

RYDE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

**HAVE YOUR SAY
SHAPING RYDE
FOR THE FUTURE**



RYDE TOWN COUNCIL

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Ryde Town Council currently provide the following services directly in Ryde: Public toilets, five allotment sites, skate park, beach cleaning, beach life-guarding and first aid service, town marketing and festive lighting.

The Town Council also works in partnership with other organisations to fund services in the local area such as the Waterside, Community Connector, Environment Officers, Beach Soccer, Carnivals and to maintain open spaces such as Pig Leg Lane.

The Council are often asked to consider taking on additional services in the area that have either been cut or if residents feel there is a need.

To ensure we formulate a balanced budget that reflects the need for services that local residents and businesses require, the Town Council would like your thoughts on what our budgeting priorities should be going forward.

RYDE TOWN COUNCIL CURRENTLY SPEND THE FOLLOWING ON LOCAL SERVICES.



Administration & Premises £389120

Staff, Council Elections, utilities, premises, business rates, website etc...



Grants and Contributions to local services £230200

Funding for Waterside Pool & splashpark, carnivals, beach soccer, classic car show etc...



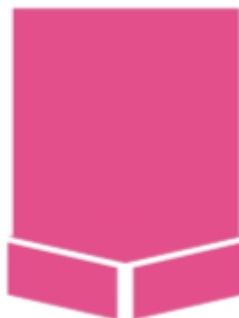
Directly provided services £396880

Public Toilets, Town marketing, allotments, skatepark, beach cleaning, beach lifeguard service etc...



Youth Services £168500

Youth Cafe at 147 High Street, staff, outreach services, Duke of Edinburgh award scheme etc...



HOW THE TOWN COUNCIL IS FUNDED

Parish and town councils raise revenue to help meet their spending requirements by issuing a 'precept'. This is the total amount to be raised through the council tax from all the dwellings within the area. The 'precept' is converted into an amount per council tax band and this forms part of your annual council tax bill.

The Town Council currently have an annual budget of approx. £1.2 million pounds to provide services in the local area.

A band D property in Ryde currently pays £137.36 pre annum towards the Ryde Town Council precept.

PLANNING FOR 2020/21

The Town Council are considering their budget for the upcoming financial year 2020/21. They would like to know residents views on how they should prioritise spending on the three areas listed below going forward.

EXISTING SERVICES

The Town Council provide a vast range of services throughout the area including provision of a youth service and youth café at 147 High Street, public toilets, skatepark, 5 allotment sites, beach cleaning, beach safety / first aid service, town marketing campaigns, floral planting schemes, festive trees and decorative lighting. The council also contribute towards funding other organisations to run services locally, such as the Waterside Pool, splash park, carnivals and local events, and towards the maintenance of local open spaces and play areas.

FUTURE PROJECTS

The Town Council are currently considering whether to purchase Ryde Harbour, which has been put up for sale by the IW Council. An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the IW Council. The Harbour currently makes an operating profit of around £25000 per annum, but does require some investment for essential dredging and maintenance works and to bring the facilities up to standard. A business plan is being formulated for consideration by the Council. The Town Council have also submitted an 'Expression of Interest' to obtain Heritage Lottery funding towards the renovation of the former Ryde Theatre, for more information on this please see question 3.

OTHER SERVICES

Over the course of the last financial year the Town Council has been asked, at times, to consider taking on additional services and responsibilities in the Ryde area. Over the last year the following IW Council provided services have been reduced.

- Street Cleansing
- Verge cutting
- CCTV
- Parks and Gardens maintenance and improvements

Ryde Town Council have been asked to consider providing funding to restore these services to their previous levels.



Question 1

Following cuts to the IW Council's budget the following services have been reduced over the last year.

- Street Cleansing
- Verge cutting
- CCTV
- Parks and Gardens maintenance and improvements

Ryde Town Council have been asked to consider providing funding to restore these services to their previous levels. This is likely to result in an increase in the local precept.

Would you be happy to pay more tax to fund restoring the above services to previous levels?

Yes / No

Question 2

The Town Council are currently considering whether to purchase Ryde Harbour, which has been put up for sale by the IW Council. An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the IW Council. The Harbour currently makes an operating profit of around £25000 per annum, but does require some investment for essential dredging and maintenance works and to bring the facilities up to standard. A business plan is being formulated for consideration by the Council.

Do you feel that it is important that the Town Council continues to consider the purchase of the harbour to retain it for community use?

YES—VERY IMPORTANT

YES— MODERATELY IMPORTANT

HAVE NO VIEW

NO



QUESTION 3

Following a unanimous vote at our October meeting it was agreed that the Council submits an Expression of Interest to the Heritage Horizons funding programme and take the lead, with the support of the Isle of Wight Council and local community groups, in continuing to explore all options for the future ownership, operations and management of the former Ryde Theatre building. The capacity of this Council to act as a community driver for this initiative needs to be assessed and resources put in place to ensure the success of the initiative.

The total project cost is £7.32 million 90% of which, if successful, would be provided by the Heritage Horizons fund and 10% (£732000) would need to come from other funding opportunities/streams. The project would be spread over 5 years and involve converting Ryde Theatre into a multi-use venue including a theatre, an indoor market, council offices and art workshops.

This project may have considerable financial implications for the Town Council for the next 5 years, however, at this early stage the exact costs are still unclear.

At this early stage do you agree, in principle, with the Town Council pursuing this further?

Yes – Strongly agree

Yes – agree

Have no view

Disagree

Strongly disagree.

Question 4

Please tell us of any other services you wish to see provided locally by the town council.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Existing Services

QUESTION 5

From the list below please select (up to a maximum of 10) the projects that Ryde Town Council, should prioritise it's spending on.

Provision of local Youth Services and the Youth Café at 147 High Street

Provision of Public Realm Improvements funding items such as additional street lighting rubbish bins, benches and improvements to local open spaces.

Contributing to the maintenance of IW Council managed Parks, play areas and Gardens, such as Appley Park, and additional bin emptying on the seafront in the summer.

Providing daily beach cleans throughout the summer.

Provision of a Community Connector – A community based support worker helping the most vulnerable in society or those with complex needs to access services and support within the local area.

Providing grants to local community groups such as Beach Soccer, Citizens Advice, Monkton Arts, Victim Support for services provided in the local area.

Provision and maintenance of the Skatepark

Town Marketing – Promoting Ryde as a tourist destination.

Funding contributions to the Waterside pool and Splash Park.

Provision of Festive decorations – Christmas trees and festive lighting.

Regular annual funding for local events held in the Town, such as the Carnivals, Classic Car show, International Harp Festival and Ryde Arts Festival.

Providing Grants to contribute towards the costs of marketing of events held in the town.

Funding for the Ryde Environment Officers – responsible for the enforcement of fly tipping, graffiti and dog fouling regulations.

Funding Contributions to the management of Open Spaces such as Pig Leg Lane

Grant funding for organisations that help the most vulnerable in society with heating costs, advice and support in accessing services.

Ryde in Bloom Competition

Assisting the planning authority (IW Council) by funding planning enforcement measures within the town.