



## **RYDE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Report To: Planning Committee – 26 November 2019**

**Report From: Chris Turvey, Planning Clerk**

### **Progress and suggested next steps for Ryde Town Council regarding the Ryde High Street Action Zones project**

#### **Background**

Following the success of the Ryde High Street bid to Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) fund an initial and very positive meeting was held between key stakeholders and representatives of Historic England on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October at Yelfs Hotel. At that meeting it was identified that there are a number of next steps that now need to take place and these next steps have been the focus of further discussions held between Historic England, Ryde Town Council, the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council. These discussions have been reported to Members and the next steps arising from these now need to be confirmed by the Town Council.

#### **Next Steps**

Historic England requires that the Town Council, as the named lead applicant on the bid, now take forward the following:

**i. Programme Design (stage 2)**

The programme delivery plan is in stage 2 (programme design) and is being prepared by consultants and funded by IWC. The IWC's Conservation Officer and officers from Ryde Town Council are also assisting with providing information about the physical interventions proposed within the scheme. Representatives from Ryde Arts are assisting with the cultural programme and Arc Consulting are sharing the information gathered from the production of the Ryde Place Plan to help with the community engagement element of stage 2. It is hoped that the Draft Programme Design (stage 2) will be available for noting at the next Full Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, as required by Historic England.

**ii. Appointment of Project Managers**

During discussions it has emerged that there may be an opportunity for both Newport and Ryde Town Councils to award additional funding to the projects to

enable the employment of two Senior Managers to oversee both projects. This would enhance the current proposal from Historic England that would see one Senior Project Manager and one Junior Project Manager employed to oversee both projects. The extra cost, per council, will be in the region of £16,140 per annum. The managers will be employed by the IWC for two years in the first instance with the option to extend to a third year and will work across both projects. It is likely that Ryde Town Council will also need to provide administrative support for the project and this will be considered by the Town Council as part of the forthcoming budget setting process. The IWC has approached Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council to suggest the same contribution from them. It is worth noting at this stage that learning will be shared with both projects and other towns across the Island.

### **iii. Project Steering Group**

Ryde Town Council is required to establish a Ryde High Street HAZ Steering Group to take forward the project. This group will become active when the project enters stage 3 and once the two Project Managers are in post (probably April 2020). The Project Manager(s) will support the Steering Group. It is suggested, with Historic England's approval, that the membership of the Project Steering Group will comprise: 2 x Historic England representatives, 2 x RTC representatives, 2 x IWC representatives, a representative from Island Roads, the Chair of Ryde Business Association and a representative from Ryde Arts CIC. The Steering Group will also establish a community engagement forum and a cultural forum, the former perhaps chaired by the Chair of the Ryde Business Association and the latter perhaps chaired by the Chair of Ryde Arts CIC.

### **Recommendations**

It is suggested that the Planning Committee now makes the following recommendations to Full Council:

- (i) That the draft Programme Design be made available to, and noted by, the Town Council at the forthcoming meeting on 2 December 2019.
- (ii) That the Town Council contribute further additional funding in the region of £16, 140 in both 2020/21 and in 2021/22 to the Ryde HAZ to enable the employment of two Senior Project Officers
- (iii) That the Town Council agree in principle to the establishment of the Ryde HAZ Project Steering Group with the following membership:

2 x Historic England representatives

2 x RTC representatives

2 x IWC representatives

1 representative from Island Roads

The Chair of Ryde Business Association

1 representative from Ryde Arts CIC.

NB: the RTC members of the Steering Group to be determined by the Full Council at a later date. The Project Officers to provide Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Group – These will come to Full Council and the Steering Group for approval.

- (iv) That the Full Council notes that the Project Steering Group will become active once stage 3 of the HAZ is underway and the Project Officers are in post.