Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

RIPON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Business Plan 2026-2031

visit Ripon

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Message from Chairman

Ripon BID was formed in 2021 as a Destination BID. Ripon BID provides additional or improved services over and above those provided by North Yorkshire Council and Ripon City Council. A key priority for Ripon BID has been its enhanced marketing and promotion for the visitor economy businesses and the destination.

A BID gives local business owners and managers the opportunity to influence the long-term economic development and improvement of their destination. Examples of these types of improvements include investment in measures to support the visitor welcome, helping existing and new events to attract more visitors to stay for longer, and return more frequently. Place shaping support, for example by providing increased visitor data information and business support in the form of training or 'money saving' opportunities, also form part of Ripon BID's objectives.

Our vision is for Ripon to be a clean, vibrant and attractive city which welcomes visitors and locals alike. For our businesses this means; a place where residents have pride to shop local, visitors want to visit (and re-visit) and new businesses chose to invest in the city.

During our first term Ripon BID has invested over £850,000 in the city through a wide range of projects – highlighted in pages 8-10. Ripon BID has also brought into Ripon over £180,000 in grant funding and other income during its first term to date – an increase of 50% from the prediction in the 1st term business plan. All BID projects are about providing additional services above the local councils' remits. With the much larger unitary authority of North Yorkshire Council having been formed, it is more important than ever that Ripon businesses have an organisation to act as its voice and ensure continued investment into the city.

I would like to ask you to have confidence in Ripon BID and vote "YES" for a further 5 year mandate to allow us to build further on the work we have done to date.

Richard Compton

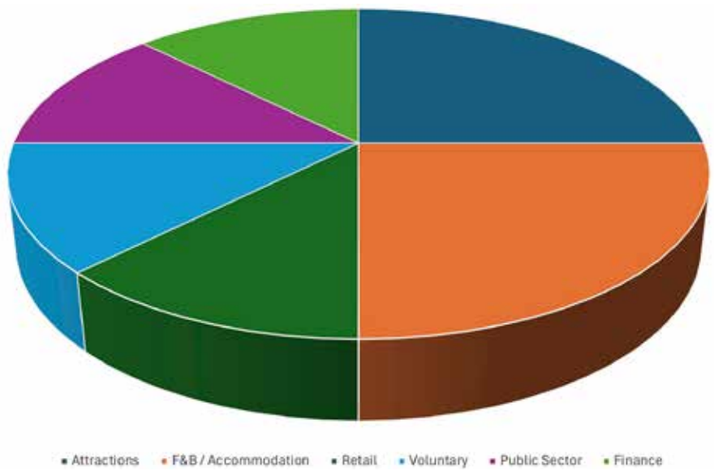
Chairman

Your Voluntary Board of Directors

Richard Compton, Newby Hall – Chairman
Mark Lancaster, Colour It In – Joint Vice-Chairman
Rick Jones, Valentino's & The Water Rat – Joint Vice-Chairman
Stuart Baldwin, Abacus Accountants – Finance Director
Richard Taylor, Ripon Museums Trust – Director
Stephen Craggs, G Craggs - Director
Megan Green, Green & Co. – Director
Rebecca Layton, The Old Deanery - Director
Andrew Williams, North Yorkshire Council & Ripon City Council – Director

Board Composition

Attractions	2
F&B / Accommodation	2
Retail	1
Voluntary	1
Public Sector	1
Finance	1



What is a BID?

A BID (Business Improvement District) is a business-led and business-funded body formed to improve a defined area. Ripon BID is governed by a board made up of BID levy payers who represent the various sectors within the BID area. This means that all businesses have a genuine voice in deciding and directing how they want the business environment around them to be improved.

A BID is funded by businesses paying a small percentage of their premises' rateable value towards the BID in the form of a levy. A BID can only be formed if a successful ballot takes place, where the majority of businesses vote to adopt the proposed Business Plan.

BIDs were first introduced under Government legislation in 2004 and Ripon BID was formed in 2021 with a 5 year term. Ripon BID is entirely independent of both North Yorkshire Council and Ripon City Council and provides additional services and value over and above what is provided by the local authority or another existing organisation.

