

Benches in Rishton, New and Old.  
Presented by Paul Wilkinson in association with The Rishton Prospects Panel.

# **Benches In and Around the District of Rishton.**

**A Comprehensive Report of their  
locations,  
Past Present and Future.**

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## **Benches in and around the District of Rishton.**

### ***Introduction***

Over the years there have been many benches situated around the district of Rishton. These benches, often used by people walking between the various townships, or simply rambling round the district, have fallen into a state of disrepair through a lack of maintenance rather than vandalism, although when the benches did become rundown then vandalism did start to take place, and were finally removed by Hyndburn Borough Council, rather than being replaced. This is still the attitude of Hyndburn Borough Council in 2004.

On approaching the Council leader, Peter Britcliffe, at an open forum meeting in October 2004, I was informed that there was no money available for maintenance of even the most basic of leisure facilities, including benches.

The aim of this document was to identify the original locations of these benches, and perhaps several new locations, where both ramblers and residents of the town have been consulted.

Also included are any benches which have been found to still exist, but may be in need of maintenance.

I hope that this is a comprehensive and total report of everything that is required to both, repair and replace our towns seating.

Benches along the Leeds and Liverpool canal have not been included in the following list, as these have been dealt with by other authorities. (There are 8 within the Rishton Boundary along the canal towpath).

Also benches found, or missing from Public Parks are also not included. These are:

Holt Street Recreation ground – 2 benches still existing

Harwood Road Recreation Ground – 2 benches still existing

Maple Crescent Park – 1 bench still exists

Piggy Park – 4 benches still exist

Cutt Wood Park – 1 picnic table, and 7 benches still exist, a lot have been removed.

Blackburn Road gardens – 4 benches still exist, some have been removed.

The Esplanade – 6 benches still exist, but a lot have been removed.

There are also 2 public bowling greens in the town where benches have been removed by the Council. Conservative Club green, and Free Gardeners Bowling Green.

## List of Benches

1. Blackburn Old Road, where the footpaths cross
2. New Inns Public House
3. Top O' th Heights
4. Junction of Wilpshire Road and Lee Lane
5. Tottleworth Brook
6. At the side of number 5 Tottleworth
7. Brow of the hill above Holt Farm on Tottleworth Road
8. Rishton Library
9. War memorial
10. Jetty in Cutt Wood Park.
11. Overlooking the jetty in Cutt Wood Park.
12. Entrance to Cutt Wood park at the side of the Railway bridge (existing)
13. End of FP leading to Lee Lane from Old Railway line (existing)
14. Old Railway at the side of Norden playing fields (existing)
15. On the Rishton side of the Lidgett Public House, on the crest of the hill.  
(existing)

## Types of Benches



There are three types of benches used within this report, all supplied by **Prosperity Recycling**.

All of these benches are made from recycled plastic, and are guaranteed, They are rot free, durable and hardwearing, and of low maintenance.

Prosperity Recycling can be contacted on 01254 230123.

Bench 1 is used on concrete or tarmac surfaces, made from plastic, and is called a TYPE 1 BENCH.

It is also available without a back, but for this report is priced with the back fixed.

Dimensions:

Length 1800 mm

Height 775 mm

Width 460 mm



Picnic Tables are available in 5 or 6 foot sizes, (pictured left above)  
The overall width is 1355 mm.

The bench pictured above right, is listed as a Countryman bench, and these benches are already in use in Rishton.

They are made of reconstructed plastic, and provide comfortable seating in leisure and recreational grounds.

Dimensions:

Length 1800 mm

Width 460 mm

Height 775 mm.

## **Bench 1**

### ***Location:***

Blackburn Old Road. Approximately 500 yards from the Boundary. Public footpaths cross the road at this point.

### ***Reasons:***

At a height of 500 feet above sea level fantastic views are afforded from the Rossendale Valley in the East through to Darwen tower in the West. Southern view is to the hills of Accrington. Views to the North are limited, but Pendle hill is visible.

**This would be a new location for a bench**

### ***Ownership:***

Possibly Lancashire County Council, because it is a roadside.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft grass verge.

