



## RYDE TOWN COUNCIL

Report To: **Finance Committee – 12 January 2021**

Report From: **Gareth Hughes - Responsible Financial Officer.  
Lisa Dyer - Town Clerk**

Report Title: **BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING FOR THE 2021-22  
FINANCIAL YEAR**

### 1. Purpose

To provide background information to the Committee to assist Members in considering the base budget and precept for the 2021-2022 financial year. The Full Council will be required to set a legal budget and precept at its meeting in February, unless the Isle of Wight Council set a different timetable.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The current precept on the local taxpayer is £1,123,605, which represents a Band D Council Tax of £137.36 per annum.

### 3. Budget Setting Process

- 3.1 A draft budget for next year based on current levels of service, contracts awarded and previously approved decisions is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2 At this stage the taxbase for 2021-2022 has yet to be announced and so that applicable to the current financial year has been included in Appendix A. Any increase in taxbase is likely to have only a minimal effect on the Band D Council Tax.
- 3.3 The following notes are to assist members in their consideration of the draft budget as presented -
- (i) If the precept were to increase by an amount to balance the budget as contained in Appendix A, and provide reserves of £180,000, then the annual increase in a Band D Council Tax would be £10.54 or 20.3 pence per week (an increase of 7.68%) to give a Band D Council Tax of £150.19. Each £1,000 increase in precept adds 12.3 pence to a Band D taxpayer.

Should the budget contained in Appendix A be increased by £54,000 to provide for the estimated first year annual costs for Ryde Town Hall of

£36,000 and £18,000 for the two new requests for annual grant funding, then the precept would need to increase by 12.48% to £1,263,839, giving a Band D Council Tax of £154.51 (an annual increase of £17.15 or 33 pence per week).

- (ii) The salary budget includes the full year effect of all previously approved appointments and includes any costs arising from the 2020-2021 staffing review completed by the Personnel Panel on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The salary budget for Network Ryde is contained within the Network Ryde budget line. A breakdown of the Network Ryde budget is attached as Appendix B.

Having regard to the timing of approved appointments it is recommended that any savings in the salary budget in the current year are earmarked and carried forward to the 2021-22 financial year.

- (iii) Appendix A also includes a budget provision of £15,000 to meet the cost of providing community support arising from Covid 19 and a general provision for inflation on all goods and services of £25,000.

#### **4. Current Budget Commitments**

4.1 During the current financial year there have been a number of one off savings arising from Covid and these were contained in the financial forecast report as presented to Full Council on 2 November. That meeting also approved additional financial support of £60,000 for the Waterside Community Trust in the current financial year and this has been included in Appendix A

4.2 The Town Council had originally allocated Community Grant funding of £21,000 and Marketing Grant funding of £15,000 in the current financial year and these have been included as budget sums in Appendix A for 2021-22. In addition the Town Council has also agreed annual ongoing funding, for significant town events to the following organisations:

- Ryde Carnival Association £9,000
- New Carnival Company £3,000
- Ryde Arts Festival £3,000
- Harp on Wight £2,700
- Classic Car Event £8,000 increased from £1,500 to support a longer event in 2021.

Requests for funding on an annual basis have now been received from Wight Wave Beach Soccer (£8,000) and from the IW Bus Museum (£10,000).

4.3 The following ongoing funding has been previously awarded to external organisations for local projects and is carried forward into Appendix A:

- Footprint Trust - Warmer Home initiatives £9,000
- Gift to Nature – Countryside Sites in Ryde £10,000
- Waterside Community Trust - Splashpark £10,000
- Waterside Community Trust – Swimming Pool £20,000
- Aspire - Annual funding of £15,000 was awarded for 2019/20,

- 2020/21 and 2021/22 and is carried forward into Appendix A.
- Community Connectors £20,000
- Community Rail Partnership £2,000.

4.4 The Town Council is already contractually committed to delivering the following services until 2022 and the budget lines for these have been carried forward into Appendix A.

- Beach Cleaning £40,000.
- Summer and Winter Planting/Watering £34,100
- Beach Safety and First Aid £21,000
- Marketing Projects £29,000
- Public Conveniences £80,700

4.5 The Town Council has been committed to the following budgets in respect of Council owned/managed assets and property and the budget lines for these have been carried forward into Appendix A:

- Lighting, Christmas trees, sockets and unmetered supply £25,000
- Skatepark £20,000
- Allotments £15,000
- Network Ryde £172,000.
- Lifeguard Station and steps £4,000
- Flagpole £200
- Island Games Water feature £200
- Million Bloom site £700

The lighting budget has been increased by £5,000 arising from the introduction of charging from Island Roads for Christmas lighting works, not previously charged.

4.6 The Town Council also funds the following discretionary projects and initiatives and the budget lines for these have been carried forward into Appendix A:

- Ryde in Bloom £4,500
- Memorial Wreaths/Poppy Appeal £300

## **5. Contributions towards Isle of Wight Council Delivered Services**

5.1 During last year's budget setting process the Town Council agreed to provide funding support for the lifetime of this Council towards:

- a dedicated Ryde Environment Officer (4 days a week) £17,300
- Playground Equipment £24,000

These budget lines have been carried forward into Appendix A.