Background to Ripon BID

Ripon BID officially came into being in 2021 for 5 years. A key priority for Ripon BID has been its enhanced marketing and promotion for the visitor economy businesses and Ripon as a destination. It set out to achieve this under three key themes:

1. Local & Visitor Marketing

Creating a brand for Ripon and marketing the area as a must-visit destination

2. Access & Facilities

Investing in the look and feel of Ripon with better wayfinding and cleaning and greening

3. Business Support

Providing business savings, training and support

How is Ripon BID measured?

Ripon BID is answerable to the businesses that pay the BID levy and we are required to monitor and inform our members of progress towards the objectives set out in this business plan. Ripon BID sends out a monthly newsletter along with email, website, social media and press communications to keep our businesses up to date. Ripon BID holds an Annual Review at the beginning of each financial year to which all levy payers are invited to attend.

Our Key Performance Indicators:

- Website and social media analytics on views, followers, engagement and reach
- PR Coverage
- Event feedback
- Footfall monitoring
- Vacancy rates

Ripon BID has also achieved The BID Foundation Accreditation. The BID Foundation sets out 11 standards which represent good practice in governance and operations for BIDs. They have been developed by The BID Foundation in consultation with governments, sector bodies and the Institute of Place Management. The BID Foundation now sits under the Association of Town & City Management (ATCM).

Who are the BID Team?

Day to day operations are managed by the BID Manager and two part-time staff. The voluntary BID Board is made up of BID levy payers from the relevant business sectors including retail, hospitality and tourism.

The next 5 years

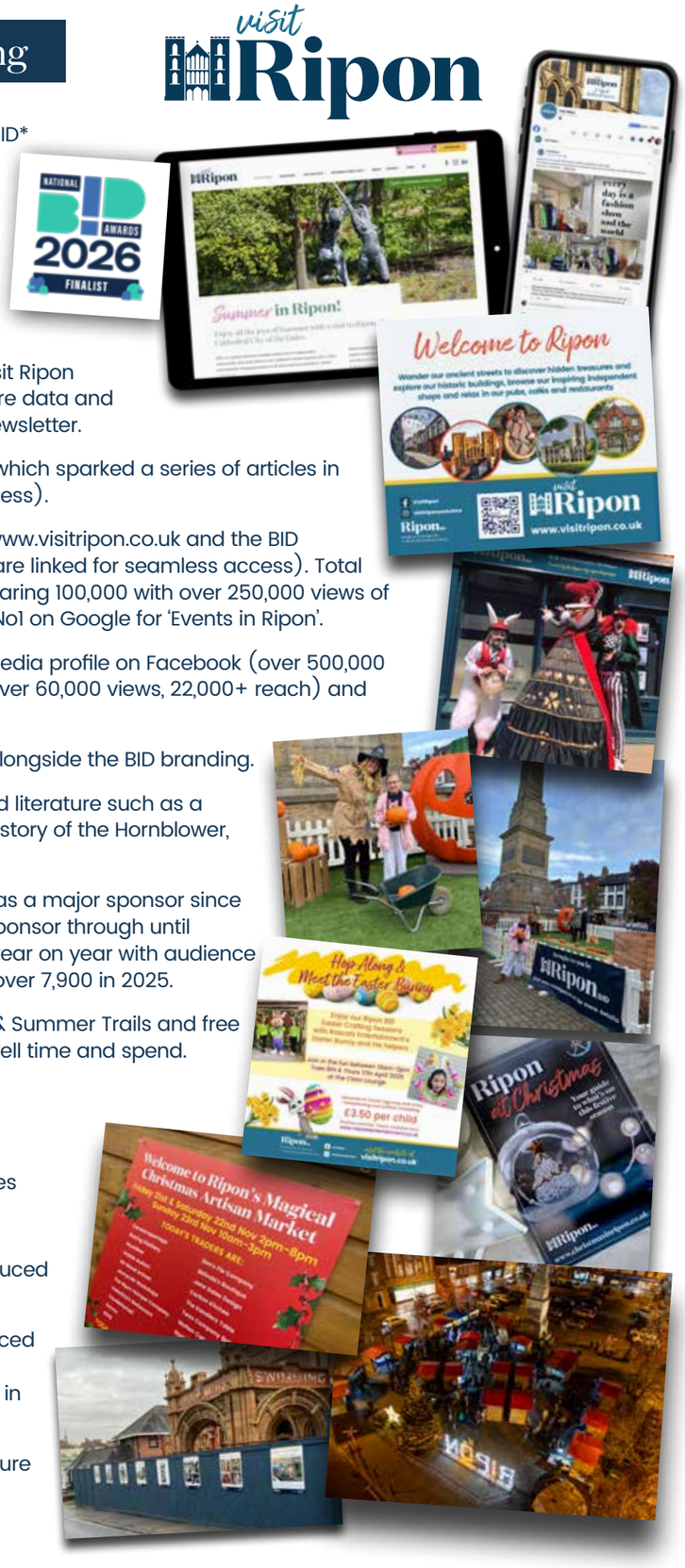
Following nearly five years of BID success in Ripon, we can confirm that there is a willingness on the part of the majority of businesses to see the BID continue and they have asked us to seek another "YES" vote to continue Ripon BID's work for a further period to August 2031.

