



RYDE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICER REPORT

Committee:	Finance
Date:	09/01/2026
Report Author:	Robert Clark – Finance Assistant
Report Title:	Budget Consultation 2026/27

Introduction

Each year the council asks the constituents of Ryde for their input on where they feel the precept should be allocated on voluntary services the Council provides.

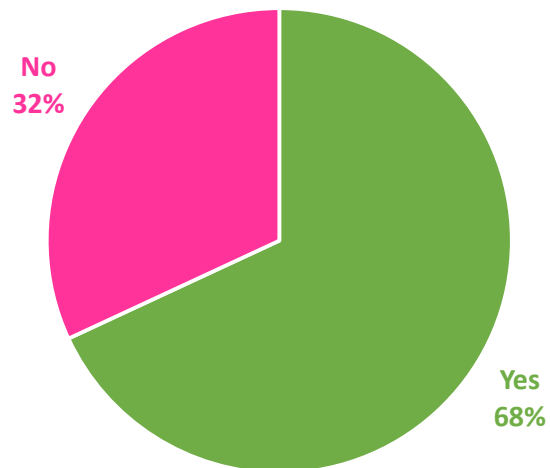
This year we have received 94 responses.

The results are as follows:

1. Network Ryde

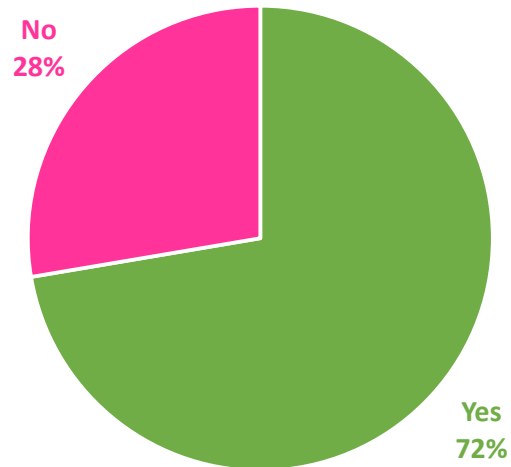
To keep the current levels of staffing and service will cost 4.34% (£79,389) of the budget, equivalent to £9.35 per year to households.

Would you be prepared to pay more tax to keep this service at its current provision?



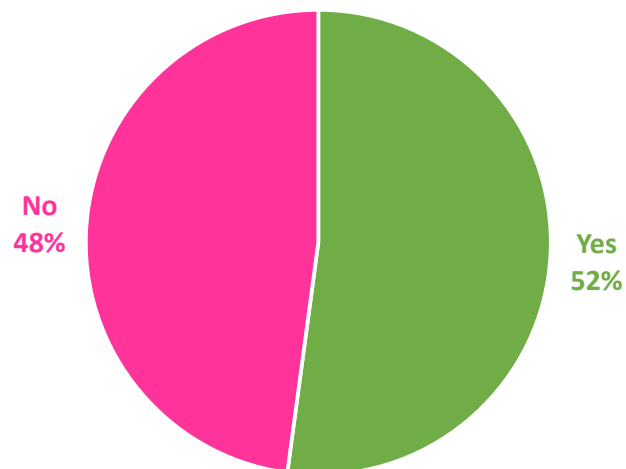
2. IW Council Help Centre

The cost is currently 1.2% (£23,684) of the budget, equivalent to £2.79 per year per household on this service.



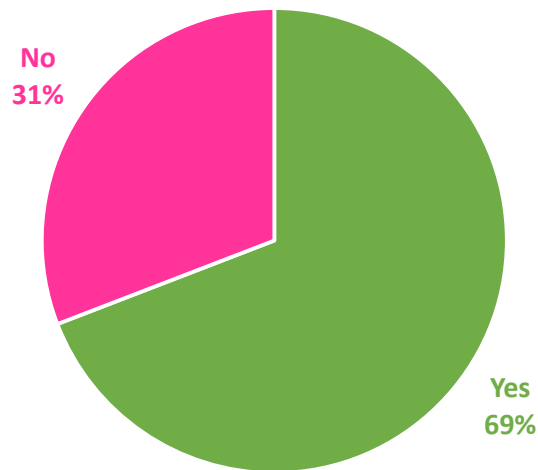
3. Grants

We currently spend in the region of 0.8% (£15,000) of the budget, equivalent to £1.76 per household per year on these grants.



