Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Stronger Together – Vote YES for Ripon's Future

Ripon BID members will have received a Notification of Ballot through the post and you will shortly receive your ballot paper. It is important that you use this opportunity to vote and make your opinion heard. Ballot papers must be returned in the envelope provided by Civica who are conducting the ballot.

Ripon BID began in 2021 and was voted in for a five-year term with a focus on enhancing marketing and promotion for the visitor economy and supporting local businesses. As we approach the end of our first term, the future of Ripon BID is now in your hands. Every five years, businesses vote on whether the BID should continue and this ballot gives you the opportunity to build on strong foundations and help shape the future of the Ripon City Region.

A YES vote will secure a further five years of activity and unlock over £900,000 of investment through levy income and additional funding. This investment supports marketing and events that drive footfall and spend, improvements to the look and feel of the city through cleaning, greening, and wayfinding and practical business support including training, savings initiatives and funded two-way radios.

A YES vote ensures this work continues.

What Happens if it is NO Vote? If businesses choose to vote NO, Ripon BID will cease on 31st August 2026 and all current services, marketing and investment will stop. There is no replacement body to continue its work. The following will cease:

- ✗ No Visit Ripon branding, website or social media
- ✗ No purely Ripon-focused marketing or promotional campaigns
- ✗ No BID events, family activities or trails to drive footfall
- ✗ No major seasonal promotions
- ✗ No additional investment or lobbying for funding
- ✗ No funded 2-way radio system
- ✗ No lobbying to government on local business needs
- ✗ No support or training for businesses
- ✗ No liaison with North Yorkshire Council, York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, Ripon City Council or North Yorkshire Police
- ✗ No single, united voice representing the Ripon City Region business community

visit Ripon

All information is available at **www.riponbid.co.uk**

Read the Business Plan for 2026-2031 here **https://bit.ly/4aZNZWu**

Showcasing Ripon: National Travel Journalist Returns to Explore Our City

We were delighted to welcome Helen Pickles, freelance travel journalist, back to Ripon this week as she continues to explore what makes our city such a distinctive and memorable visitor destination.

This is a return visit following her wonderful feature in The Telegraph - a piece that was also picked up by the Express - which shone a national spotlight on Ripon and can be read here: https://tinyurl.com/39a62f5y

Her latest trip was hosted by Ripon BID, part of our ongoing commitment to champion Ripon on a national stage. Building strong relationships with journalists and media outlets is essential to raising the city's profile, attracting new visitors, and supporting the businesses that make Ripon thrive. National coverage like Helen's helps share Ripon's story far beyond Yorkshire and reinforces the city's growing reputation as a must visit destination.

A huge thank you to Valentino's for providing a fantastic complimentary meal and showcasing Ripon's vibrant food scene, and to The Ripon Inn for offering Helen a complimentary stay and demonstrating the warm welcome our city is known for.

We're excited to see Ripon featured in The i Paper and look forward to continuing our work with partners across the city to put Ripon firmly on the map.

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**

Ripon BID Radio Scheme in action

Two great examples of the Ripon BID radiolink scheme working for our businesses...

On Wednesday 21st January a BID member reported via the radio that the gentleman passing off fake £20 notes had returned, CCTV followed the man, alerted police and he was arrested by Ripon bus station.

On January 28th Boots reported a shop theft via the radio, CCTV followed two men into Sainsbury's car park, reported the vehicle registration to police. Police safely stopped the vehicle on the A1 and 3 men and a boy were arrested on suspicion of shop theft.

The radios are fully-funded by Ripon BID. Excellent partnership working between BID members, North Yorkshire Council CCTV team and North Yorkshire Police

For more information on the scheme please email info@riponbid.co.uk

Spruce up for Spring! Ripon BID Premises Front Improvement Grant Scheme

Ripon BID Premises Front Improvement Grant Scheme is intended to help improve the street facing appearance of Ripon BID levy payers' premises. Does your business need a new Spring facelift?

- The scheme which began in 2024 has some residual funds
- The Match Funded Grants are available to improve the appearance of Ripon BID premises at 50% of the overall cost of works up to a maximum of £300 whichever is lower.
- Grants are available for ground floor frontage works only.

Businesses are invited to review our Terms & Conditions before submitting their Application Form. To apply for the scheme businesses must complete the Application Form and send all supporting documents to manager@riponbid.co.uk. Alternatively a hard copy can be sent to our office at Ripon BID, 8 Westgate, Ripon HG4 2AT.

All applications need to be accompanied by a quote from a contractor preferably within the BID area (see map) along with details of paint colours to be used and any details of any other changes or works to be carried out together with a current photograph of the premises frontage.

All applications need to be approved by the BID Grant Panel by way of a Letter of Approval. Grants will be allocated on a first come first served basis and paid to the businesses (not the contractor) once they have provided us with their final invoice.

Levy payers must have paid their BID levy for 2025/2026 year and all previous years by 31 December of each year to be eligible for funding.

Register for our Ripon BID Easter Trail

Our Ripon BID Easter trail is back for 2026! Our Amazing Animals Easter Trail will run from 28th March to the 12th of April and we would love your business to be part of it. This year's animal-themed trail will guide families around the city and we will be giving away three vouchers to family-friendly BID businesses as prizes.

It is a great opportunity to attract new customers, increase footfall and showcase what your business has to offer. If you are planning any Easter-themed products, displays or menu items please do let us know.

We will help promote them as part of the trail to boost footfall and encourage spend during the school holidays. Let's make this Easter a busy and brilliant one for Ripon's businesses.

To register your interest please contact info@riponbid.co.uk no later than the 25th of February.

Overnight Visitor Levy / Tourism Tax – Update

On 3rd February Lilla Bathurst, Manager of Ripon BID attended a meeting arranged by Harrogate Chamber of Commerce and Harrogate BID which brought together various accommodation providers in the area to hear from the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire on the proposed Overnight Visitor Levy (or Tourism Tax).

David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire took the attendees through his vision which can be read broadly here yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/open-letter-to-york-and-north-yorkshires-tourism-hospitality-sector/

A full report on the meeting can be found here: visitripon.co.uk/bid-news/overnight-visitor-levy-tourism-tax-update

We would urge businesses with an interest in this matter to fill out the Government consultation on the matter: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/overnight-visitor-levy-in-england

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

Ripon BID Contact Details:
info@riponbid.co.uk · 01765 530 910 · **www.riponbid.co.uk**

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