In that time, as well as delivering on the current Business Plan, the Ripon BID has coped with the unprecedented challenges that COVID brought as well as the reorganisation of local government.

What have we done to date?

Ripon BID has worked hard to deliver projects that businesses want - the following pages give some notable achievements to date.

Local & Visitor Marketing



- 29% rise in footfall over the life of the BID*
- Finalist in National BID Awards 2026 in Tourist Initiative category
- Developed a marketing plan and campaigns that include destination and local marketing to promote the city and BID businesses.
- Arranged and coordinated regular Visit Ripon meetings for all the attractions to share data and best practice and created a Visitor Newsletter.
- Brought the Daily Telegraph to Ripon which sparked a series of articles in National press (see visitripon.co.uk/press).
- Full visitor facing website created at www.visitripon.co.uk and the BID website at www.riponbid.co.uk (sites are linked for seamless access). Total number of visitors to the website is nearing 100,000 with over 250,000 views of pages, posts and events. It is ranked No1 on Google for 'Events in Ripon'.
- Developed a comprehensive social media profile on Facebook (over 500,000 views, 200,000+ reach), Instagram (over 60,000 views, 22,000+ reach) and Linkedin.
- Created strong Visit Ripon branding alongside the BID branding.
- Designed and produced collateral and literature such as a Visit Ripon brochure, a flyer with the history of the Hornblower, Walking Maps and Indie Maps.
- Supported the Ripon Theatre Festival as a major sponsor since 2022 and committed to continue to sponsor through until summer 2026. This event has grown year on year with audience numbers rising from 2,500 in 2022 to over 7,900 in 2025.
- Annual Hallowe'en, Christmas, Easter & Summer Trails and free children's activities which increase dwell time and spend.

  Participant surveys showed:

  - 93% spent more time in Ripon
  - 87% spent money in Ripon businesses
  - 57% discovered new businesses
- 5 seasonal videos professionally produced and available for businesses to use.
- Funding sourced to provide an enhanced 3-day Christmas Market with wooden market huts and street entertainment in November 2025.
- Production of Christmas events brochure now sent to over 30,000 households.

*figures at 30 Sept 2025

Business Support

- Over £180k in grants and other income raised (50% over the estimate). Included in this is the UKSPF funding for the Joint Towns Boost Project and Christmas Markets
- Free after 3 car parking offered on Thursdays (Christmas 2023).
- Successfully worked with North Yorkshire Council to have 4-hour coach parking limit removed in ongoing work to get coach friendly accreditation for Ripon.
- Worked with North Yorkshire Council to ensure the Ripon Big Sky Wheel was a success in 2025.
- Funding of 29 ShopWatch radios resulting in a 40% uplift in people using the scheme.
- Funding sourced for a lockable gate in problem alleyway to alleviate anti-social behaviour.
- Over £5,000 in premises improvement grants awarded or facilitated.
- At least £11,000 of business savings on utility and other costs identified
- Regular meetings and excellent relationships developed with directors and officers at North Yorkshire Council to enable businesses' views to be heard and excellent relationship developed with York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Mayor's office.
- 27 free training or workshop sessions totalling 114 hours including over 130 people trained in Emergency First Aid.
- Professional photography and videography provided for over 30 businesses.
- Monthly newsletter and timely emails sent with any relevant information such as NI rises, employment of young people, Martyn's Law etc.