5.2 The Grounds Maintenance service is assumed to be continued at current budget levels.

## 6. Planning Matters/HIAZ

The Planning Committee has oversight of the following budgets, which were included in Appendix A for the current financial year -:

- Public Realm £27,500
- HSAZ £47,000

At a meeting of the Town Council held on 1 July 2019 it was agreed that an allocation from the Town Councils Public Realm budget could be used for the Ryde High Street Action Zone Funding with initial funding of £60,000 in year one, £15,000 in years 2 and 3 and £10,000 in year 4 if required (totalling £100,000 over 4 years). A total of £65,000 is currently contained in an earmarked reserve in the Councils accounts for HIAZ, arising from a contribution from the Public Realm budget in the 2019-20 financial year. It has now been estimated that HIAZ will require total RTC funding of £120,000 over the 2020-21 and 2021-22 period, which is now reflected in the budget for 2021-22 together with a contribution of £11,500 being put back into the HIAZ Reserve Account. Budgets for Planning and Greening Ryde are as presented to the informal Finance Committee in December.

## 7. Ryde Harbour and surrounding land

It has been agreed that the transfer of this facility from the Isle of Wight Council should take place at the commencement of the 2021-22 financial year. The content of Appendix A for Ryde Harbour is derived from the content of the approved Business Plan and shows a small surplus for 2020- 21.

## 8. New Projects

- (i) St Thomas Church – At this stage it is assumed that all revenue costs associated with the project, will be offset by equivalent savings in the Network Ryde budget
- (ii) Vectis Hall – a budget has been introduced for loan charges on the purchase and the securing of the site.
- (iii) A budget provision of £10,000 has been introduced for the acquisition of deckchairs.
- (iv) A sum of £40,000 has been included for the purchase of St John Park.
- (v) A provision of £50,000 has been budgeted for the seed funding of new organisations.
- (vi) No provision has been made regarding any contribution to the movement of sand at Ryde beach.
- (vii) No provision has been made at this point for any costs arising from the proposed lease of Ryde Theatre/Town Hall. An estimate of provisional annual costs of £36,000 was reported to the Finance Committee at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
- (viii) **It has been assumed that the capital costs of St Thomas Church (£286,000) and Vectis Hall (£125,000) will be met from borrowing approvals. At this stage a borrowing approval for St Thomas Church has been approved, and a borrowing application for Vectis Hall has been submitted. There is no guarantee that an approval for Vectis House will be forthcoming.**

## **9. Reserves**

Having regard the investment in new assets and introduction of new services such as Ryde Harbour, it would be prudent to give consideration to an increased level of general reserves during the budget setting process. A Risk Assessment will be undertaken with regard to increased risk and will form part of the budget report to the January Finance Committee. .

In addition to General Reserves and the earmarked reserve in paragraph 6 above, the Council also holds earmarked reserves for Elections ((£10,000) and Youth Services (£14,000).

## **10. Consultation**

It is good practice for Parish and Town Councils to undertake consultation on the setting of the budget and precept. Having regard to Covid 19 and social distancing requirements, consultation this year was limited to the Council's newsletter, website and social media. A questionnaire has produced over 75 responses to a wide range of questions and these can be found at Appendix C to this report.

## **11. Corporate Plan**

In setting the budget and precept Members are reminded that the objectives for funding outlined in this report reflect the aims detailed in the Council's Corporate Plan.

## **12. Recommendations**

In light of all of the above the Responsible Financial Officer recommends that the Town Council considers the draft budget for 2021-22.

***At the time of writing this report no formal requests have been received about the possible devolution of or funding towards services or projects currently delivered by the Isle of Wight Council.***

## **APPENDICES**

- i. APPENDIX A – Budget Forecast to March 2022
- ii. APPENDIX B – Network Ryde Budget Forecast to March 2022
- iii. APPENDIX C – Consultation Results

