

Held on Friday 4 July 2025, 12:00 - 14:00

No. 11 St Thomas's Square, Ryde, Isle of Wight P033 2PJ



Board Members Present	Also in attendance
Steven Holbrook (SH) - Chair	Peter Fellows (PF) (IW Council)
Louise Dandy (LD)	Fiona Capewell (FC) (IW Council)
Lisa Gagliani (LG)	Ann Barber (AB) (IW Council)
Diana Conyers (DC)	Alex Minns (AM) (IW Council)
Cllr Karen Lucioni (KL)	Lisa Dyer (LDr) (RTC) - minutes
Allan Bridges (ABr)	Colin Rowland (CR) (IW Council) online.
David Redrup (DR)	Catherine Heatley (for Joe Robertson)
Carol Jaye (CJ)	<b>Guest speakers</b>
Luke Kerr (LK)	Sarah Chatwin (SC) (SPARK)
	Stuart Sayce (SS) (SPARK)
	Natasha Dix (ND) (IW Council)
	Andrew Williams (AW)

Item		Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from: Trevor Nicholas, Donna Jones, Phil Jordan, Chris Ward, Jim Pegler, Geoff Underwood, Joe Robertson, Rachael Randall.	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None received.	
3.	<b>To agree the minutes and review actions of the meeting held on 6 June 2025</b>  The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as presented.	
4.	<b>Programme Management Update:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The boundary changes have been approved by MHCLG.</li><li>• The new members need to be confirmed with the department by the 27 August 2025</li><li>• The department had offered feedback that suggested strengthening the community engagement representation on the board.</li><li>• The website has been updated and sections added for meeting papers.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment interviews have been carried out and concluded yesterday 03 July. The board will be informed of the new members as soon as this is confirmed with the candidates.</li> <li>FC updated members on her recent meetings with the local business and Ryde Business Association (RBA) members. It seems RBA remains largely inactive. She had met with the former RBA Chair, Zoe Thompson. Zoe will be submitting a proposal to the board to consider at a future meeting.</li> <li>MHCLG will be running a webinar on the 17 July to give guidance on the High Street rental auction programme. PF will be attending but members are encouraged to attend.</li> <li>There will be an online Q &amp; A session with MHCLG regarding the regeneration plans on Monday 07 July at 4pm. PF promised to send members the meeting link.</li> <li>It was raised that when the new members are appointed, they would need adding to the website along with Joe Robertson MP as he wasn't in post when the webpage was created.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PF</b></p> <p><b>FC</b></p>
5.	<b>Board Recruitment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair updated members that all interviews had taken place and that 3 candidates stood out. As soon as they have communicated the outcome of the interviews, board members will be updated.</li> </ul>	
6.	<b>Update from SPARK - Community Engagement work and Investment Plan</b> <p>Spark presented their plans for community engagement taking place over the summer. They explained that there are gaps in the consultation undertaken in 2024 and they were now targeting their consultation to ensure all sections of the community have been able to express their views. They will be attending many events in the coming months such as the Wight Wave Sports festival, school holiday events and the school uniform swap shop. They explained that as the funding programme had altered the consultation must align with the new objectives and information within the data pack.</p> <p>DC asked that RTC Councillors be consulted as they regularly communicate with their residents and advocate on their behalf.</p> <p>LG asked what do the MHCLG mean by expanding community engagement? Does that mean more community representation on the board or that the board need to undertake more community engagement?</p> <p>SM replied that the new guidance puts considerable emphasis on community engagement.</p> <p>The are looking at feeding back the results in the early Autumn.</p>	

<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Charitable Structures Presentation &amp; Discussion</b> - Andrew Williams Consulting</p> <p>Andrew outlined the reasons why the board may consider forming a charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public trust</li> <li>• Regulated</li> <li>• Can attract other sources of funding</li> <li>• Gives the Neighbourhood Board a legal structure</li> </ul> <p>He stressed the importance of finding the right structure and governance arrangements and the need for ensuring that any charity is sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>He proposed a workshop with board members to enable the board to consider the options, decide on priorities and strategic aims.</p> <p>The proposed workshop will inform decisions regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of trustees</li> <li>• Governance arrangements</li> <li>• Strategic aims</li> <li>• Beneficiaries</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a workshop was the way forward and that possible dates will be circulated to board members.</p>	<p><b>FC</b></p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>IWC Public Realm Presentation</b> – Natasha Dix, IWC Service Director Waste, Environment and Planning.</p> <p>Natasha explained the current situation regarding public realm, beaches and open spaces in Ryde. She explained that biodiversity duty, strengthened by the Environment Act 2021 and the Local Nature recovery Strategy (LNRS) stipulate how many of the local open spaces should be managed.</p> <p>She also highlighted some of the challenges the IW Council face managing Ryde’s open spaces and beaches with very limited funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging playground equipment in Ryde Playparks</li> <li>• Undermining of the seawall at Western Gardens</li> <li>• Rising sand levels</li> <li>• 25 damaged sections of seawall</li> <li>• Canoe Lake and Splash Park area require significant works</li> </ul>	

	<p>She explained that the Council had been looking into cost effective ways to manage some of these issues such as natural rewilding.</p> <p>LK asked that the board consider what Ryde wants from its beaches? He explained he visits many beaches up and down the country with the beach soccer teams. He cited the positive impact of beach rangers in Devon, and that well-kept beaches promote visitor numbers.</p> <p>ND explained that many District Councils do not face the same budgetary pressures—such as the obligation to fund adult social care—that Unitary Authorities must manage, often leaving them with severely limited financial resources.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Details of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>NO AUGUST MEETING</b></p> <p>Friday 5 September 2025, 12:00 - 14:00 at No. 11 St Thomas's Square, Ryde</p>	

**Meeting closed at 2.10pm**