Access & Facilities

- Over 450 floral displays (hanging baskets, barrier baskets, planters, floral bicycle) added and funded by the BID.
- Over 21,000 pieces of chewing gum removed, over 600 alley cleans completed, over 5,000 sqm of pavements hot-washed and South Side of Market Square hot-washed.
- 3 alleyways and one archway decorated with festoon lighting and funding sourced for collaborative project to provide festoon lighting in Spa Gardens.
- Vacant Unit Project has seen the vacancy rate drop from 12% in March 2024 to 6% in May 2025. (As a comparison, Harrogate's vacancy rate is 7.8% and York is 8.4%.)
- 8 refurbished noticeboards displaying visitor information and events notices, 4 new Ripon entry signs, new pedestrian signage on city centre planters.

The following graphic sets out achievements in greater detail:

The importance of a 2nd term for Ripon

There are over 300 towns and city centres in the UK with a BID proving the effectiveness of this type of additional funding. There are number of BIDs in our area. York, Leeds, Ilkley, Skipton, Otley, Bradford, Northallerton, Colne and Harrogate. These centres all receiving the extra investment that a BID brings and Ripon is in direct competition with them for visitors and investment.

In March 2023 the new unitary authority was formed out of the 7 district councils and whilst Ripon BID is forging good relations with North Yorkshire Council it means that spending is now spread across a wider area. Towns and cities need their voices to be heard to ensure continued investment. Ripon BID can do this.

Ripon BID is the only dedicated and funded marketing resource for Ripon and in order to continue to deliver the projects and initiatives that benefit your business it is more important than ever that you vote "YES" at the ballot to ensure Ripon continues to attract visitors from near and far. These visitors will benefit your business.

Testimonials from BID members and stakeholders

"Ripon BID has been a godsend for our small retail business: it has driven footfall to all areas of the city through seasonal trails, promoted events, cleaned up the streets and added flower tubs/ hanging baskets, saved us money on utilities and waste collection, and brought the business community together to bring more events and festivals to the city. Ripon is 'on the up' and buzzing with new businesses opening, and the BID has played a huge role in making that happen. Worth every penny of the levy."

Rebecca Crallan, The Green House

"Thanks for pointing us towards IT training support, waste disposal and utility providers. We have saved approximately 3X what the annual levy costs"

G Craggs

"Well done Ripon BID and thank you for all your efforts to make Ripon a bright city like York and Harrogate. We have never had as many orders in the past 20 years as we had last weekend. We will continue to support you through the Easter bank holidays."

Zorro's Pizza on the Big Sky Wheel

“The BID has been instrumental in promoting Ripon tourism, with an engaging website and social media presence that really showcases what we have to offer. The team has a real ‘can-do’ attitude and through collaboration and creativity it’s generated fantastic national press recognition for this gem of a city. The BID has taken on coordination of the ‘Visit Ripon’ cohort of visitor attractions, and broadened the attendance of that group, bringing organisations together to ensure we can create a tourism offer that is more than the sum of its parts. The BID has proved to be a real success story- long may it continue!”

Alexa Vernon, Director, Ripon Museums

“In order to ensure that the ballot is a clear representation of what businesses want, North Yorkshire Council will abstain from voting. However, there are a number of BIDS operating across North Yorkshire and we appreciate the positive contribution they make. If businesses vote for a BID in Ripon we will work closely with the BID for the best interests of the local area.”

Richard Flinton, Chief Executive, North Yorkshire Council

“Ripon BID has brought our attractions together like never before. Through their strategic coordination, the VisitRipon.co.uk platform has become an outstanding digital showcase for Ripon — giving visitors a clear, exciting, and easy way to explore all that our historic city and surrounding area have to offer.

The first BID term has delivered real value — not just to businesses, but to the profile of Ripon as a destination. From improved signage and marketing campaigns to group tourism initiatives and increased footfall, Ripon BID has proven its ability to deliver.

We stand united in our belief that a second term for Ripon BID is essential to building on this momentum. The foundations are strong, the partnerships are working and the results speak for themselves. With continued investment Ripon will thrive as a premier destination for years to come.”