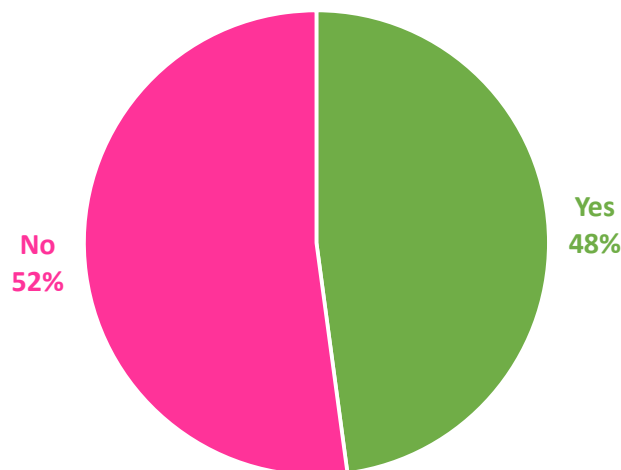
4. Ryde Information & Support Service

The cost of running the service for six months is 1.2% of the budget (£22,000)
equivalent to £2.59 per year to a household



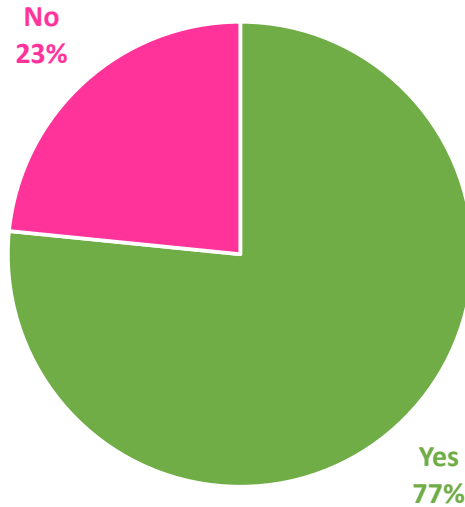
5. Marina & Beachfront

We currently spend 1.9% (£36,181) of the budget, equivalent to £4.26 per household
to subsidise this activity



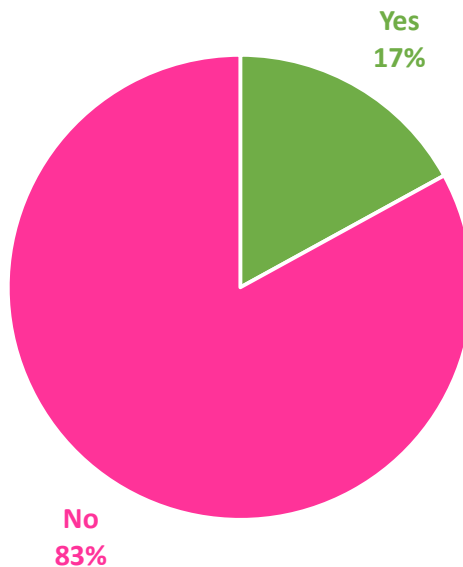
6. Public Realm

This currently accounts for 0.8% (£15,000) of the total budget- equivalent to £1.76 per household per year.



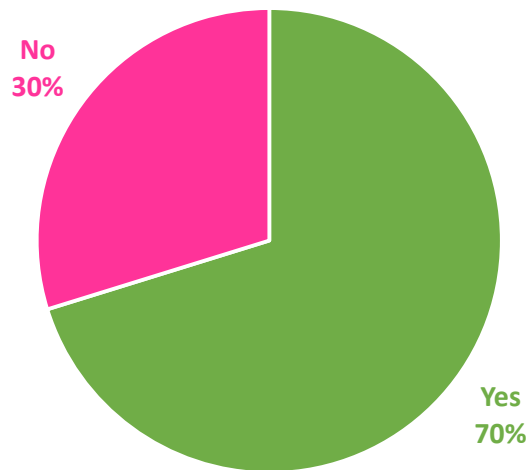
7. Planning Enforcement Officer

If this service is withdrawn in 2026/27, 0.9% (£17,578) of the budget will be saved, a saving of £2.07 to each household.



