Ripon BID

Funded by the Ripon city region businesses

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Ripon BID Secures Strong 'YES' Vote for Second Five-Year Term

Local businesses have given a clear vote of confidence in Ripon BID, with 67% voting **'YES'** (representing 75% by rateable value) for the Business Improvement District to continue for a further five-year term.

The new term, which begins in September 2026, will see the BID team continue to focus on three key priorities:

- **Local & Visitor Marketing – promoting Ripon as a must-visit destination**
- **Access & Facilities – enhancing the city's look and feel through improved wayfinding, cleaning, and greening**
- **Business Support – delivering savings, training, and practical support for businesses**

First established in 2021, Ripon BID has invested more than £850,000 into the city during its initial term, delivering a wide range of projects. In addition, it has secured over £180,000 in external funding and income - 50% higher than originally forecast. The BID is led by a voluntary Board of Directors who dedicate their time to supporting these objectives. Working in partnership with local businesses, Ripon BID plays a vital role in strengthening the city's position as a thriving place to do business, visit, and live. The organisation's vision is to create a clean, vibrant, and welcoming city—one that residents are proud to support, visitors are eager to explore, and new businesses choose to invest in. All BID projects are designed to complement and enhance services beyond those provided by the local authority. With the formation of North Yorkshire Council, having a strong, collective voice for Ripon's business community is more important than ever to help secure ongoing investment in the city.

Lilla Bathurst, Manager of Ripon BID, said:

"This 'YES' vote gives the BID team a strong mandate to continue delivering for our businesses. It shows that the majority support what we've achieved so far and want us to build on that success over the next five years.

I'd like to thank our businesses for their continued support, as well as our Board Directors and BID team for their hard work. We're excited to keep driving forward our vision of making Ripon a fantastic place to do business, work, live, and visit."

Dan Chrisp, General Manager at The Ripon Inn, added:

"We're thrilled to see Ripon BID voted in for a second term. The marketing and promotion of the city through Visit Ripon has been invaluable—raising Ripon's profile and helping us reach wider audiences. The collaboration across the city's visitor economy has created a stronger shared voice, and we're delighted this will continue."

Josh Westwood, owner of Westwood's Barbershop & Social, said:

"We're absolutely delighted with the result. The support from Ripon BID over the past five years has made a real difference - from helping us secure our premises to supporting improvements and tackling local issues. It gives us real confidence in the future for independent businesses like ours."

North Yorkshire Council abstained from voting in the ballot to ensure it reflected the views of businesses. However, the Council has recognised the positive impact of BIDs across the region and has committed to working closely with Ripon BID moving forward. Ripon BID now looks ahead to building on its successes and continuing to support the city's business community over the next five years.

Are you reading our new blog?

Designed to celebrate good news stories and kindly written by freelance journalist Tim Flanagan the Rejoicing in Ripon Blog is full of stories that make Ripon special.

https://visitripon.co.uk/bid-blog/

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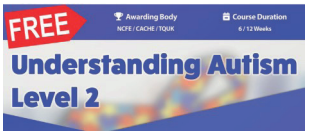

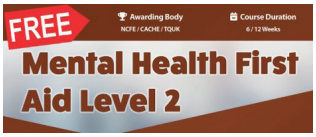

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Spruce up for Spring! Ripon BID Premises Front Improvement Grant Scheme

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.

Ripon BID Shop-Watch Radios in positive action again

Swift coordination between retailers, CCTV and police leads to major recovery of stolen goods. On 4th February this year one of the national chains in Ripon had a bulk theft of over £1,500 worth of goods. The thieves then continued to the same store in Northallerton, stealing a further £900 worth of goods.

The Ripon store manager reported both thefts to police and then via the Shop Watch radio to the CCTV control room. This enabled the CCTV operator to review the footage and identify a car registration plate, this was then added to the crime number and the police database for use with the ANPR cameras.

The car was apprehended in the North East as they continued to target stores. All goods were found in the boot of the car and recovered for prosecution. Another great example of how the Police, CCTV control room and Shop Watch system can produce results even after the event.

Helping Ripon Businesses Turn Great Ideas into Reality

Ripon businesses are being encouraged to take advantage of Great Ideas - a £2.5 million innovation programme from the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire's Business Innovation Fund.

The fully funded programme offers tailored support to help businesses develop new products, improve services, and adopt new technologies. It also provides the opportunity to apply for grants between £5,000 and £60,000, with no match funding required.

Support includes one-to-one guidance, workshops, and online resources, helping businesses move from idea to implementation. Funding can be used for areas such as prototype development, specialist expertise, software, marketing, and essential equipment.

Around 50-60 grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications reviewed every two months.

With limited places available, Ripon BID is encouraging businesses to sign up early and explore how the programme could support their growth. For more info visit https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/project/great-ideas/

COMING SOON – Business Innovation Fund 'Get Funded'

To support the development of innovative new products, innovative new services or innovative new systems of work to help your business achieve growth – it also applies to existing products or services you would like to make even better. This is a wrap-around service of support and funding. A mixture of 1:1 support, workshops & online materials, depending on the stage of the idea and level of support needed.

The grant fund is £1.4m, expected to provide 50 or 60 grants to individual businesses. Grants are between £5,000 - 60,000, with no contribution required. It will fund things like prototype development, paying for expertise, software development (not off-the-shelf purchases), marketing of the innovation, essential equipment / machinery, essential premises etc. Businesses who need to raise more than £60k will be given support to raise additional debt or equity finance. The grant panel will meet every 2 months to decide on applications, with the first planned for April. If you want to know if you are eligible, we would urge you to complete the form here. Grants will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. All programme spend must be completed by December 2027.

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