Stuart Gill, Commercial Director, Newby Hall on behalf of the Visit Ripon Group

We propose that we will continue our work and add to it as follows:

Objective 1 – Local & Visitor Marketing

- Continue to grow the Visit Ripon website, brand and social media presence.
- Continue our investment into events such as Ripon Theatre Festival.
- Continue to provide seasonal entertainment and activities to drive footfall including the use of Augmented Reality trails – creating a new Alice in Wonderland AR trail bespoke to Ripon and a heritage trail.
- Continue to work with partners to bring new events to Ripon such as the Big Sky Wheel and festivals.
- Create a new art trail in Ripon with five bespoke pieces of street art.
- Explore the feasibility of continuing the 3-day Christmas market with wooden huts.
- Look for new ways to market Ripon to a wider national audience including radio or bus back advertising.
- Work closely with media partners to ensure more media coverage for Ripon.

Objective 2 – Access & Facilities

- Continue our funding of the free 2-way radio system
- Expand our programme of sweeping, litter picking, chewing gum removal, weedkilling and gutter clearing
- Look for new ways to add more directional and welcome signage
- Continue - and add to - our current floral provision

Objective 3 - Business Support

- Offer training courses relevant to our businesses
- Seek additional grant funding for specific projects
- Offer timely advice and help on business rates, rate relief and available grants
- Provide premises improvement grants
- Seek further business savings opportunities
- Continue to pursue better banking provision
- Provide bespoke photography and videography services to businesses.

Photo: Ben Colson Photography

Consultation with Businesses on the Proposal

Extensive engagement has been conducted over the last few months to arrive at both a new business plan and Business Improvement District (BID). This has included:

- Consultation carried out with the current Board of Directors in January 2025
- A Newsletter and Renewal Survey was sent/made available to all levy payers in July 2025.
- Ripon BID – One to One engagement with Levy Payers – August-November 2025
- Email issued to Levy Payers with survey link – August 2025

Myth Busting

"The council should be paying for street cleaning and other projects"

We need to be realistic that in these challenging times, and with spending decisions now made by the new North Yorkshire Council, local government is less responsive to local needs. Without the BID's input, it is unlikely that the local authority will replace the money brought in by the BID and the BID's services would not be delivered.

"We already pay the council business rates that cover these projects"

North Yorkshire Council collect business rates on behalf of central government and only a small percentage of that money comes back into Ripon. The BID levy can only be spent on projects that are in addition to services provided by local authorities. Your BID levy goes directly into improving Ripon.

"We can just change our mind and reinstate the BID"

If the BID is unsuccessful, it will not be reinstated. Ripon BID is a limited company and will be dissolved if the vote is not in favour of another term.

"Ripon doesn't need a BID!"

All BID projects are about providing over and above the local council services. Never has it been more important to have the support, the funds and the drive to keep on marketing and improving Ripon. Without the BID there would be no dedicated marketing of Ripon, whereas our neighbours in Harrogate, Skipton and Northallerton will continue to enjoy increased investment and marketing.

How much does it cost my business?

£160,000 Projected funds raised p.a.

2% Of the rateable value of all premises charged as a levy

£5,000 Rateable value threshold for levy payments

258 Businesses balloted

If your business has a rateable value of £4,999 or less or you are outside the BID area you will not pay the BID levy. However, you have the opportunity to become a voluntary member of the BID and pay 1% of your rateable value or £100 whichever is higher. You will not be eligible for all BID services and will not be eligible to vote in the ballot.

How much will I pay?

Rateable value of property	Annual levy	Weekly cost	Daily cost
£5,000	100	£1.92	£0.27
£7,500	150	£2.88	£0.41
£10,000	200	£3.84	£0.55
£12,500	250	£4.79	£0.68
£15,000	300	£5.75	£0.82
£20,000	400	£7.67	£1.10
£30,000	600	£11.51	£1.64
£40,000	800	£15.34	£2.19
£50,000	1000	£19.18	£2.74
£70,000	1400	£26.85	£3.84
£100,000	2000	£38.36	£5.48
£500,000	10000	£191.78	£27.40
£1,000,000	20000	£383.56	£54.79

Can your business afford not to invest in Ripon?

Delivery Arrangements

If the BID Ballot is successful, Ripon BID Ltd, an independent, not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee, will govern the BID.

The Company will have Members and a Board of Directors comprising of representatives from levy paying businesses or equivalent voluntary contributors. Additional, non-levy paying members may be co-opted, as required.