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

This type of bench has been chosen as the views are excellent in both directions, this seat allows the user to face in either direction.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £115.00 plus VAT

Fixing:



## **Bench 2**

### ***Location:***

New Inns Public House. There is a grassy area across from the building, ideal for seating.

### ***Reason:***

Spendid views to the East and North. On a clear day Blackpool tower is visible, and it over looks the Ribble Valley. This is situated at the end of a public footpath, and where 4 roads meet. It is an ideal location for ramblers to stop and rest.

**THIS IS A NEW BENCH LOCATION.**

### ***Ownership:***

Possibly the new Inns have taken ownership, but may not be legal ownership.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass verge

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Seat Type 1 by Prosperity Recycling.

This type of bench is preferred to allow the user to recline, ease the back, and relax. At this location there may not be a wall available to put the seating against.

### ***Costs:***

Benches: £195.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 3**

### ***Location:***

Top O' th Heights. On Wilpshire Road, At the bend in the road, as it turns to go round the trees planted here.

### ***Reason:***

The termination of several footpaths happen here, At this point there is a slight lay-by in the road as well. This bench would be used by ramblers and car drivers alike. Views can be seen over looking Great Harwood, and down to Burnley through the Rossendale Valley. Once the trees are replanted then it becomes an area for viewing the new trees as well.

**THIS IS A NEW BENCH LOCATION.**

### ***Ownership:***

Again, roadside location, so Lancashire County Council, or Hyndburn Borough Council.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

Viewing available in several directions if the seating is placed in the correct position makes this bench the ideal seating for this location.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £115.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 4**

### ***Location:***

The Junction of Wilpshire Road and Lee Lane.

### ***Reasons:***

Views of Great Harwood and the valley to Burnley to the East. Darwen tower, Blackburn through the valley floor to the West. Rishton is to the South, and Close Brow and its hill side is to the North. The area is grassed and bulbs are planted here by the Prospects panel for Rishton. In spring time, in full bloom, this is a relaxing area to sit and have a breather.

**THIS REPLACES A REMOVED BENCH.**

### ***Ownership:***

This was previously owned by Rishton Urban District Council, and is land that Prospects Rishton use for planting.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge

### ***Number of Benches Required: 2***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Seat Type 1 by Prosperity Recycling.

There are only hedges at this location, therefore a backless seat would only allow a short stay, and back ache may occur for long stops, hence the inclusion of type 1 seating.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £390.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 5**

### ***Location:***

Tottleworth Brook.

### ***Reason:***

A place to be able to stop and relax awhile, enjoy the tranquil waters of Norden Brook meeting the Lidgett Brook. It is a place to take young children to allow them to play in the streams, and so sit for awhile.

A nice option here would be for picnic benches, to allow a family day out walking.

Also an option for the Prospects teams to develop this area.

THIS WOULD BE A NEW BENCH.

Previously at this site was a café, so seating was never an issue here.

### ***Ownership:***

Possible free land, although I would put ownership as HBC.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verges.

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Picnic Table Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

An ideal location for the picnic bench. Placed off the track, the bench becomes the ideal resting place.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £300 plus VAT.

Fixing:

## **Bench 6**

### ***Location:***

Number 5 Tottleworth.

### ***Reasons:***

The view towards Rishton, and the Leeds and Liverpool canal is very pleasant here. It is also at the junction of 2 public footpaths, one which leads across the fields to the canal, and the other towards Hermitage Street, along Tottleworth Road to the A678 main Blackburn to Burnley Road.

There is already a bench next to the end of the footpath on the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

THIS REPLACES AN ORIGINAL BENCH.

### ***Ownership:***

Manor House farm have been maintaining the grass verge, but again the bench here was the property of RUDC.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Seat Type 1 by Prosperity Recycling.

Only a wire fence and hedging is situated behind the seat. A back bench is recommended for this site, only one way viewing is available.

### ***Costs:***

Benches: £195.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 7**

### ***Location:***

Tottleworth Road, at the crest of the hill above Holt farm, next to the field entrance on one side, and the start/end of Tottleworth Allotments.

