

HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

Ryde HAZ Community Working Group

**Thursday 20th October 2022
17:30 at Crepe Lovers Café, Ryde**

In attendance:

- Adrian Brook – Museum of Ryde
- Jenny Wade – The Ryde Society
- Paul Wyatt - The Ryde Society
- Mike Fitt, 'Greening' - Ryde
- Zoe Thompson, Chair - Ryde Business Association
- Trevor Nicholas – Aspire
- Carol Jaye - Ryde Arts CIC
- Abi Wheeler – Ryde Arts CIC
- Sharon George – Shademakers
- Martin Sheaff – Shademakers
- Barbara Hunt – Ryde Social Heritage Group
- Ann Barrett, Ryde Social Heritage Group
- Cllr Simon Cooke – Ryde Town Council
- Cllr Malcolm Ross – Ryde Town Council
- Martin Gibson – HAZ – Isle of Wight Council
- Fiona Capewell – HAZ – Isle of Wight Council
- Phil Jordan – Isle of Wight Council / Ryde Town Council

Apologies from:

- Marie Mitchell - Isle Access
- Lee Byrne – Isle of Wight Council
- Paul Thomas – Isle of Wight Council
- Marion Brinton – Historic England
- Rosie Clements – Historic England
- Louise Dandy – Historic England
- Mark Roberts – Island Roads
- Bex Swan, Network Ryde
- Ian Middleton, Island Roads
- Other members of the Ryde HAZ Steering Group

Introductions

Introductions around the table were made.

HAZ Project Updates

Public realm

Martin Gibson provided an update of the latest situation relating to the Public Realm work planned for Ryde High Street

- Hampshire County Council are working on the Master Plan for the design work for the whole pedestrianised area of the High Street, including Town Square and Minghella Square.
- The budget available from the HAZ will not extend to the delivery of the entire masterplan so it will be delivered in phases – phase 1 as part of the HAZ and the remaining phases as funding is secured.
- It is important for design work to include the whole area now, despite the knowledge that it cannot all be delivered, to ensure that there is consistency in the design, and we avoid a patchwork approach.
- The HAZ team have been approached by Southern Water to discuss the installation of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems). It is hoped that SuDS solutions can be incorporated in to the design, at Southern Water's cost, which will allow the HAZ budget to extend further up the High Street.

Questions and Comments:

- Concerns about the design – will engineers be leading the masterplan design?
- MG - Groundworks are the landscape architects working with Southern Water and they will be providing recommendations.
- The importance of improvements in Minghella Square and making more of a feature of the link between the Minghella family and the town.
- Clarification on why there is still no barrier preventing cars from entering the High Street outside the permitted loading hours. This has been discussed for the whole of the HAZ project, but no action taken to date.
- MG explained the difficulties relating to road signage, enforcement and complications surrounding discussions with IWC highways relating to a fixed barrier. This is a key part of the public realm work and one that is still being worked on as part of the high street masterplan.
- Lack of parking enforcement on the high street.
- MG will speak to IWC Parking dept to request that tighter measures are enforced, however difficulties arise when vehicles are loading instead of parked, as IWC cannot take enforcement action against drivers entering the pedestrian zone, only parking in it.
- Clarification on how far up the high street the new surfacing will reach.
- MG – costs are being worked on as part of the masterplan design. There is a desire to reach as far as the two squares, although this is yet to be confirmed and will depend on the arrangements with Southern Water.

Shopfronts Improvement Scheme

Fiona Capewell gave an update on the progress of the scheme.

- Expressions of Interest were received from 16 shop owners. These were assessed for their suitability and we are now proceeding with design work on 6 of the properties
- Designs were shown to the meeting attendees by kind permission of 3 of the shop owners, to demonstrate the types of work planned – ranging from lighting improvements, whole shopfront replacement and new signage.

Questions and Comments:

- Clarification over the contribution required by the shop owner.
- FC confirmed that the shop owner will pay 20% of the total cost and the grant funding will cover the remaining 80%.
- What happens if the shop is subsequently sold?
- There is a claw back clause within the contract for 3 years, which will enforce repayment of the grant should they sell the property.
- Do the lighting improvements include eco-friendly lighting?
- FC will check this with the designers.

St Mary's

- The feasibility report for St Mary's has been completed and we are awaiting a copy of the report. Further details will be provided at the next meeting.

Cultural Consortium 'Waving The Flag' update

Abi Wheeler provided an update on the activities that have taken place as part of the Waving the Flag Project:

- 2 Carnivals have taken place
- Marketing Officer appointed
- Pete Bradley poster commission for the carnival
- New poster commission planned for 2023
- Work being carried out to improve the Carnival infrastructure – policies and other necessary bureaucratic procedures.
- Worked with Shademakers and New Carnival Company to provide workshops
- Exceeded targets on number of attendees.
- Carnival Sponsorship programme for local businesses was a success and will be expanded next year.

Terms of Reference

- The TORs were shared before and during the meeting. MG explained that they had been amended from previous TORs to ensure that the group is able to meet all the requirements.

Ambitions for future working, spin-off projects, continuation of HAZ work beyond programme completion

- MG explained that the working group should be an open dialogue between all members and not purely for information sharing from the HAZ Team.
- Members will be invited to add Agenda items prior to the next meeting.

Any Other Business

- An idea was raised for a Friends of the High Street approach. Voluntary organisation that could help with litter picking and general improvements to the area.
- This is an idea that can be discussed at future meetings and the group can potentially launch.
- Difficulties and barriers encountered for organisations / businesses wanting to put on events / anything different. Licencing and Highways rules are obstructive, time consuming and costly.
- Brighton was used as an example where businesses have tables and chairs in the streets and there seems to be a much more shop friendly approach to events and outdoor seating.
- MG will follow up with Highways and licencing.
- The need for improved wayfinding to link The Esplanade and High Street.
- Can we find out who is producing the signage for the new Ryde Interchange and have links to the High Street and HAZ are?
- This meeting will be a more frequent event to ensure continuity and action / discussion on items raised.

Meeting was closed at 19:05

Thanks to Emmanuel at Crepe Lovers for the meeting venue and hospitality provided.

Next meeting TBC