Board Director positions are unpaid and voluntary and will include a mix of sectors and geography of business that operate within the BID area as well as having the necessary skills and experience required to deliver the BID business plan. Board elections will be held, and Company Members will be eligible to stand as a BID Board Director. Nominated representatives from public agencies may also be present at board meetings.

By becoming a member of the BID Company, you can have your say in controlling how the funds are spent and hold the BID company accountable throughout the 5-year term. The BID company will not be able to make a profit, and any surplus must be spent on the projects and services agreed by the levy payers and Board of Directors.

The BID will employ a dedicated team to ensure the projects outlined in this Business Plan are delivered effectively and efficiently. They will be responsible for:

- Being the main point of contact between levy payers and the Board
- Delivery and management of the BID Business Plan
- Seeking additional financial contributions towards the BID company

There will be regular updates via newsletters and e-bulletins. The annual reports and accounts will be produced at the end of each year and available to members online and at the Annual Review.

Ballot Arrangements

The ballot will be held and conducted in accordance with The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 as amended. The ballot will be a postal ballot of all businesses in the BID area liable to pay the BID Levy and will be carried out by the Returning Officer at North Yorkshire Council.

The 28-day ballot period is proposed to be run from 13 February 2026 to 12th March 2026. All eligible businesses in the BID area entitled to vote will be notified of the ballot arrangements and will be sent the ballot papers. Proxy voting can be arranged for those that require it.

Financial Management Arrangements

The BID will be managed by a Company Limited by Guarantee and will follow all typical Companies House requirements including the filing of annual accounts which will consequently be available to the BID Levy Payers. An annual report will also be made available publicly.

The BID Company is not required to have an external audit.

The BID Regulations require summary information on income and expenditure to be sent with BID Levy invoices each year and this will be carried out.

The Board of Directors will be provided with bi-monthly management accounts.

At least 2 monitoring meetings will take place between relevant personnel from the BID and the Billing Authority to monitor the Operating Agreement and day to day collection and enforcement arrangements.

As set out previously, subject to consultation, the Company will be able to adjust the following:

- Type of BID Projects Undertaken
- Allocations and budgets for BID projects and between project headings
- Project Timescales
- BID Administration & Overhead Costs
- BID Governance & Management

Ripon BID Five-Year Estimated Cashflow

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
Income						
BID Levy*	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000	£160,000	£800,000
Additional Income**	£24,000	£24,000	£24,000	£24,000	£24,000	£120,000
Total Income	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£920,000
Expenditure						
Local & Visitor Marketing	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£450,000
Access & Facilities	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000	£175,000
Business Support	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000	£80,000
Sub Total	£141,000	£141,000	£141,000	£141,000	£141,000	£705,000
Overheads						
Operating Costs	£33,200	£33,200	£33,200	£33,200	£33,200	£166,000
Collection Costs	£4,800	£4,800	£4,800	£4,800	£4,800	£24,000
Contingency	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£25,000
Sub Total	£43,000	£43,000	£43,000	£43,000	£43,000	£215,000
GRAND TOTAL	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£184,000	£920,000

*based on 95% collection rate **predicted

The BID Area 2026-2031

Description

All eligible businesses within the boundary area shown below and the list of streets/villages/hamlets underneath.

List of streets

The eligible businesses within the boundary area shown above and the list of streets/villages/hamlets shown below are included.

Streets: Allhallowgate, Bishops Glade, Blossomgate, Bondgate, Bondgate Green, Boroughbridge Road, Camp Hill Close, Canal Road, Clotherholme Road, Coltsgate Hill, Dallamires Lane, Dallamires Way North, Dallamires Way South, Duck Hill, Elm Road, Finkle Street, Fishergate, Galphay Lane, Harrogate Road, High Skellgate, Hutton Bank, Kirkby Road, Kirkgate, Lead Lane, Low Skellgate, Mallorie Park Drive, Market Place, Market Place East, Market Place South, Market Place West, Market Place North, Marshall Way, Minster Road, Moss Arcade, North Street, Old Market Place, Palace Road, Park Lane, Park Street, Princess Road, Quarry Moor Lane, Queen Street, River View Road, Skellbank, St Marygate, Stonebridgegate, Studley Road, Ure Bank Top, Victoria Grove, Water Lane, Water Skellgate, Westgate, Whitecliffe Lane

Villages/Hamlets: Aldfield, Bridge Hewick, Copt Hewick, Fountains, Givendale, Hutton Conyers, Lightwater Valley, Littlethorpe, Newby, North Lees, North Stainley, Norton Conyers, Nunwick, Olivers Stray, Risplith, Sharow, Skelton on Ure, Studley Royal

Who is covered?