# APPENDIX A

## FINANCIAL FORECAST TO 31ST MARCH 2022

	2020-21 BUDGET	2020-21 REVISED	2021-22 FORECAST
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	£	£	£
Salaries	263,100	263,100	276,300
Employers NI	22,800	19,000	19,400
Pension contributions	56,200	44,000	44,900
Payroll Admin	1,000	1,500	1,500
Mileage Allowances	0	3,500	3,500
HR Advice	0	10,000	10,000
Bid Writing	0	4,000	0
Legal Fees	0	25,000	0
Acquisition Costs & Reports	0	20,000	0
Commercialisation Costs	0	15,000	0
Seed Funding	0	0	50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343,100</b>	<b>405,100</b>	<b>405,600</b>
<b>OVERHEADS</b>			
IT Support	6,000	6,000	6,000
Mayors Honararium	100	100	100
Newsletter	8,000	5,000	8,000
Training	2,000	2,000	2,000
Broadband & Phone	4,000	4,000	4,000
General Admin & Supplies	12,000	12,000	12,000
Members Computer Supplies	500	500	500
Advertising	2,000	2,000	2,000
Audit	2,300	2,300	2,300
Subscriptions	2,000	2,000	2,000
Insurance	4,000	4,000	4,000
Professional Indemnity	6,100	6,100	6,100
Website	5,800	5,800	1,000
Room Hire	800	800	800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,600</b>	<b>52,600</b>	<b>50,800</b>
<b>COVID 19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>INFLATION PROVISION</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>GRANTS &amp; CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Community Grants	21,000	15,000	21,000
Marketing Grants	15,000	7,000	15,000
Community Connector	20,000	20,000	20,000
Ryde Carnival Association	9,000	0	9,000
Aspire re Volunteer Service	0	9,000	0
New Carnival Company	3,000	3,000	3,000
Classic Car Event	1,500	0	8,000
Ryde Arts Festival	3,000	3,000	3,000
Harp on Wight	2,700	800	2,700
Aspire	15,000	15,000	15,000
Community Rail Partnership	2,000	2,000	2,000
Countryside Sites	10,000	10,000	10,000
Waterside Community Trust	20,000	80,000	20,000
Waterside Splashpool	10,000	0	10,000
Warmer Homes	9,000	9,000	9,000
Marketing	29,000	15,000	29,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170,200</b>	<b>188,800</b>	<b>176,700</b>
Honours Working Party	2,500	0	2,500
New Services	78,072	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>420,972</b>	<b>377,600</b>	<b>355,900</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE BUDGET</b>	<b>649,472</b>	<b>661,500</b>	<b>675,600</b>

**FACILITIES & ASSETS COMMITTEE****BEACH SERVICES**

Appley Steps	200	200	200
Beach Safety	21,500	21,500	21,500
Lifeguard Station	1,200	1,200	1,200
Deckchairs	0	0	10,000
Beach Cleaniing	30,000	40,000	40,000
Additional Bin Collection	0	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	52,900	65,900	75,900

**RYDE HARBOUR**

Staff costs	0	0	72,000
Site running costs	0	0	8,500
Equipment	0	0	2,600
General overheads	0	0	3,400
Fixed overheads	0	0	4,000
Maintenance	0	0	20,000
Loan Repayments	0	0	19,200
TOTAL	0	0	129,700
Income	0	0	-131,100
TOTAL	0	0	-1,400

**ST THOMAS CHURCH**

Electric	0	0	1,000
Heating	0	0	1,000
Renovations	0	0	2,000
Business Rates	0	0	1,700
Water	0	0	1,000
Loan repayments	0	0	14,300
Savings on current premises	0	0	-16,000
Income	0	0	-5,000
TOTAL	0	0	0

**VECTIS HALL**

Security	0	0	1,000
Insurance	0	0	1,000
Repairs	0	0	5,000
Loan Charges	0	0	6,600
TOTAL	0	0	13,600

**LIND STREET**

Rent	23,200	23,200	23,200
Rates	4,100	4,100	4,100
Gas	2,500	2,500	2,500
Electricity	2,000	2,000	2,000
Water	1,000	0	1,000
Cleaning	4,000	4,000	4,000
Facilities Management	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL	43,800	42,800	43,800

**OPEN SPACES**

Allotments	15,000	10,000	15,000
Allotments Income	0	-7,800	-7,800
Decorative Lighting	20,000	20,000	25,000
Environmental Officer	17,000	16,500	17,300
Flagpole	200	200	200
Hanging Baskets/planting	34,100	34,100	34,100
Island Games Water Feature	200	200	200
Memorial Wreath/Plaque	300	300	300

Million Blooms	700	0	700
Park Services	46,400	36,600	38,300
Playground Equipment	24,000	12,000	24,000
St Johns Woodland	0	0	40,000
Public Conveniences	80,700	70,700	80,700
Ryde in Bloom	4,500	0	4,500
Skatepark	20,000	15,000	20,000
TOTAL	263,100	207,800	292,500
Network Ryde	172,000	159,000	172,000
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE BUDGET</b>	<b>531,800</b>	<b>475,500</b>	<b>582,800</b>

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Public Realm	27,500	19,300	27,500
HSAZ	47,500	47,500	19,000
Planning	0	0	18,500
Greening Ryde	0	0	10,000
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE BUDGET</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>66,800</b>	<b>75,000</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,256,272</b>	<b>1,203,800</b>	<b>1,347,000</b>
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#### **INCOME**

Precept	1,123,605	1,123,605	1,209,839
Local Council Tax Grant	7,528	7,528	7,528
Bank Interest	5,000	4,000	3,000
Allotments	7,800	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,143,933</b>	<b>1,135,133</b>	<b>1,220,367</b>

<b>BALANCES B/F</b>	<b>292,339</b>	<b>375,300</b>	<b>306,633</b>
<b>SURPLUS/ DEFICIT</b>	<b>112,339</b>	<b>68,667</b>	<b>126,633</b>
<b>BALANCES C/F</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>306,633</b>	<b>180,000</b>

