

Held on Friday 5 September 2025, 12:00 - 14:00
No. 11 St Thomas's Square, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 2PJ



Board Members Present	Also in attendance
Steven Holbrook (SH) - Chair	Peter Fellows (PF) (IW Council)
Rachael Randall (RR)	Fiona Capewell (FC) (IW Council)
Louise Dandy (LD)	Ann Barber (AB) (IW Council)
Lisa Gagliani (LG)	Alex Minns (AM) (IW Council)
Phil Jordan (PJ)	Colin Rowland (CR) (IW Council)
Diana Conyers (DC)	Jim Pegler (JP)
Karen Lucioni (KL)	Catherine Heatley (CH)
Allan Bridges (ABr)	Rebecca Outing (RO) (RTC) - minutes
David Redrup (DR)	
Carol Jaye (CJ)	Guest speakers
	Simon Matthews (SM) (SPARK)
Richard May (RM)	Stuart Sayce (SS) (SPARK)
Michele Legg (ML)	Ben O'Connor (BC) (SPARK)
David Langdon (DL)	Zoe Thompson (ZT)

Item	
1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>All Board members introduced themselves. The three newly appointed members (Michele Legg, David Langdon Richard May) were welcomed, with appreciation expressed for their future contributions.</p> <p>Apologies received from Donna Jones, Joe Robertson, Chris Ward and Luke Kerr.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None declared.</p>
3.	<p>To agree the minutes and review actions of the meeting held on 4 July 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record.</p> <p>Three outstanding actions from the last meeting were reviewed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Q&A session with MHCLG has been completed and circulated. 2. Biographies for new members were added to the RNB website, except for one outstanding profile.

	3. The charitable structures workshop has been held.
4.	<p>Business Community Proposal</p> <p>Zoe Thompson (ZT) presented a paper on strengthening business engagement in Ryde. She proposed reviving a business forum under the “We Love Ryde” banner, supported initially by seed funding, to rebuild trust, communication, and collaboration between businesses, the Neighbourhood Board, and the wider community.</p> <p>ZT emphasised the need for groundwork before asking businesses for financial contributions, noting the challenges faced by small businesses in the current climate. She committed to an 18-month period of outreach and engagement to lay the foundations for a sustainable structure.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Members broadly welcomed the proposal, recognising the need for a reliable channel of communication between businesses and decision-making bodies. Several points were raised:</p> <p>Sustainability: Members suggested considering models such as a Business Improvement District (BID) or town centre management structure in the long term.</p> <p>Community safety: It was recommended that objectives should include measures to improve town safety, reduce anti-social behaviour, and support shopwatch or town ranger schemes.</p> <p>Integration with wider strategies: Some members stressed the importance of aligning with existing regeneration and prosperity strategies, as well as avoiding duplication of work.</p> <p>Visitor promotion: Discussion covered opportunities to promote Ryde as a destination, including websites, signage, and town centre improvements, with the aim of showcasing local businesses to both residents and visitors.</p> <p>Practical next steps: It was agreed that seed funding could enable the development of initial resources (such as a website) and demonstrate value to businesses before moving towards a paid membership or levy model.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>It was agreed that further consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a clear governance structure for the proposed forum. - Ensuring alignment with wider Isle of Wight and regional initiatives. - Including community safety as a core priority. - Exploring potential membership of the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM). <p>ZT confirmed her willingness to commit significant voluntary time to the project and to report regularly to the Board on progress.</p>

	<p>Lisa Gagliani (LG) suggested that ZT explores the ATCM (Association of Town and City Management). She also noted that it may be worthwhile for the RNB to consider joining. The association link is provided below:</p> <p>https://smex-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.atcm.org&umid=5e21114e-07b4-47e8-bece-cbb1464bc292&auth=437a020dcc987bfc8ef77190b53d29037dc18860-f597bb8a3c076cfa0d5afc87e4d475c35e96efaf</p> <p>It was agreed that a decision on the funding requested in the proposal would be made following the Place Spark update and in line with their recommendations for the business sector.</p>
5.	<p>Programme Management Update</p> <p>Board Recruitment Completed administrative tasks for new board members and uploaded their biographies to the website.</p> <p>Island Expo RNB hosted a stand in a prime location near the entrance. We encouraged attending businesses to complete the survey and saw strong footfall and engagement.</p> <p>Business Engagement Supporting the development of local business contacts and helping to set up one-to-one and drop-in sessions.</p> <p>Community Engagement Regular catchups with Place Spark to coordinate engagement activities and secure Finance Committee approval for related expenditure.</p> <p>Communications Website and social media channels updated with recent activity. Public encouraged to take part in ongoing surveys.</p> <p>Public Relations Press release issued to introduce new board members and promote the survey opportunity.</p> <p>Ryde Community Guide Advert created for the October edition, inviting residents to continue engaging with the board as part of our ongoing outreach.</p>
6.	<p>Update from SPARK - Community Engagement work and Investment Plan Stuart Sayce (SS) provided an update on community engagement and progress with the Investment Plan.</p>

