skills to the agri-economy and industry*
- *a convenient, accessible and attractive place for all to live including families, the long-distance commuter, retirees, the elderly and native Riponians*
- *offering a predominately local, independent and specialist shopping experience including weekly markets and a choice of significant supermarket shopping*
- *a place that facilitates healthy living and life-long learning*

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The city centre's Georgian, Victorian and mediaeval townscape and historic street pattern will be conserved with the Cathedral Precinct, Market Place, Spa and emerging Cultural Quarters integrated for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

New development will balance the desire to retain local distinctiveness whilst displaying the best of contemporary architectural innovation. The city will be known as a place to visit for excellent public art.

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The city's attractive countryside setting, including its waterways, the Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey World Heritage Site and neighbouring villages, will be protected and enhanced to maintain its distinctiveness.

Ripon itself will be seen as a city of urban villages. These will guide the character of development and be reflected in the inevitable changes that arise from the city's changing military role.

Walking and cycling will be encouraged by the quality of the public realm and careful and innovative management and maintenance of highways, footpaths and bridleways. Comprehensive facilities for active recreation will add to Ripon's attractiveness as a place to live and work.

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From Vision to Objectives

The purpose of Objectives is to link what you said into what's eventually in the plan. Each objective guides what we need to do. There are eight of them, one for each of the areas we learned from the consultation.

The following panels set out our Objectives, the measures each one includes, what we need to do and what progress we are making before we can bring you an initial version of the plan in the Spring.

We will be interested in knowing whether you think we've got the Vision and Objectives about right.

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Ripon City Plan Objectives

Measures to address objectives	How we propose to deliver the measures. We suggest where the City Development Initiative needs to play a leading role (CDI).
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1. To strengthen the city centre as the meeting place of choice for Ripon residents and visitors by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>reviewing the use and design of the Market Place and its facilities</i> 	<i>Commission an urban design study and invite proposals from, perhaps, consultants/students.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>promoting highway improvements that redirect vehicular traffic away from Market Place</i> 	<i>Investigate potential for a new/improved highway between Park Row and Low Skellgate. Promote traffic management. Engage NYCC Highways Service.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>promoting uses that support the creation of an evening economy</i> 	<i>Draft a policy for discussion with partners. CDI</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>designating 'quarters' to promote cultural and leisure</i> 	<i>Show proposed Cathedral (see also objective 6),</i>



<p><i>destinations</i></p>	<p><i>Market Place, Spa and Culture quarters on map. Link these to draft environmental action policies and proposals. Revisit submissions from partners to Harrogate Council's Sites & Policies Document on town centre improvement. Suggest proposals for what needs to be done.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>reviewing the desirability of protecting shops from other city centre uses</i> 	<p><i>Seek and suggest more flexibility in Harrogate Council's Planning Policy on shopping frontages.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>identifying replacement and/or additional sites for car and coach parking</i> 	<p><i>Understand parking supply and demand). Engage Harrogate Council Parking Service, NHS and private owners. Suggest new site(s)? CDI</i></p>

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2. To improve accessibility within Ripon and beyond by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designating safe pedestrian routes and cycleways that assist connecting the urban villages of the city and the city centre and beyond 	<p><i>Liaise with cyclists groups, including Sustrans.</i></p> <p><i>Review NYCC's 2004 draft Ripon Cycling Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Press for completion of NYCC Review of Rights of Way. Suggest improvements. CDI.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Access for All 	<p><i>Mobility access audits and travel plans. CDI,</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting a sustainable network of local bus services within the city and beyond (including to York and Thirsk) 	<p><i>NYCC bus service support, Transdev and other operators. CDI</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> setting out an approach for reinstatement of the railway through Ripon 	<p><i>Draft a policy offering support for a strategic initiative.</i></p>

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3. To protect, and where appropriate allocate, sites for community purposes including health, education, leisure and recreational uses such as:	
• <i>the hospital and associated primary care facilities</i>	<i>Understand progress and possible output from Healthy Ripon initiative.</i>
• <i>public open space/amenity space</i>	<i>Consider existing proposals and local concerns.</i>
• <i>playing fields</i>	<i>Review recent studies and development threats.</i>
• <i>swimming pool</i>	<i>Understand local needs, demands and Harrogate Council position. Options.</i>
• <i>environmental corridors (green/blue)</i>	<i>Meet Environment Agency, Canal & Rivers Trust, Local Wildlife Trusts and consider how to strengthen initiatives. CDI</i>

