Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Ripon Sparkles with Success at Festive Market Weekend

Ripon was alive with festive spirit as the city welcomed the first Magical Christmas Artisan Market on a hugely successful weekend, delighting both visitors and local businesses alike.

Ripon BID Manager Lilla Bathurst described the event as *"a major piece of work to get it all to happen,"* and said the effort paid off. With lively entertainment, well-timed programming and thoughtful coordination to ease traffic and parking pressures, the weekend ran smoothly from start to finish on the 21st, 22nd & 23rd of November.

To build on the popularity of the Cathedral Gift Fair and help businesses maximise on added footfall, Ripon BID partnered with 'Little Bird Artisan Made' to bring a three-day Christmas Market to the city centre complete with wooden huts, music and entertainment. The results from local businesses were overwhelmingly positive :

- Mountain Warehouse enjoyed an exceptionally busy Saturday
- Claro Lounge reported a significant rise in visitors
- One trader celebrated his second-best market ever for sales
- Local pubs, including the Portly Pig and Black Swan, were bustling
- Halls of Ripon said the combined draw of the market and Cathedral Gift Fair led to one of their best footfall days of the year
- Ripon Revivals saw increased footfall and sales, noting the joint timing with the Gift Fair *"drove footfall down/up Kirkgate as people explored both venues"*
- Realitea and Memorable Moments both reported uplift in sales
- Local favourites such as Hot Lava, Big Bites, Oliver's Pantry, and Storehouse helped build momentum with festive social media offers

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY | DAVID SKAITH MAYOR

With bustling footfall and positive responses from businesses and visitors alike, the festive market weekend truly brought Ripon together - lifting local businesses, welcoming crowds into the city and spreading Christmas cheer throughout.

Supported by David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, and part-funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Late Night Shopping – Ripon's Jingle & Mingle

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Late Night Shopping event on 27th November. Our Jingle & Mingle reward card ran over the event date to encourage shoppers to move around the city centre. The prize draw for this is now complete and we're happy to share that Sarah, John & Judith are our lucky winners.

Each will enjoy a shopping voucher to spend at a Ripon independent of their choice. We're currently collecting feedback and early indications suggest it was very popular on North Street, while Kirkgate and other areas saw lower engagement.

We'll be hosting a post-Christmas evaluation meeting in January/February - please keep an eye out for information and join the discussion. Your insights will play an important role in shaping future events and supporting our local business community.

New Term Ballot & 2026-2031 Business Plan

As our first successful term draws to a close in Summer 2026, we are currently preparing our 2026-2031 Business Plan and preparing for a New Term Ballot to be held on 12th March 2026. The Business Plan will be sent to each hereditament once finalised and will also be available to view on our website. Ripon is a unique and vibrant destination - the jewel in North Yorkshire's crown.

With your **YES** vote, Ripon BID can continue to attract residents, visitors, and tourists alike, encouraging repeat visits and increasing spend in local businesses.

If you would like further information or have any queries, please contact:
Lilla Bathurst on 01765 530 910 or email: manager@riponbid.co.uk

Go to visitripon.substack.com to sign up to our visitor newsletter which contains news, events and more!

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

Budget & Tourism Tax Discussions

Following a letter from Ripon BID, Sir Julian Smith MP visited Ripon on Friday 21 November to meet with the BID team and two local hospitality representatives ahead of the upcoming Budget. Discussions centred on concerns about potential tax increases and rises to the minimum wage for younger workers, which businesses fear could limit employment opportunities. The group also raised the Employment Rights Bill - which would introduce day-one rights to sick pay and protection from unfair dismissal - and Sir Julian confirmed he would ensure these issues receive further attention.

Ripon BID has since received the following update from Sir Julian:

"The Government has announced plans to allow Mayors to introduce a visitor levy on overnight stays in hotels, B&Bs and holiday lets. A consultation is open until 18 February 2026, and I strongly encourage local businesses and communities to respond. I share your concerns about this proposal. The hospitality sector is still recovering and facing rising costs, so additional pressures should be avoided. Supporting this vital sector is key to jobs and growth across North Yorkshire. More information is available on the Government website. For any questions, please contact me at julian.smith.mp@parliament.uk."

Ripon BID has also contacted David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, to highlight concerns and request involvement in future discussions. Mr Skaith has welcomed a meeting with the BID and local accommodation providers, and further details will be shared once confirmed. Mr Skaith's open letter on the subject can be found at https://bit.ly/3XT4RGR

Identity Checks for Company Directors & Secretaries

From 18 November 2025, new directors need to verify their identity in order to incorporate a new company or be appointed to an existing company. Existing directors will need to confirm they have verified their identity at the same time as they file their next annual confirmation statement within the 12-month transition period. More details at http://bit.ly/4rwezMF

Phase 3 of the Vibrant & Sustainable High Streets Fund is Now Open

Funding is available for High Street and Local Trading Areas. Applications are now open for funding to support new initiatives and improvements across all areas where businesses trade with the public — from villages and towns to high streets and back streets. This fund is designed to back Local Partnerships. Businesses and community organisations are encouraged to join forces and form a collective with a shared vision for enhancing their local high street. Partnerships can be either formally constituted or informal groups working toward common goals. You can view a list of successful Phase 2 projects to help inspire your ideas here https://bit.ly/4pLyju3. If you're thinking about applying, please get in touch as we are happy to ensure you receive the support you need.

Don't miss this webinar: A Grassroots Approach to Thriving Towns. www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpLmhbe2b8E

Update on the Clotherholme Development

Homes England has shared the latest plans for the Clotherholme development at the former Ripon Barracks site. The project will deliver 1,300 new homes, alongside green spaces and local facilities, creating a vibrant new neighbourhood for Ripon.

Homes England is the government's housing and regeneration agency. It works to create high-quality homes in well-designed places that reflect community priorities, taking an inclusive and long-term approach. In partnership with delivery partners, Homes England aims to provide affordable, high-quality homes as part of a thriving new community at Clotherholme.

To learn more, sign up for project updates at www.clotherholme.co.uk or contact the project team at clotherholme@homesengland.gov.uk

Season's Greetings from the Ripon BID & Visit Ripon Team

Lilla, Layla and Juliet would like to wish all our BID members and voluntary members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

It has been a pleasure working with you throughout the year on our projects, trails and events.

We're grateful for your support and collaboration, and we look forward to continuing our work together - and seeing you all again - in January.

Go to visitripon.substack.com to sign up to our visitor newsletter which contains news, events and more!

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