### ***Reasons:***

Stunning views are afforded over Clayton Le Moors, Accrington, The Coppice, Haslingden, and Oswaldtwistle Moors.

A BENCH WAS PREVIOUSLY FIXED HERE.

### ***Ownership:***

Possibly HSBC. This was another bench previously owned by RUDC. The land has not been maintained.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Seat Type 1 by Prosperity Recycling.

Backing onto a hedge, a backless seat is not recommended.

### ***Costs:***

Benches: £195.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 8**

### ***Location:***

Rishton Library.

### ***Reason:***

Several residents and Councillors have asked for benches to erect outside the library. There is a small wall which runs around the Health centre which is used, but people would prefer proper benches.

THIS WOULD BE A NEW LOCATION FOR BENCHES.

### ***Ownership:***

If not Library land, then HSBC.

### ***Fixing:***

Concrete

### ***Number of Benches Required: 2***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

Depending on the location, if placed against the wall of the library, then the library wall would be used as the back of the seat, otherwise type 1 bench would be recommended.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £230.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 9**

### ***Location:***

Blackburn Road. At the War Memorial.

### ***Reasons:***

Mainly historical, people should have the option to sit and read the names, and pay their respects to the people that the town has lost during the wars. It is a chance to sit and perhaps say private prayers.

It can also be used in conjunction with bus stop which has been placed here.

### ***Ownership:***

HSBC.

### ***Fixing:***

Concrete.

### ***Number of Benches Required: 2***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Seat Type 1 by Prosperity Recycling.

This one can go either way. An open back seat means that people can either sit facing the memorial, or face the esplanade, but with the open back, would people stay as long as a backed seat.

### ***Costs:***

Benches: £390.00 plus VAT

Fixing:



## **Bench 10**

### ***Location:***

Jetty in Cutt Wood Park, next to the reservoir.

### ***Reasons:***

The jetty was built in 1828 as part of the construction of the reservoir. The jetty was made with cut back sections for benches, which still exists. The original benches were not maintained and were eventually removed.

The jetty affords beautiful views towards Blackburn in the East, onto the hills and farms of Dunscar, Cunliffe and Sidebeet.

THIS REPLACES ORIGINAL BENCHES.

### ***Ownership:***

British Waterways.

### ***Fixing:***

Concrete

### ***Number of Benches Required: 3***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

Because of the jetty wall being behind the seat, a backless bench is recommended for this location.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £345.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 11**

***Location:***

Overlooking the Reservoir jetty in Cutt Wood Park.

***Reasons:***

Giving a better view of the sailing ships on the reservoir.

***Ownership:***

HSBC.

***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge.

***Number of Benches Required: 1***

***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.

Views over the reservoir or looking back towards the park would be afforded by this type of bench.

***Costs:***

Bench: £115.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 12**

***Location:***

South East entrance to Cutt Wood Park onto Blackburn Road, at the Railway Tunnel.

***Reason:***

An existing bench.

***Ownership:***

Presumably HSBC.

***Fixing:***

Not required. It is on a soft grass verge

***Number of Benches Required: 0***

***Type of Bench:***

None

Currently the seat is of a back rest bench. (Type 1)

***Costs:***

None

## **Bench 13**

***Location:***

Halfway down Lee Lane, opposite Tottleworth Lee Farm, at the side of the entrance to Public Footpath leading to the old railway.

***Reason:***

This bench exists and is included in this list for mention and maintenance only.

***Ownership:***

Presumably HSBC.

***Fixing:***

Not required. It is on a soft grass verge

***Number of Benches Required: 0***

***Type of Bench:***

None

Currently this is a backed bench, the location backing onto the hedgerows.(Type 1)

***Costs:***

None

## **Bench 14**

### ***Location:***

On the old Railway footpath, near to the junction of Norden Playing fields. This is another possible target for the Rishton Prospects panel to locate. The area is overgrown and disused.

### ***Reasons:***

This is an existing bench, but has been damaged. Maintenance is required to this bench, but funding is unavailable from the local council. There is more chance of the bench being removed.

