

This year Ripon City Council will be leading the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan - the Ripon City Plan - that will shape future development in the city. So, your views as Ripon's residents, businesses, workers and visitors are all really important, because the Ripon City Plan will be your plan of what you want to see delivered in coming years.



RIPON CITY PLAN

Making a Better Place



Tell Us What You Think

How could Ripon be better for you? I'm sure you've got lots of ideas and this is your opportunity to tell us.

This will be the first time in nearly forty years that the City has been able to make its own plan for development, so we need to use this opportunity wisely.

During this consultation we want as many people as possible to have their say, so there will be lots of opportunities for you to get involved. There will be a programme of events, workshops and meetings as well as the opportunity to share your thoughts via our survey.

Your responses will help identify the issues and opportunities that you see for the future of the City. From this consultation the vision and aims of the Ripon City Plan will start to be built.

Planning for Ripon's future has never been so important and we have never had a better opportunity for the people of Ripon to lead this discussion, so please I urge you to get involved.

Councillor Mick Stanley

Chair, Ripon City Plan Group
March 2013

For more information on the Ripon City Plan go on line at www.riponcity.gov.uk/city-plan

Contact us by:

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Neighbourhood Planning in Ripon - FAQs

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Plans are part of the Government's localism agenda and were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. The aim is to give local people greater ownership of the plans and policies which affect their local area.

A Neighbourhood Plan relates to the use of land, or aspects of how a place works, in a very local area. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan is used to consider all planning applications in that area.

What other powers does the Localism Bill introduce?

Other Neighbourhood Planning powers enable local communities to allow planning permission for specified developments or types of development that they want to see. Whether we look to establish a Neighbourhood Development Order for Ripon will depend upon the issues raised in the consultation, but it could be an option for delivering the Neighbourhood Plan.

Who is leading the development of the Neighbourhood Plan in Ripon?

As required by the legislation Ripon City Council is leading the development of the Neighbourhood Plan (which is being called the Ripon City Plan), supported by a number of Ripon organisations including the Greater Ripon Improvement Partnership, Ripon Cathedral, the Chamber of Trade and the Civic Society. The proposals to prepare a plan for the City have gained the support of Harrogate Borough Council and the approval of the Government.

What area will the Ripon City Plan cover?

The area to be covered by the Ripon City Plan is called the Neighbourhood Area and is the existing Parish boundary. This area was designated following public consultation last year.

What can the Ripon City Plan do?

The Ripon City Plan will be able to set out policies against which planning applications are assessed, including appeals. It will not be possible to go against national planning policies or to block development that is part of the strategic policies in Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan. What the City Plan can do is to shape where development will go and what it will look like providing a more detailed planning framework for the City.

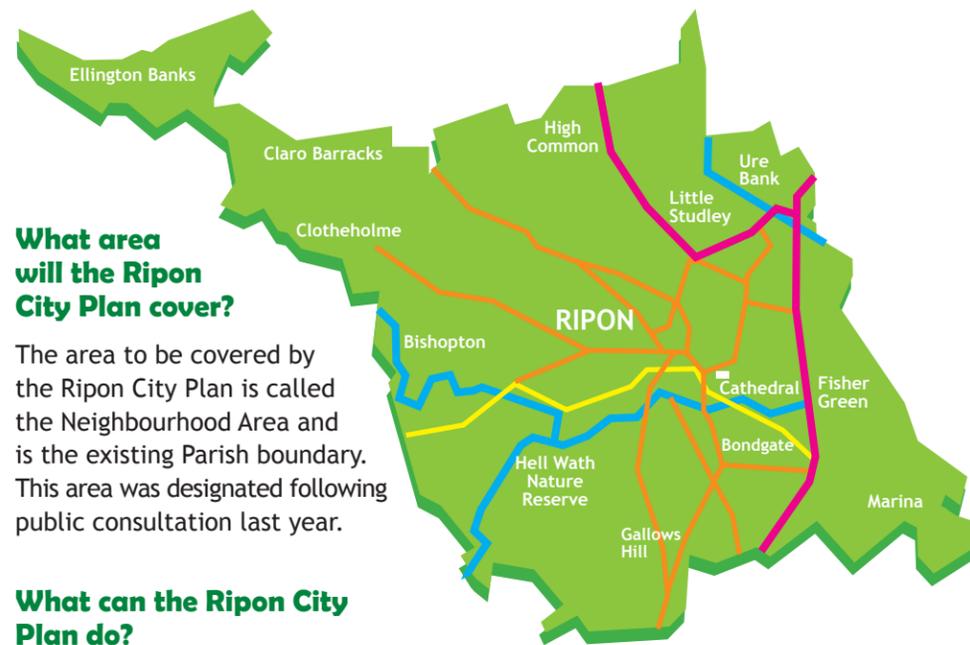
It is possible that the process of developing the plan may also be able to influence the policies of the Local Planning Authority. During 2013, Harrogate Borough Council will consult on the draft Sites and Policies Development Plan document. We will work with the Council's planners to avoid any risk of confusion about the consultations but also to ensure that comments made in the Ripon City Plan consultation are considered.

What else can the Ripon City Plan set out?