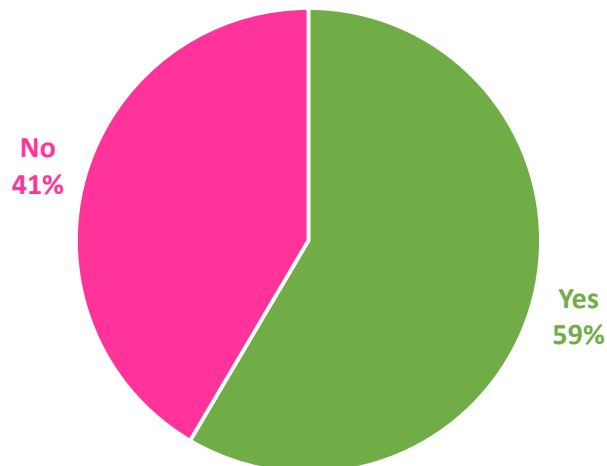
8. Beach Accessibility Project

The total spend for 2026/27 (including the purchase of the unit) will be 1.5% (£27,900) of the budget, at cost of £3.28 to each household.



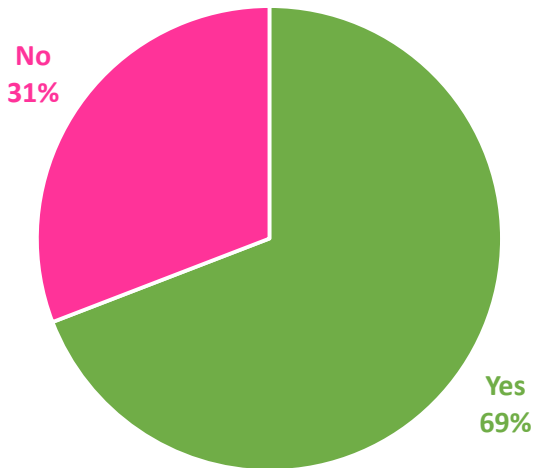
9. Environment Officer

We currently spend 1% (£18,394) of our budget, equivalent to £2.16 per household per year on this service.



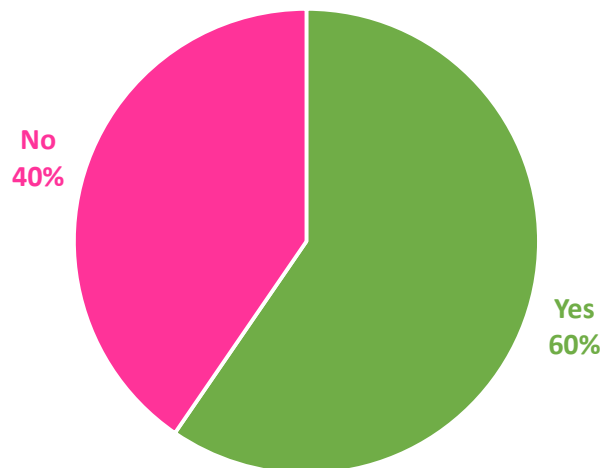
10. Public Events

We currently spend 0.7% (£13,000) of our budget, equivalent to £1.53 per household on these events.



11. Former Natwest Refurbishment

This would account for 3.15% (£57,386) of the total budget - equivalent to £6.76 per household per year.



