



Ripon BID

Press Release

New COVID clampdown delays ballot

The Ripon BID today announced that they will be delaying the Ripon Business Improvement District ballot until early next year.

The Ripon BID Business Plan which sets out a five year plan to invest over £800,000 to market and manage Ripon was set to go to ballot in October. The plan drawn up by local businesses included a range of projects designed to boost both the tourism and retail sectors of the city. In the BID process, there is an independent ballot in which the majority of businesses have to vote yes for the business plan for it to go ahead.

The government recently announced a tightening of measures with regards to COVID 19 which included restrictions on the numbers of people gathering as well as curfews on bars and restaurants and a reduction in business help.

Richard Compton, owner of Newby Hall and Chairman of the Ripon BID Task Group said, 'The business group has worked hard over the last year to bring this plan together and it is there and ready to go. However, with the new restrictions, we have taken soundings from a number of organisations and it was felt they needed to concentrate on their business for the time being. It also affects our ability to engage with people on a face to face basis and we think it is best to postpone the ballot until early next year. The business plan has been received with enthusiasm and while this delay is disappointing, we are very much on track for a vote in February and to start in April 2021 as originally envisaged'.

In the meantime the Ripon Retail Action Group (RRAG), formed from members of the BID's Task Group, will continue to work to support businesses through a series of customer care and marketing projects.

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For further information and background on Ripon BID please visit www.riponbid.co.uk