<b>TAXBASE</b>	<b>8179.9</b>
<b>BAND D</b>	<b>147.90</b>

<b>CURRENT BAND D</b>	<b>137.36</b>
<b>% INCREASE</b>	<b>7.68</b>



## NETWORK RYDE

### BUDGET 2021-22

	£
Salary	94,500
NI	5,500
Pensions	22,000
General Admin	5,000
Rent	9,800
Rates	5,200
Water	1,000
Electricity	3,000
Food and Drink	2,000
Waste Removal	500
Broadband & Phone	3,000
IT Support	3,000
Cleaning	2,500
Expeditions	8,000
Insurance	2,000
Contingency	5,000
	<b>172,000</b>

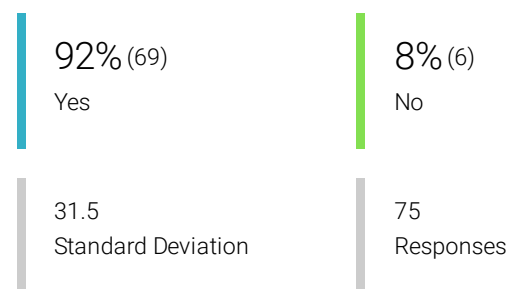
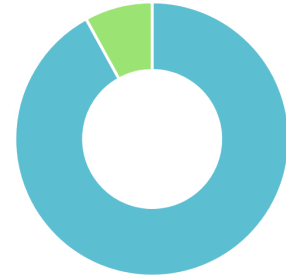
## Page 1

**CURRENT PROVISION OF SERVICES** The Town Council is currently committed to, by way of contract until the next Town Council ordinary elections, to providing a range of key services in Ryde such as public toilets, beach lifeguards, first aid, allotments, beach cleaning and floral planting schemes. The Town Council also offer the following services which are reviewed annually.

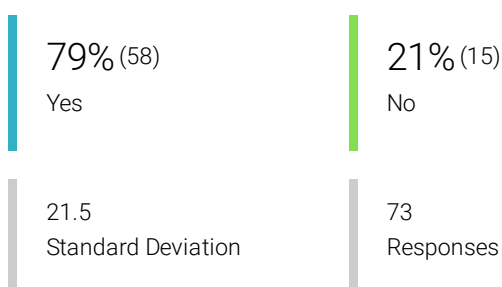
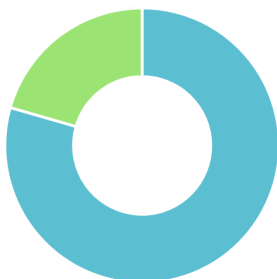
**CURRENT PROVISION** The Town Council review the provision of the following services annually and would like your views on whether we should continue to fund the services listed below in the next financial year, 2021/22.

Are you happy for the Council to continue funding the following: All Yes/ No answers

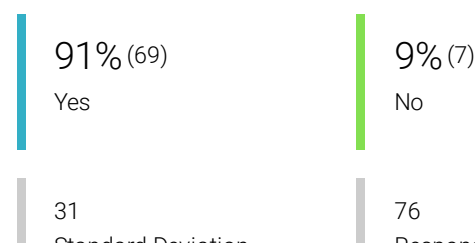
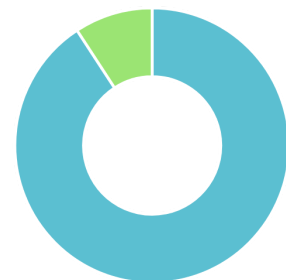
- 1 Provision of Public Realm Improvements funding for items such as new street lighting, rubbish bins, benches and improvements to public spaces. Cost per household £3.16 and total £27,500



- 2 Provision of Youth Services and the Youth Cafe at 147 High Street. Costs per household per annum £21.03 and total £172,000.



- 3 Contributing to the landscape of IW Council managed Parks and Gardens such as Appley Park and additional bin emptying on the seafront during the summer. Costs per household per annum £5.19 and total £47,400



- 4** 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. Costs per household per annum £2.45 and total £20,000



73% (52)

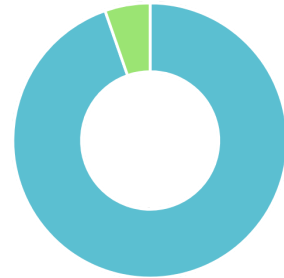
Yes

27% (19)

No

16.5  
Standard Deviation71  
Responses

- 5** Maintaining and updating local play areas. Costs per household per annum £2.99 and total £24,000



95% (71)

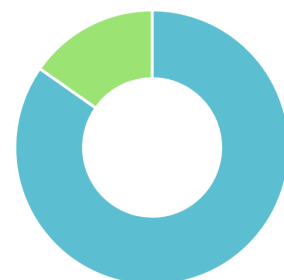
Yes

5% (4)

No

33.5  
Standard Deviation75  
Responses

- 6** Providing grants to local community groups such as Beach Soccer, Citizens Advice, Victim Support, Monkton Arts and many others. Applications are considered and accessed on need and how they meet the objectives of the recently adopted Corporate Plan. Costs per household per annum £2.57 and total £21,000