Ripon BID covers the following sectors:

Retail shops, showrooms, supermarkets

Car showrooms

Laundrettes

Accommodation providers

Funeral parlours

Licensed premises

Leisure, entertainment & attractions

Food stores

Betting offices

Libraries

Restaurants, cafes & fast food

Car parks

Banks, building societies & post offices

Hair & Beauty

Opticians & audiologists

Bus stations

Who is exempt?

i. Organisations with a rateable value below £5,000.

ii. Charitable organisations that are not using the hereditament for retail purposes with no trading income, arm or facilities and are predominantly volunteer based.

iii. Non-profit making organisations with an entirely subscription and volunteer-based set up.

iv. Businesses that fall in the following sectors – office, dental, chiropody, GP surgeries, health clinics, hospitals, osteopathy, physiotherapy, schools, veterinary, equine, industrial, manufacturing, storage, and workshop.

The full BID Levy Rules are set out on page 25

The BID area will only include whole hereditaments and not part of hereditaments.

Existing Baseline Services

A baseline statement is a snapshot of the level of service provided by relevant public agencies. Regular monitoring and evaluation of the standards within the BID area will ensure that the services provided by public agencies, primarily North Yorkshire Council and Ripon City Council but also the Police, are up to the standards and requirements. The BID Regulations require 'Baseline Statements (if any) to be made available. Currently, there are Baseline Statements from the Public Agencies for the following services are in the BID area:

North Yorkshire Council

Community Safety & CCTV, Economic Development, Street Cleansing, Parking, Culture & Archives, Events, Public Conveniences, Tourism, Trading Standards, Parks & Grounds

Ripon City Council

Events

Without Ripon BID:

- Who will invest in our city?
- Who will continue the “Ripon” branding, the website and social media for visitors?
- Who will showcase Ripon as a great place to work, visit and do business?
- Who will market Ripon and its businesses both locally and further afield to a highly engaged audience via established and dedicated marketing channels?
- Who will run events and trails with the aim of getting footfall around the city?
- Who will coordinate and fund the ShopWatch radios?
- Who will fund footfall monitoring?
- Who can bring in substantial additional funding from Government and other sources?
- Who will fund the floral arrangements such as hanging baskets, planters etc.?
- Who will undertake additional cleaning and funding for the festoon lighting in the ginnels?
- Who will speak collectively for the interests of Ripon businesses with North Yorkshire Council, Ripon City Council and other stakeholders?
- Who will liaise with North Yorkshire Council Tourism Team and LVEP to maximise opportunities for Ripon?
- Who will work with all stakeholders such as the attractions, community groups, Ripon Disability Forum, landlords, developers etc.?

Which other organisation has the dedicated capacity or resources to take on the work of Ripon BID?

Vote YES and you will continue to see investment in the city including but not limited to:

- Dedicated branded Visit Ripon website and social media channels
- Your business listing on Visit Ripon plus social media promotion
- Your offers, news and jobs on Visit Ripon
- Seasonal webpages
- Enhanced media coverage
- Hanging baskets and floral displays
- Free training opportunities
- Seasonal events to drive footfall
- Free 2-way radio hire
- Christmas brochure to 33,000 households
- Premises improvement grants
- Street cleaning, chewing gum removal and weed clearance
- Trails including augmented reality trails, maps, passports
- Expert advice on business savings and work towards reinstating cardboard recycling
- A voice within North Yorkshire Council and other stakeholders

And more!

Ripon is a unique and vibrant destination – the jewel in North Yorkshire’s crown – and with a **YES** vote, Ripon BID can continue to encourage people, be they residents, locals or from further afield, to visit time and again and increase spend in your businesses.

Ballot Timeline

10th February 2026

North Yorkshire Council will post out to those responsible for eligible premises (hereditaments), a ballot paper and pre-paid return envelope to return your vote.