### ***Ownership:***

HSBC

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge.

### ***Number of Benches Required: 1***

### ***Type of Bench:***

Countryman Bench from Prosperity Recycling.  
Currently this is a back bench, but viewing is available in either direction. Therefore the Countryman backless bench is recommended.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £115.00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## **Bench 15**

### ***Location:***

On Lee Lane, to the East of the Lidgett Public House on the crest of the hill.

### ***Reasons:***

Slightly set back from the main road, and was once very popular with walkers.  
THIS IS AN EXISTING BENCH.

### ***Ownership:***

HSBC.

### ***Fixing:***

Soft Grass Verge.

### ***Number of Benches Required: 0***

### ***Type of Bench:***

None

This is currently in the style of a Type 1 bench, trees sit directly behind the bench blocking any view. Should the trees ever be removed then it would be an excellent location for a Countryman bench.

### ***Costs:***

Bench: £00 plus VAT

Fixing:

## Full Costing.

		<b>Total</b>	<b>Price</b>
Number of TYPE 1 benches required:		7	£1,365.00
Number of Picnic Tables required:		1	£300.00
Number of Countryman Seats required:		9	£1,035.00
Total number of Seats required:		<b>17</b>	
Total Bench Price (Ex VAT):			<b>£2,700.00</b>
Fixing costs			Unknown
Total Maintenance costs (see below)			<b>£620.00</b>
Total Funding Required	<b>£3,320.00</b>		

## Maintenance Costs

Although the seats are guaranteed, and made of low maintenance materials, some consideration must be made to the maintenance costs of these seats, due to vandalism, or other acts.

Most of the seats are in roadside positions, or tracks, and may be damaged by passing cars or tractors, depending on the distance from the edge of the road. None are on Public footpaths, only the verge next to the path.

All the above have been taken into account in the costing below.

### ***Projected maintenance costs over 5 years.***

Year 1 - £0.

Year 2 - £115.00

Year 3 - £115.00

Year 4 - £195.00

Year 5 - £195.00

This is based on the assumption that at some point one or more of the seating may need to be repaired or in extremes replaced. Because of the coach built nature of the seating, it is assumed that one piece of the panelled seating can be replaced at any one time, therefore to allow for one entire bench per year seems feasible that that it would cover all maintenance over the year.

The maintenance should be handled in the main by HSBC, but owing to the funding that they project over the forthcoming years, this seems an improbability. Therefore maintenance funding would be sought for the 1<sup>st</sup> five years, to cover material costs only, and work to be carried out by ownership.

**TOTAL PROJECTED MAINTAINANCE COSTS - £620.00**

## Other Notes

This is also an excellent opportunity for the Rishton Prospects Panel, my own website (Rishtons), or any other group, to promote what they do around the town.

Not just Rishton, but any area within Hyndburn to promote themselves, or the entire Prospects umbrella.

It is noted from the Prosperity Catalogue that the Company also make signs in similar recycled plastic, which are engraved.

In years gone by, we have previously had donations from the wealthier people in the town to dedicate seats and plaques to their beloved.

I can see no reason why a little extra funding cannot be raised to be engraved in the back seat of the benches saying:-

**“THIS FUNDING FOR THIS BENCH HAS BEEN RAISED BY  
WWW.RISHTON.NET AND THE RISHTON PROSPECTS PANEL”**

or,

**“THIS BENCH HAS BEEN PLACED HERE FOR THE PEOPLE OF RISHTON  
BY THE RISHTON PROSPECTS PANAL”**

This would be another first for Rishton, thus creating modern day history, the 1<sup>st</sup> to have plastic engraved benches, and would give promotion to Rishtons website and the Prospects team, hopefully encouraging more Rishton residents to become involved with the well being of the town.

Promotion to the website also gives access to what is going on in the town currently, and recent achievements, as well as contact details for ANY of the clubs and societies that we have in the town. This is the reason for wording it this way. The website should be viewed as a two way street, with all the community being able to gain something from it, including the Prospects panel.