85% (61)

Yes

15% (11)

No

- 7** Provision and maintenance of the Skatepark. Costs per household per annum £2.45 and total £20,000



72% (54)

Yes

28% (21)

No

16.5  
Standard Deviation

75  
Responses

- 8** Town Marketing - Promoting Ryde as a tourist destination via advertising in local and national media. Costs per household per annum £5.38 and total £44,000



65% (47)

Yes

35% (25)

No

11  
Standard Deviation

72  
Responses

- 9** To establish events for example this year's Ticket to Ryde which took place in August 2020. Costs per household per annum £1.25 and total £10,240 + licences



66% (47)

Yes

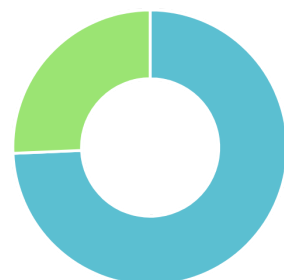
34% (24)

No

11.5  
Standard Deviation

71  
Responses

- 10** Funding contribution to the Waterside Pool. Costs per household per annum £2.44 and total £20,000



74% (55)

Yes

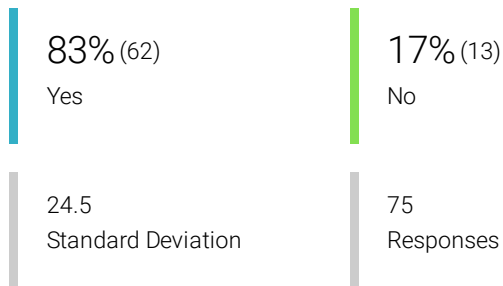
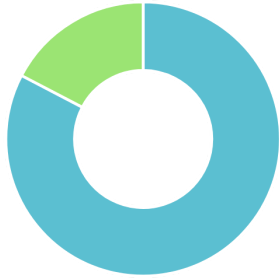
26% (19)

No

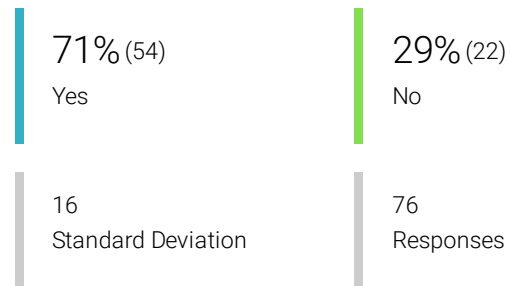
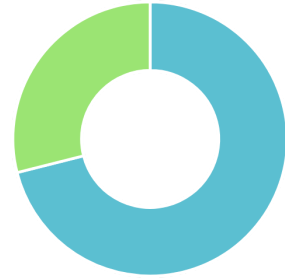
18  
Standard Deviation

74  
Responses

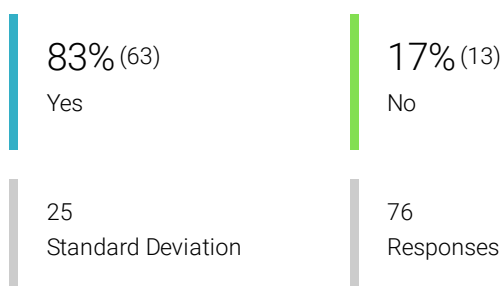
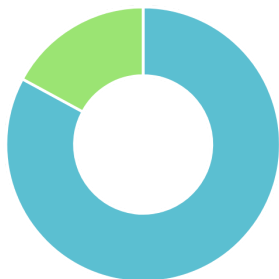
**11** Funding for the Children's Splash Park on Ryde Esplanade. Costs per household per annum £1.22 and total £10,000



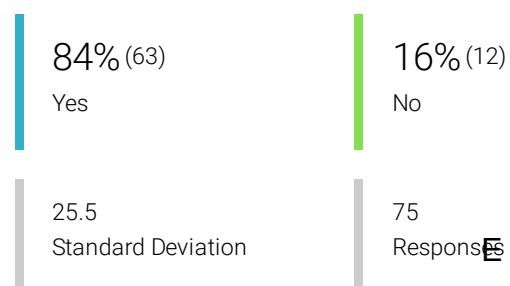
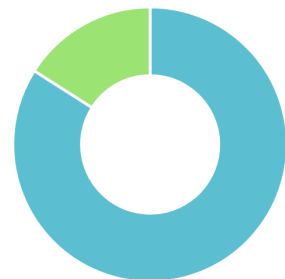
**12** Festive decorations - provision of Christmas Trees and Festive Lighting around the town. Cost per household per annum £3.06 and total £25,000



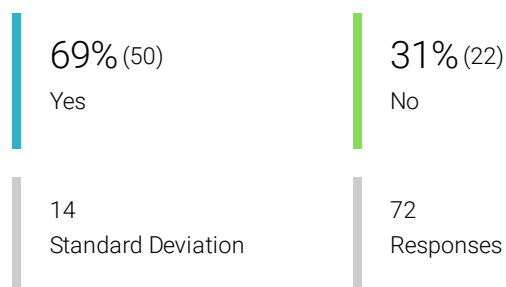
**13** Regular annual funding contributions for local events such as the Carnivals, the Classic Car Show, Harp on Wight and Ryde Arts Festival. Costs per household per annum £3.14 and total £25,700