12. Would you like Ryde Town Council to provide any additional services not mentioned above?

jdhrfjdsfdf
CCTV
I'd like Ryde Town Council to focus on providing the minimum statutory services and cease virtue-signalling nonsense.
no
No
The beach needs clearing of stones - surely a deal can be done with a local company to remove the stones for free and take the stones as payment - companies here do gravel extraction so surely this would be a win win? They could potentially even remove the sand from the harbour on the same deal. If our beach ends up like Portsmouth and completely pebbles (which will happen very soon judging by the current volume of pebbles) we will lose the few tourists the ferry prices haven't scared off, the beach is such a huge draw for this town we will all regret it if it goes. Stop spending such huge amounts buying and refurbishing buildings that should never be in council ownership (who on earth is quoting you £100k just for toilets? This is not a cost that should ever be passed on to the public!), there's a huge cost of living crisis, local families are being pushed beyond the edge already, we CANNOT afford more taxes, if you want to fund all the very worthwhile projects you've highlighted in this budget survey, SELL NatWest, SELL Vectis hall, and spend within your means to do so.
Public toilet provision in Ryde town centre needs addressing.
Just keep essential services running, develop the projects you are committed to
Anything that would encourage parts of the town - especially the upper high street - to look less scruffy. I know some attempts have been made like painting mural on walls. More of this please. Less nail bars, vaping shops and cheap-looking shops generally please. Cost of IWC car parking in the town and across the Island is way too high when compared to other parts of the country I visit. Businesses are suffering because some people can't afford it or are unwilling to leave their car for more than an hour (in the Coop Ryde) to shop, have coffee or lunch with friends etc. So they choose an out of town venue with a free car park.
Could the childrens' paddling park next to the boating lake be restored to use. It could help attract summer visitors. Also, could the pedal boats or kayaks be available for hire on the boating lake again? This could also help attract summer visitors.
Improve the Council's website to include much more local information on a daily/weekly basis. Bring back the Dotto train. Re-instate the christmas lights along the esplanade for 2026 onwards.

Stop having "secret" meetings of the committees where no notes are published for the public to see what is discussed/ decided.

No

Ryde town council need to become more commercial and find income streams. Nor pay for services that do not show positive results, like the planning (IWC should tackle Hotel issue) and environment roles. Town hall sorted.

NO

Ryde town council wastes a fortune every year for unnecessary and poorly managed projects. Since 2021 the expanded work force involved with facilities management has not recouped any of the extended outlay including the terrible beach hire business which is a loss leader vanity project which cost over £60,000 in seed money and costs valuable time and money to run and maintain for no profit or return, whoever came up with the published business plan for this endeavour had no concept of effective business management. Purchase of Vectis hall and NatWest premises while continuing to pay vast amounts of money for rented offices is lunacy of the highest order this coupled with over 1 million pounds spent setting up and funding the youth centre housed in the newly refurbished and repurposed Church premises has no long term continuity funding in place for ever increasing maintenance and running costs. Without sight of its future disastrous impact on the community the Ryde theatre was sold and all sale caveats were left unimposed or ignored, these premises should not have been sold at the first instance, while now there is a move to buy the building back to "Save it". The lunatics are truly running the asylum, we would be better served by sacking the lot of them and starting again from scratch...or at the very least employing people with some concept of fiscal responsibility to the wider community rather than those continually crying "We are a business", to my knowledge there is no business that is given huge amounts of money every year from the public purse, makes no profit and no referenced analysis of its continued wasteful mismanagement of funds and facilities under its care?

I'd like to know what the situation is with parking at the pier head. Do the machines work? It's all somewhat chaotic and not clear what the regulations are.

Provisions for people who have been subjected to abuse, making spaces for people to feel safe, heard, and helped.

Communicate services available to people so they know where to go in moments of crisis.

Monitoring and reporting on the state of Ryde roads, verges and street cleaning

A decent skate park

Network Ryde is vital and I am happy to pay more council tax to support it. My children have attended it for years and I'm so grateful for the support offered by Bex and her team.

No

Need a new skatepark, money should be spent on this.

Greening and planting around town and sea front

Tell the public what can be done about the Royal York, it is a disgrace and could provide much needed housing.

Some of us older folk need help with transport to + from coffee mornings / social gatherings at the library + churches - some friends are now in their 80s + 90s + will, at some point, be unable to attend - these are the people most in need of social contact + regular outings.

More health/ fitness related support which could reduce NHS pressure - I would love to attend a gym (I am 76) but the music is deafening (+ severely damaging to hearing).

More evergreen perennial planting (eg. rosemary, lavender etc.) with flowers as "highlights"
- these shrubs are quite tough + reduce labour / plant costs.

We suffer from frequent problems with dog fouling, litter (+ even vomit!) between Aspire + the library which does not ever seem to be addressed.

Stop buying more buildings and consolidate what is already owned.