13th February - 12th March 2026

Each premises or hereditament will be entitled to one vote in respect of this BID proposal in a 28-day postal ballot. Votes must be cast by 5pm on 12th March 2026. Ballot papers received after 5pm on that day will not be counted. In order for the proposal to be successful at the ballot the result will need to meet, as a minimum, two independent criteria which are:

1. A majority of those who vote must vote "YES"

2. The total rateable value of those who vote "YES" must exceed that of those who vote "NO"

Only votes cast are included in the results.

If these two criteria are met the BID levy becomes legally binding for all eligible businesses, regardless of how they voted, for a new five year term which would start on 1st September 2026.

13th March 2026

Vote count. The result will be announced as soon as practicable after the close of the ballot via the Ripon BID website and social media.

1st September 2026

If successful the new BID will start delivery of services and will continue for a period of 5 years until 31st August 2031.

BID Levy Rules

1. The BID Regulations of 2004, approved by the Government, sets out a regulatory framework within which BIDs have to operate, including the way in which the levy is charged and collected, and how the ballot is conducted.

2. The BID levy rate of 2% of rateable value will be fixed for the full term and will not be subject to variation. This will be set on the 1st of April (Chargeable Date) each year using the most current Non-Domestic Ratings list. It will be updated for any changes in ratepayer additions, or removals.

3. The BID levy will be applied to all businesses within the defined area with a rateable value of or exceeding £5,000, provided they are listed on the Non-Domestic Rates list as provided by North Yorkshire Council for the 'Chargeable Date', set annually. The following will be exempt from paying the levy:

i. Organisations with a rateable value below £5,000.

ii. Charitable organisations that are not using the hereditament for retail purposes with no trading income, arm or facilities and are predominantly volunteer based.

iii. Non-profit making organisations with an entirely subscription and volunteer-based set up.

iv. Businesses that fall in the following sectors – office, dental, chiropody, GP surgeries, health clinics, hospitals, osteopathy, physiotherapy, schools, veterinary, equine, industrial, manufacturing, storage, and workshop.

4. New businesses will be charged from the point of occupation based upon the rateable value at the time they enter the rating list.

5. If a business ratepayer occupies the premises for less than one year, the levy paid will be on a daily basis.

6. BID Levy payment will revert to the property owner or the registered business ratepayer of vacant properties.

7. Those undergoing refurbishment or being demolished will be liable to pay the BID levy.

8. The BID levy will not be affected by the small business rate relief scheme, exemptions, reliefs or discount periods in the non-domestic rate regulations prevailing at the time.

9. Where the rateable value changes, including rating list revaluation, and results in a change to the BID Levy amount, this will only come into effect from the next chargeable year and no refunds of the BID levy will be made for previous years.

10. If there is a change to the national system relating to non-domestic rates during the term of the BID, the Board of Directors will have the option of continuing to utilise the eligible NNDR list for the last chargeable year, for the rest of the term or moving to the new system

11. VAT will not be charged on the BID levy.

12. The levy rate or boundary area cannot be increased without a full alteration ballot. However, if the BID company wishes to decrease the levy rate during the period, it will do so through a consultation, which will, as a minimum, require it to write to all existing BID levy payers. If more than 25% object in writing, then this course of action will not proceed.

13. The billing body is authorised to collect the BID levy on behalf of the BID company.

14. Collection and enforcement regulations will be in line with those applied to non-domestic business rates, with the BID company board of directors responsible for any debt write-off.

15. The BID funding will be kept in a separate BID revenue account by North Yorkshire Council and transferred to the BID company.

16. BID projects, costs and timescales may be altered by the BID board of directors, provided they remain in line with the overall BID objectives.

17. The BID board of directors will meet at least six times a year.

18. The BID company will produce a set of annual accounts made available to all company members.

19. The BID will last for five years. At the end of the five years, a ballot must be held if businesses wish the BID to continue.

Thank you for your support & time. If you would like further information or have any queries, please contact:

Lilla Bathurst on 01765 530 910 or email: manager@riponbid.co.uk

Ripon: We are Stronger Together

Don't forget to follow us: **@visitripon** **@RiponBID** **@visitriponyorkshire** **Ripon BID**