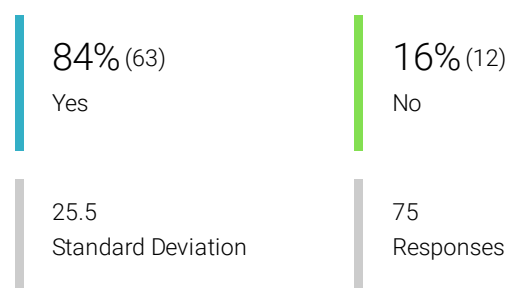
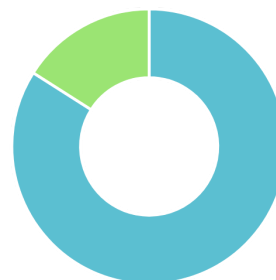
**14** Funding for the Ryde Environment Officers - responsible for the enforcement of fly tipping, litter, graffiti and dog fouling regulations. Costs per household per annum £2.13 and total £17,400



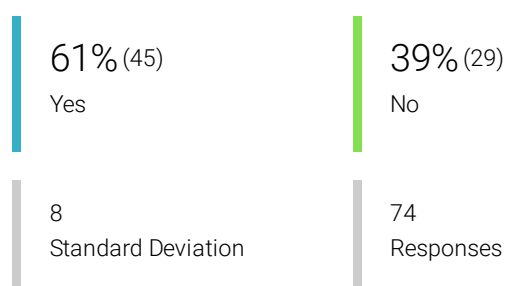
**15** Funding contributions for the management of Open Spaces at Pig Peg Lane. Costs per household per annum £1.22 and total £10,000



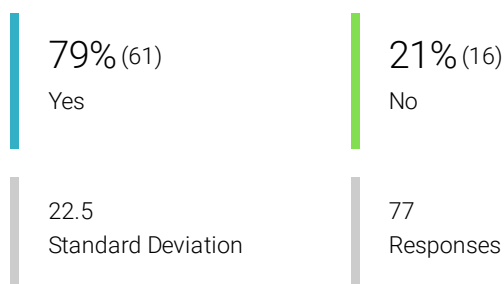
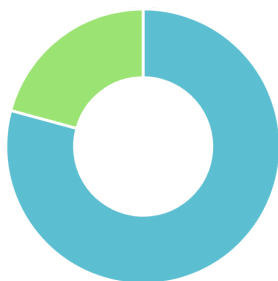
**16** Grant funding to organisations that help the most vulnerable in society ie with heating costs, advice and support in accessing services. Costs per household per annum £1.10 and total £9,000



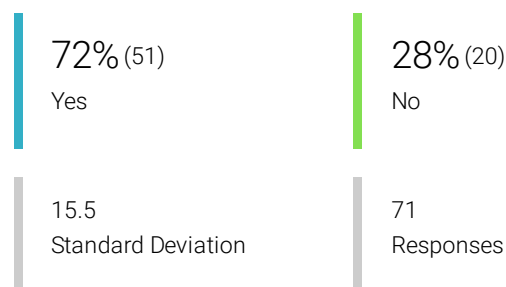
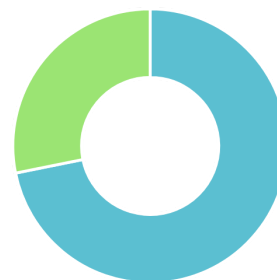
**17** Ryde in Bloom Competition. Costs per household per annum £0.55 and total £4,500



**18 ACQUISITIONS AND COMMERCIAL STRATEGY** Ryde Town Council have been asked, at times, to consider taking on additional services and responsibilities. It has, during the current financial year, moved forward with negotiations regarding taking ownership of the harbour as well as a 3 year lease with an option to purchase the freehold of Ryde Theatre. It has also negotiated and agreed with the owners of St Thomas's Church to buy the property. Vectis Hall has very recently been purchased at a price of £125,000 and the Town Council has just been approached by the Trustees of St Johns Park (woodland situated between Easthill Road and Westhill Road) to buy the woodland for the benefit of the community. As previously mentioned the Town Council is hoping to negotiate a 3 year lease of the Town Hall with an option to purchase the freehold. Would you be in favour of this?



**19** Would you still be in favour of this if this meant an increase in the precept? Every £1,000 of expenditure adds 12 pence to a Band D Council Tax.



**20** The Town Council has recently purchased Vectis Hall. How would you like to see this property used?

Coworking space / remote work hub

In any way that supports entry to employment or social cohesion and the engagement of those on the margins

As a school for apprentices in the traditional trades accompanied by business input for them to eventually run their own business

The building needs much work to bring it to habitability. May be advertise it for rental.

community asset for the arts

Master Builder Guild Centre: Town archive of buildings and history . Skillset training centre for building crafts such as carpentry , stone masonry, architecture for period buildings island boat building. open space for meetings and lectures and local crafts.