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4. To conserve and enhance the physical character of Ripon and its setting through policies for the design of new development, encouragement of high quality contemporary architecture, delivery of public art and environmental improvement action.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Impact of the World Heritage Buffer Zone</i> • <i>City centre environmental action areas eg Kirkgate</i> • <i>Harrogate Council Design Policies and Conservation Area Assessment</i> 	<p><i>Policy review and proposals.</i></p> <p><i>Delivering “Portas” funds.</i></p> <p><i>Ginnel and backland improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Draft a public art policy.</i></p> <p><i>CDI</i></p>
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5. To contribute to meeting the need for new homes by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>allocating sites for new open market homes and new affordable homes</i> 	<p><i>Identify additional sites from Harrogate Council evidence (SHLAA), review progress with HBC proposals and sites with planning permission. Consider housing need from NYCC housing assessment (SHMA).</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>anticipating the opportunity for using windfall sites for new housing</i> 	<p><i>Non-residential sites may become vacant during plan period. Draft policy for how they are assessed for housing. Consider possible sites.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>reinforcing the character and function of Ripon's urban villages</i> 	<p><i>Explore Ripon's Urban Villages, their character and potential to accommodate new development and facilities.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>investigating other community rights under Localism Act</i> 	<p><i>Community Right to Bid for vacant local buildings, Neighbourhood Development Orders.</i></p>

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6. To facilitate the regeneration of Ripon by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>designating mixed use areas</i> 	<p><i>Understanding potential for whether greater flexibility in how land and buildings are used will help regeneration. Suggest possible area(s) and draft a policy and proposals.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>designating a Cathedral Precinct</i> 	<p><i>Present existing proposal on map; write a draft policy. Promote conservation management plan for Cathedral fabric.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>providing tourist accommodation</i> 	<p><i>Identify site(s) for hotels and other types.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>providing a strategic basis for the redevelopment of the military estate including the requirement for master planning a new urban village, sustainable energy, the provision of workspace, affordable and market housing, recreation, education and community facilities (including retail as appropriate), transport networks (including walking and cycling networks, local bus services and</i> 	<p><i>Understand the conclusions of the economic impact study in anticipation of further clarification of MoD position.</i></p> <p><i>This is a key opportunity for the City Plan to set out the basis for creating a new urban village.</i></p>

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<i>highways) and a high quality environment and public realm</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>allocating sites for employment and training</i>	<i>Appraisal of remaining vacant allocated sites using Harrogate Council evidence and consider whether additional sites can be identified.</i>

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7. To identify the opportunities and constraints in attracting resources for the delivery of proposals.

- *Identify where funding programmes are available or may come available*
- *Consider the infrastructure requirements of Ripon's regeneration and development*

Review high level strategies to understand potential for Ripon to benefit from external funding streams and programmes.

Draft a Ripon Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 list and Planning Obligations.

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8. To identify opportunities that arise during the preparation of the plan for the City Council (leading through the City Development Initiative) to:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>influence the strategies of others for making Ripon a better place</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>work with partners to achieve positive change and improvement in the management and operation of the city</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>develop projects that improve the city for residents and visitors, neighbours and businesses</i> | |

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What can we be clear about now?

We're reasonably confident that the Mission Statement, Vision and Objectives are about right and fit together well enough to give us the scope of what the plan should cover.

We've met some experts, for example on public transport and railway reinstatement. We've met consultants working on the impact of the proposed barracks closures.

And we've read a lot around the background evidence we'll need to support our initial plan ideas.

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What can we work on now?

There are more interest groups, organisations and experts to meet to expand our understanding.

We need to start writing the back story of the process so far, especially the major consultation.

Other Neighbourhood Plans are ahead of us and we continue to learn from them what's successful and best practice.

We can draft some policies and proposals to talk about with partners. And we must keep you informed.



What do we still need to know?

As much information as we can learn from the economic appraisal of the impact of Barracks' closure.

Progress from the "Healthy Ripon" initiative.

Progress with Harrogate Council's Local Plan.

What comes out of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce's current work.

Your help on defining of the city's Urban Villages.

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Ripon's Urban Villages

Perhaps we think of villages as places in the countryside but looking at Ripon many parts of the city have their own distinctive character. We want to use this as another means of inviting you to tell us about Making a Better Place.

Please take part in the exercise to tell us how you describe where you live.

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What are we missing?

Do you want to tell us anything more about what you think the plan should cover?

Please complete the questionnaire.

Thank you.

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