- Over the summer, the focus was on consultation activity. Multiple open, non-leading questionnaires were circulated to gather qualitative responses. While this has made analysis more complex, it has provided more genuine feedback.
- Consultation has also included one-to-one “deep dive” sessions with local businesses, attendance at community events (e.g. Wight Wave Festival, Ryde Carnival, Eastern Gardens Summer Event, Expo), and targeted leaflet distribution in areas of higher deprivation.
- Engagement has been extended to around 20–25 local community groups to utilise existing networks. Positive collaboration has been established with Sovereign Network Group, who designed a resident survey and expressed interest in being a recognised partner.
- Early results indicate strong thematic alignment across residents, businesses, and visitors. Priorities identified include:
 - Shopfront and heritage improvements
 - Better connectivity between seafront and town centre
 - Retail and events programming
 - Branding/ “Visit Ryde”
 - Digital upskilling for local businesses
 - Enhancements to key assets (e.g. seafront, marina, ice rink)
- Engagement gaps remain, notably in the 20–30 age group and among children/young families. Further work is planned, including outreach through schools once term resumes.
- Analysis of consultation responses is ongoing. A cut-off date has been set for next week to enable detailed evaluation.
- 23 projects were identified from the previous consultation, assessed against RNB criteria and the Green Book evaluation framework. Projects with strong social impact, economic viability, and public ownership are being prioritised, alongside longer-term “pipeline” projects requiring planning or site acquisition.
- Government guidance highlights a list of “pre-approved interventions” (e.g. high streets, heritage, regeneration). Local proposals will be cross-referenced with these.
- A “magic thread” must be evident, running from consultation feedback → evaluation methodology → project prioritisation → investment decisions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Finalise consultation analysis and publish results (late September). ◦ Finance Sub-Committee to validate evaluation methodology and weightings. ◦ Finance Subcommittee to review project prioritisation and report back. ◦ Prepare draft Investment Plan for board review and sign-off before submission deadline (28 November 2025). • A proposal to co-opt Zoe Thompson onto the Board for the 18-month delivery period and to proceed with the seed funding within the proposal was approved. • The Finance Subcommittee was confirmed as the appropriate body to lead the evaluation process, with weekly updates to the Board until the end of September. <p>Co-option of Zoe Thompson onto the Board for an 18-month period and for the approval of her seed funding request Proposed: Steven Holbrook Seconded: Carol Jaye Outcome: All in favour</p> <p>Agreement of Finance Subcommittee to lead on plan evaluation and prioritisation Proposed: Richard May Seconded: David Redrup Outcome: All in favour</p>
7.	<p>Charitable Structures Workshop</p> <p>Andrew Williams (consultant) delivered a workshop with the Board to present options for charitable structures. The aim was to consider which model would be most suitable should the Board wish to establish a charity to take on capital assets from future projects.</p> <p>The session was interactive and well received. A large majority of attendees favoured pursuing a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure.</p> <p>For transparency, it was clarified that those who expressed uncertainty were not questioning whether to form a charity, but rather which CIO model would be most appropriate.</p> <p>LG raised that two CIO models existed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Foundation model – trustees only.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Association model – includes membership. <p>No discussion of decision was made as to the preferred model, so both will be included in the final report prepared by Andrew Williams, for future consideration.</p> <p>Some discussion took place about timing. LD raised a concern that Board resources should remain focused on completing the Investment Plan. SH noted that establishing a CIO typically takes at least six months, so early action would be beneficial.</p> <p>It was agreed that the decision at this stage is simply to confirm the CIO route, with detailed work on the specific model to follow via the consultants.</p> <p>Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed to proceed with establishing a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as the preferred structure. • Vote outcome: All in favour, with one abstention.
8.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Engagement with Ryde Town Council (RTC):</p> <p>KL raised the question of when the Board will meet with RTC, suggesting an informal get-together to help build relationships and break down barriers. FC advised that such a session would be best arranged after completion of the Investment Plan to avoid premature discussions. It was agreed that FC will identify and arrange a suitable date with RTC.</p> <p>Action: FC to set up a time for an informal session with RTC once the Investment Plan is finalised.</p> <p>Invitation from Ryde Society:</p> <p>LG noted that the Board had received an invitation from the Ryde Society. DC clarified that while the invitation was circulated to all Board members, it specifically invited SH to attend on behalf of the Board. SH agreed to represent the Board at the event.</p>
9.	<p>Details of next meeting</p> <p>Friday 3rd October 2025 – 12:00 – 14:00</p>

Meeting closed at 13:48