A community centre !!

Theatre and entertainment venue and bar

the purpose should be to let to raise funds for the benefit of homeless

Bulldoze & build terrace of Georgian facade flats

As a flexible community centre available at a reasonable cost to any group or organisation, but not to become the preserve of one or two "select" groups!

Music Venue

Meetings, events for local organisations

Contemporary Arts centre and Gallery

No idea what it can be used for

As a hall to hire for birthday parties, fitness classes, groups etc.

Anything that brings a financial return. Community assets are fine but they need to get to a stage to pay for themselves.

A community center and event hall that could be let to weddings/small concerts/ meetings to help defray its cost.

A police community centre, somewhere the citizens of Ryde can feel safe to complain about all the rough sleepers, Fellowship House residents, drug addicts and drunks that have taken over the town.

Indoor market

WHO ON EARTH DECIDED TO BUY THIS!!!



As a place of learning for traditional skills

Pull it down and sell the land for development (with planning consent) for a capital sum, or use it for housing for an annual rent revenue to add to RTC coffers.

Restored and used as a local drop in centre or information centre- what ever it takes to preserve its integrity as a building

education/community hub/

Community use, vocational training

Youth training centre

Refurbished and sold. You do not have the expertise to run property - proven by the proposed purchase of St Thomas Church which has been on the market for over 10 years. Surely that tells you something about its value as an asset

Lease to Vernon Square society. Preserve the historic street aspect regardless of use and ensure it remains a visually attractive part of the town as most benefit is provided from people looking at it, rather than using it.

hireable venue for local organisations (art exhibitions, film screenings, music), could be part funded and therefore more financially sustainable by rent from a couple of residential flats behind the building

Education and training

A community hub a little bit like Aspireryde has already established. A place where local people can access the help and direction they might need. Whatever the situation.

Something for youth interest and activities as there's not a lot for young people to do anymore.

By the community as a Centre

A place for the homeless to stay warm and safe.

community hall that has a realistically priced rental charge so the public can hire for events etc

Holiday lets

As a more accessible extension of Aspire.

As a drop in arts centre - like a mini Quay Arts

For young people as an employment hub, support with job applications, CVs, interview practice, careers advice etc as well as a place to meet. A step on from 147, say 16-25.

Local youth and sports groups

Community hub, different activities on different days.

N/A

Community centre

community use

As a micro brewery

Demolished

As a community hub or for an office for ryde town council to work from

something that covers the costs

As a hall - to rent out for parties, fitness classes etc.

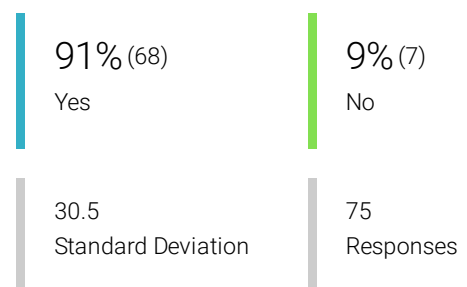
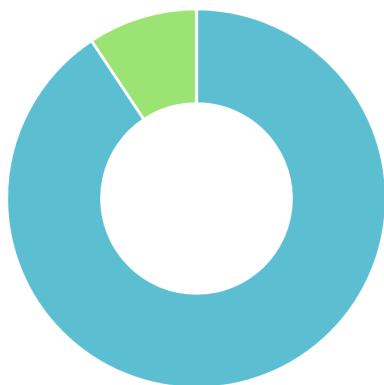
I wouldn't have purchased it. The property requires substantial work. You should focus your time and resources on making a success out of New Ryde Theatre. If Vectis Hall has been purchased already, I recommend seeking partnerships to form a similar approach to Boathouse 4 College in Portsmouth that focuses on traditional boatbuilding. Traditional carpentry college may open you up for grants and bursaries to transform the building. Seek this out.

Train young people as skilled apprentices in building / refurbishment whilst renovating the site. Once refurbished it would be a wonderful site for another community arts centre like quay arts / the depository / monkton arts, with a focus on learning/ ACL courses etc, or if it is felt that there is already enough focus on the visual arts - it would make a fantastic site for a story century - promoting literacy and a love of books in children and as a site for young families to come. (Something like seven stories in Newcastle but on a smaller scale) also to be a central hub for island authors and illustrators to exhibit their work and work on projects together.

Youth services

General community hall for all.

- 21** The Town Council is in the process of purchasing St Thomas's Church where it is proposed the Network Ryde Youth Services team will be based. The larger premises would enable the Youth Service to offer more activities. The project should be cost neutral due to the savings in rent at their current premises and the scope for rental income from other community groups hiring the hall. Would you be in favour of this?



## 22 If yes, how else would you like to see the premises and grounds used?

Environmental education

In a positive way that did not have a negative impact on surrounding homes

1) Links with other community groups. 2) Possible commercial income

Community use for all groups

Gardens of quiet contemplation and/or study, relaxing walks - so long as the areas are treated with the respect deserved: i.e: no rubbish or dog fouling, no areas of substance abuse - any of which could result in no public access.