Free car parking

Could something be done to encourage dog owners/walkers to pick up and thoughtfully dispose of their dogs' pop? I'm dismayed just how much is left on the footpath and being trodden in by people who can't see the path in the dark (currently any time between 5:00pm and 7:30am).

Less empty shops and less barbers and now bars

Not reallyjust do what your supposed to do efficiently

Get the Town Hall back up and running to create funds.

Whilst I it is sad that some services may need to be reviewed, I feel the council should focus on ensuring Ryde is community focused, safe, accessible and clean while working with other organisations to attract funding and grants to the area.

Ryde town council does extremely well given the resources at hand, but households are struggling, hence me answering no to all the questions.

Use of traffic enforcement officers to fine people who allow their dogs to foul pavements.

The cost of office premises Natwest Bank far outweighs what the council is trying to do.

The Council should concentrate upon getting existing buildings occupied such as the Ice Rink + Ryde Theatre.

Can you reduce the Staff -

The harbour keeps filling up with sand and when it is dug out it is only deposited a few yards away so it all comes back again. The harbour entrance needs sorting out so you can attract more boats into the harbour.

People can't afford to pay more tax think about getting more money from the County Council or Government.

What happens when we have a new Mayor which we have never asked for.

I was denied a vote last May - Why should I pay any tax if i am denied a vote.

I feel the money should be used to provide easier access to shops I.e automatic doors, more disabled toilet access in town.

That are clean & key access only.

Support the Library in Ryde.

It is a lovely welcome warm space.

Pods for homeless in winter.

Don't line councilors pockets please.

Litter Bins - Particularly at Appley beach need replacing with larger animal proof bins - especially in the summer months.

There are enough bins most of the time if the seagulls/crows etc are prevented from

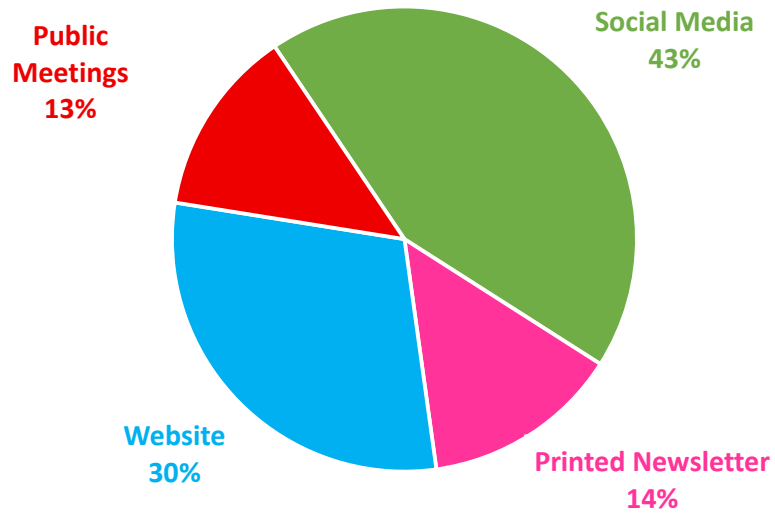
emptying them.

Larger temporary wheeled bins should be provided in the height of summer or for special events.

Paddling pool - this really lets the seafront down and needs a complete overhaul or repurposing with money set aside / budgeted for future maintenance.

1. Increase influence over decisions by Isle of Wight Council regarding its assets within Ryde Town - the former Ice-Skating Ring and the former Splash pool with the boat lake in order to benefit the local residents.
2. To co-operate and assist the Neighbourhood Board to promote Ryde's unique character including the purchase of the former Theatre in Lind Street. There are theatres in Newport, Cowes, Shanklin and Ventnor but Ryde is without.
3. To facilitate the increase of seating and planting to the pedestrianisation of the High Street and to encourage the establishment of a weekly market to be held in the Square off Anglesea Road.
4. Encourage the establishment and support of local business associations.
5. To promote the importance of one of the most protected beaches in the world by encouraging the establishment of a small tourist train to run from Appley along the sea front during the summer months to the Pier which is the seconds longest seaside pier in the UK.

13. How would you prefer to receive updates and information from the Town Council?



14. To help us further understand our community, please can you let us know which age range you are a part of?