Consultation is very likely to reveal issues relating to education, health, transport, the economy and the environment that are outside the remit of the Planning system. However, all of the comments made during the consultation will be considered and supplementary strategies, policies or action plans which complement the Neighbourhood Plan and are important for the future development of the City may be drawn up.

Have Neighbourhood Plans been implemented elsewhere?

In March 2013, Upper Eden in Cumbria, became the first area in the Country to have an agreed Neighbourhood Plan which will now start to influence planning decisions in the area. Many other areas are developing plans that their communities want to see implemented.



How long is it going to take to prepare the Ripon City Plan?

Now that the first stage has been completed and the Neighbourhood Area has been agreed - it is the city boundary - we can start preparing the Plan. There are a number of phases of work.

Phase 1 – Consultation and Collecting Information (April to June 2013)

The first stage is to consult with those people that live, work, shop, visit and do business in Ripon. We also need to talk to agencies and organisations such as English Heritage and the Environment Agency, to understand their views of the area. And finally, we will also need to collect as much data and information about the City as we can.

Phase 2 – Developing the Draft Ripon City Plan (July to September 2013)

All of the information collected will then be analysed and used in the development of a draft Ripon City Plan. This Plan will outline a series of policies and proposals to address the issues identified and build on strengths to allow the City to fulfil its potential.

Phase 3 – Consultation on the Draft Ripon City Plan (October / November 2013)

Once we have a draft Ripon City Plan, we'll hold another round of consultation so that you have an opportunity to have your say on what is being proposed.

Phase 4 – Reviewing and Finalising the Draft Ripon City Plan (Early 2014)

Following this consultation we will consider the responses, and if necessary, update the policies and proposals to finalise the Draft Ripon City Plan.

Phase 5 – Submission and Examination (Early 2014)

The draft Ripon City Plan can then be submitted to Harrogate Borough Council. They will formally publicise the proposals and invite representations.

An independent examiner will be appointed to consider any representations and check the plan conforms to national and local planning policy.

Phase 6 – Community Referendum (Spring 2014)

Once satisfied with the plan, Harrogate Borough Council will organise a referendum. Anyone on Ripon's electoral role can vote.

Phase 7 – Implementation (from Spring 2014)

If the majority of those voting are in favour of the plan, Harrogate Borough Council has to adopt it so that the Ripon City Plan becomes a formal part of its Local Plan.

How can I give my views?

We want to give the best opportunity for Ripon residents, businesses and workers to be involved in making the Ripon City Plan. The consultation will run from the beginning of April until the end of June and there'll be many ways you can get involved.

Complete our questionnaire

We have produced a questionnaire to gather your views. You can complete this on-line by visiting: www.riponcity.gov.uk/city-plan Or if you require a printed copy please telephone: 01765 601100 or email: cityplan@riponcity.gov.uk

Attend an event, workshop or meeting

We will be publicising events, workshops and meetings that you can attend. Details will be in the newspapers, on the radio and using Ripon City Council's web site, Twitter account and Facebook page. It may include exhibiting on the Market, or organising a residents' workshop for people who are interested in being a Ripon Planner for a Day.

We will also be encouraging and supporting local organisations to hold events on what would make Ripon a better place for them. And we plan to ensure that the views of those residents that can't attend meetings are taken into account too by visiting care homes.

We are also asking Ripon City Councillors to hold Ripon City Plan surgeries at the Town Hall to hear from their ward constituents.

Finally, we need a strong link with young people and will be contacting schools to see how the consultation can fit in with curriculum and how they can encourage children and parents to discuss the plan. We will also be looking to arrange an event for young people at the Town Hall.

There'll be lots of ways for you to express your views, so get in touch and let us know what your views for the future of Ripon are.



How would Ripon be better for you?

To provide a framework for consultation, six themes have been identified that try to encompass all aspects of the City and what future development may be required.

So, tell us what you think about:

Getting around - transport

We all need to get around Ripon in order to live our lives, and we use different means to achieve this at different times, affecting each other and the environment.



*How can we all improve getting around?
What are your three most important suggestions?*

Earning and spending - businesses and shops

Encouraging investment and spending in Ripon is obviously good for the local businesses, jobs, shops and services.



What would be your three most important changes to boost jobs and encourage spending in Ripon?

Looking after Ripon - environment

Clean air, uncluttered streets, unpolluted rivers, and lots of green places and habitats make an attractive environment in which to live and work and to visit.



What are your three most important suggestions to how we can sustain an attractive environment?

Healthy Ripon - Community, voluntary and health

Ripon is a caring and supportive community that offers opportunities for and access to leisure, health services, and a network of voluntary groups and facilities.



What are your three most important suggestions to help you, and others become involved in a healthy active and supportive local community?

Living and learning - homes and education

As the City grows and changes we need to provide a variety of places to live and learn.



What are your three most important suggestions to provide the right housing in the right places, and opportunities and access to lifelong learning?

Meeting and greeting - attractions

Ripon is a city with many interesting features and traditions and a great cultural and social life.



What are your three most important suggestions for making sure that Ripon's buildings, streets and open places are best used to promote local pride, and to provide a welcome to visitors?



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Complete the on-line survey at:
www.riponcity.gov.uk/city-plan

Email your views to:

@ : cityplan@riponcity.gov.uk

Or submit your views in writing to:

Ripon City Plan, Town Hall, Ripon, HG4 1DD