Youth Cafe? and reduce the costs per household per annum of £21.03 to Youth Services which is very high

Youth Music Venue.

Community based health activities

As with Vectis Hall, for as wide a range of community use as possible. Maybe try to incorporate some sort of youth and elderly integration, where each can appreciate the other.

Youth services provision and stop loitering in the gardens

Music events and theatre

Out for hire for events both grounds and building. Grounds to continue to provide a quiet space with an alcohol ban being enforced.

see my answer to #20.

White elephant purchase, but as a clean kept park, and for small entertainment venues perhaps.

Council Building/offices, Youth Centre, Night Club, Roller skating facility, climbing wall, farmers market,

Relocate the Council offices into the building until the former Town Hall is useable again. Also use it as a meeting hall for the Council and others.

Live events, such as music (COVID-19 permitting). The town needs a decent venue with the loss of Ryde Theatre and the ice rink.

Tastefully and sympathetically for exhibitions the arts and low key music events and retaining the quiet garden remains tended and in tact

restore the building and cemetery

Meetings for other groups

Do not do it! You do not have the expertise

included. Can it?

some where for high school children to go instead of hanging around the sea front a cafe and even a possible disco night , classes offered , working with ryde academy .

The grounds should be used as a public place where the public can meet ,sit relax without intimidation from any thing. It should be a garden of rest and peace. Once brought up to standard the church building could be used as an art and music venue.

It's right in the centre of town so any activity that encourages all ages to walk there, or open up St Thomas's St car park for free short stay evening tickets... I don't know what the acoustics are like but there are many former churches that now make excellent informal concert or gig venues. Let's give people, especially younger adults, something to do in the evenings.

Indoor / outdoor market, Meeting place for all generations to pop in for tea, coffee and cake especially at the weekends

Showing the history of the church, who built it etc. Perhaps a local business running a takeaway cafe, to enjoy in the gardens.

club activities for all ages of children up to 18years

Playpark and allotments

??

Community garden and allotments, entertainment venue until theatre back on it's feet.

Various activities for youth, run by enthusiastic people and not wish washy social workers.

As a non-denominational church

community use

Arts and crafts studio with space available for an indoor market

As a community hub when not in use by youths and the gardens as a peaceful place to sit

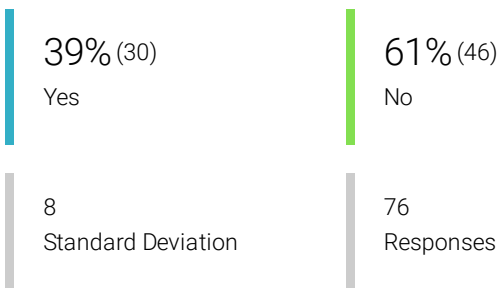
Youth service is good - could it be used as an events (eg weddings etc ) venue for hire to generate extra income ?

I believe there is a covenant on the grounds so use of the area is limited. The proposed use is fair. You could look to open up a 'small spaces scheme' that identifies parcels of land around the building to develop. It's use could be a historic trail around the grave or build small self contained units to rent out as art studio space or hospitality.

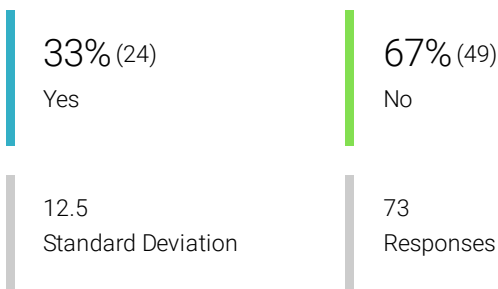
Promotion and learning about the UNESCO world biosphere status of the island including its history and eco credentials. A site for a refill/plastic free market like the one held in Brading on Saturdays. As a central point for winter lantern events like this years Merry and Bright. A space for art commissions from local artists to be displayed.

Community projects

**23** PEDESTRIAN PRECINCTThe High Street is no longer open to traffic from the junction of Garfield Rd to Star Street. Businesses are permitted to take deliveries between 6am and 10am. To restrict access to all vehicles during 10am and 6am it is proposed that a collapsible barrier be installed to ensure safety of pedestrians. The estimated cost would be £10,000 installation plus £2,000 locking and unlocking charges per annum. Would you be in favour of the installation of a physical barrier?



**24** Would you be happy to pay an increased precept for this project?



**25** Ryde Town Council has been asked to consider providing funding to restore these services to their previous levels. This would result in an increase in the local precept (the local tax you pay to Ryde Town Council, which is in addition to the services you pay to the Isle of Wight Council for; such as waste removal and highways, however they are included on the same bill).

Would you be happy to pay more to fund restoring these services to previous levels?• Increasing the number of litter and dog bins and the frequency of emptying• Maintenance of IOW Council run parks and community gardens• Improvements to IOW Council run parks and gardens• Funding to restore CCTV provision to previous levels • Funding to restore the levels of street cleansing and verge cutting to previous levels



72% (55)

Yes

28% (21)

No