



## **Ripon BID**

### **Press Release**

#### **New National COVID Lockdown delays ballot**

The Ripon BID today announced that they will be delaying the Ripon Business Improvement District ballot till later in the 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 March. 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.

With the second wave of the pandemic, the government announced a national lockdown for at least the first quarter of 2021 which included closure of non essential businesses and strict restrictions on movement gathering of people.

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 later this year. The business plan has been received with enthusiasm and while this delays are disappointing, we will very much be on track once the circumstances allow.

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.

For more information please contact: Mo Aswat on 07789792454 or [mo@themosaicpartnership.co.uk](mailto:mo@themosaicpartnership.co.uk)

For further information and background on Ripon BID please visit [www.riponbid.co.uk](http://www.riponbid.co.uk)