

The Ripon City Plan - Connecting People and Spaces

Over the past couple of months we've outlined the approach that we are suggesting in the emerging draft Ripon City Plan in relation to where new homes could be built and also where new employment opportunities could be created, including our approach to regenerating areas of the city and strengthening the city centre to create new jobs.

This month, we want to focus on our approach to other key aspects of the Ripon City Plan: green and open spaces, community facilities, transport and connectivity and protection of the environment and our heritage.

In relation to green and open spaces, we listened to what you said during our consultations and we are proposing policies that protect open space around the city by suggesting that planning permission will not be granted where there is a disproportionate and unacceptable loss to views across the city. Furthermore we are suggesting that proposals that involve the loss of existing outdoor and indoor public and private sport and recreational facilities, will not be permitted unless criteria can be met that mean there isn't a detrimental effect on the city's facilities.

The City Plan suggests that new housing development will be required to contribute to the provision of new sports, open space and recreational facilities and proposes a policy to ensure this is provided either on the housing development site or elsewhere within the city. Furthermore, the draft Ripon City Plan will also suggest an approach for additional education provision, which may not be able to be accommodated on existing education sites and may be required owing to the housing development. The Plan will propose that any additional provision shall be made in the protected open land between Kirkby Road, Church Lane, Park Street and Clothierholme Road including the grounds of the present secondary school (Outwood Academy), except that any additional education provision required arising from any residential development of the military estate shall be provided on a site allocated within that area.

In relation to transport and connectivity, the City Plan policies will encourage any developments to adopt approaches in relation to sustainable transport, footpaths and rights of way connectivity, cycling connectivity and facilities for people with mobile impairment. However, the provision of new road infrastructure, particularly on the west –side of the city, is considered to be critical to facilitate the development proposals outlined in the City Plan. The development of roads is beyond the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan, but working closely with North Yorkshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, we are putting forward policies which propose that a number of suggestions need to be considered and investigated further.

The City Plan supports the re-opening of the railway line through Ripon, although it also recognises that the delivery of this is way beyond the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan and recognises that it requires a multi-agency approach if this is to be progressed.

Finally, in our consultations you told us about the important things about Ripon that you liked and wanted to see protected. Whilst there are a number of policies and protections that already exist, we feel that there is a need for a number of locally led policies to help strengthen the approach in the city in relation to: sustainable development and the maintenance of a development limit. In addition the policies to be set out in the City Plan will include our suggested approach to: flood risk

and sustainable drainage, unstable land, landscape character, nature conservation, protection of the river corridors, screening of any development at the sewage works, preventing the loss of visual amenity from any new lighting and protecting the distinctive Ripon skyline. Finally, the Plan will also contain policies in relation to the maintaining the built heritage of the city, facilitating the revitalisation of landmark buildings and the creation of public art.

The final wording and evidence base for all of these policies are still being worked on currently, with publication of our final draft Ripon City Plan currently expected in Autumn.

Next month, we will finish outlining what we expect to be contained in the draft Ripon City Plan, by outlining some of the complementary projects which we have identified which will support the delivery of the City Plan's vision and objectives but which are outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan.

If you require any further information, please contact the Ripon City Plan Team:
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