

Annual Town Meeting – 30th April 2025

This year's Annual Town Meeting took place in the ground floor foyer of **Department** on Cross Street—an inspiring space that set the tone perfectly for the evening.

Around 40 people joined us, including Councillors, representatives from local organisations, members of the public, and guests invited for the **Ryde Town Council Honour Awards** ceremony.

The event officially kicked off at 6:15pm (giving those last-minute arrivals a chance to settle in) and was opened by Mayor Richard May, who shared a reflective and positive summary of what's been happening in Ryde over the past year.

His update touched on a wide range of [local priorities](#), including:

- Beach Accessibility
- Network Ryde
- Vectis Hall
- Marina and Beachfront initiatives
- The old Natwest building
- Work in the Community
- Ryde Information and Support Service (RISS)
- Department
- Neighbourhood Board

He then introduced the following Guest Speakers:

- **Joe Plumb for Department:** Joe reflected on the transformation of the venue from vision to reality, highlighting its rapid evolution into a creative hub that nurtured local talent, launched nationally recognised productions, and planned to host major events while inviting continued artistic collaboration.
- **PS Matt Browne for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police:** Sergeant Browne provided updates on increased service availability, past crime reduction efforts, and previous community safety concerns in Ryde.
- **Bex Swan for Network Ryde:** Bex shared how Network Ryde had expanded its services, offered diverse youth programmes, and strengthened community engagement since moving to St Thomas's Church.
- **Fiona Capewell and Laura Hathaway presenting Appley Local Marina Murals:** Fiona and Laura introduced "Sheltered," a mural project that aimed to revitalise Appley's seafront shelters with marine-themed art and community participation.
- **Steve Holbrook for the Neighbourhood Board:** Steve outlined the Ryde Town Deal's evolving progress, highlighted previous community consultations, and described future-focused plans for long-term, meaningful investment in Ryde.

We then moved on to the **Ryde Town Council Honour Awards 2025**, where we recognised outstanding residents who've made a real difference in the community.

This year's well-deserved winners were:

Adrian Brooks, Christopher Hayton, Noel Hillier, Colin Webb, Dale Hillier, and Zachary Lacey.



The formal proceedings wrapped up at 7:40pm and were followed by a relaxed networking session. The evening concluded at 8:30pm.