



Mayor's Announcement and Report – September 2022

Future Hope in Our Young People in Ryde

Summary

The Summer has seen good weather, an increase in visitors to the town, and a hive of activities and events. September is the climax of events with Ryde Carnival, Classic Cars, and the Tour of Britain.

The town has really come alive, and the hard work of the Ryde Town Council team has been amazing. I cannot praise them enough. I wish to highlight the staff at Ryde Marina, Ryde Beach Front, Eastern Gardens, and the beach Lifeguards.

I also wish to praise all team of young people on the beaches and their sheer enthusiasm. I was on the foreshore at Ryde to welcome back 6 of the Lifeguards who swam across the Solent to raise further funds for the Lifeguards on the Island. It was an incredible achievement and demonstrated what a fabulous youthful team we have working on the beaches keeping us all safe.

I also judged the finals of the “Island’s Got Talent” competition and many of the finalists and the winner were from Ryde and Binstead. Ryde Academy showcased a number of their incredible students from musicians and dancers to songwriters.

Ryde Town Council last year awarded a grant to develop women and girls’ cricket at Ryde Cricket Club and I spent time recently with a young Ryde woman who is now a professional cricketer with Southern Braves, and she was coaching potential future women cricketers. The young women’s beach footballers also shined with 1000’s of spectators at the Beach Sports Festival. I have also been supporting a young Ryde woman who with family support has overcome difficulties to become a future engineer.

Network Ryde has over the summer engaged with many of Ryde’s young residents and a record number of Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions have taken place. There is also progress on the development of St. Thomas’s and Ryde’s Young People’s Centre.

The message I wish to share with you all is that Ryde has so much young talent, with incredible schools and an amazing youth service which are nurturing them. We need to celebrate this as it gives so much hope for the future. Creativity and sport should be the foundations for the town as it rebuilds its economy whilst we move from the difficulties of the Covid19 Pandemic to the harsh realities of the Cost-of-Living crisis.

Cost-of-Living Crisis and Mayor’s campaign 2022/23

Ryde Town Council had been proactive in responding immediately to the Covid19 Pandemic. In March 2020, it mobilised and in a matter of days was organising volunteers, delivering prescriptions, working with partners, providing access to a range of help, befriending residents, and providing virtual youth services with a range of activities packs as well as much more. We established Ryde Unite with Ryde Aspire to raise funds for local groups/organisations so they could survive and continue supporting the most vulnerable.

We are all now faced with the reality of the Cost-of-Living crisis with energy and food costs spiralling out of control. I am therefore calling on all councillors, residents, businesses, and voluntary organisations to re-mobilise for this winter. There is a proposal to establish a warm bank/community Pop-Up support HUB at Ryde Town Council's, Full Council meeting on 5th September where I plan to propose support for local charities and community organisations in a Ryde Unite Mayoral fundraising campaign with the Isle of Wight High Sheriff. All monies raised will go directly to charities such as Tidal Family Support etc.