



MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 2023

Thank you, once again, for the confidence you have placed in me to be able to carry out this role. I've spent time during my first month as mayor getting used to all that is involved, from civic duties to working with councillors and supporting the staff team - who have been *very* helpful.

Staff and councillors have continued to work hard to develop and realise a range of projects, and to support other organisations to do so. In particular, the staff team continue to work incredibly hard in preparation for a summer packed with activities, both run directly by the Town Council – Ryde Marina and the beachfront operation, amongst other things – or supported by us. All of these will help to bring the town alive over the coming months. I've met with several key stakeholders over the past few weeks, all of whom are very positive about the future of Ryde – and all expressed a wish to work together to realise the potential of the town to better support its residents and businesses – and to offer visitors a memorable experience.

The past weeks have felt like a gradual start to the role of mayor but I'm sure it will be a full and exciting year. Amongst attending meetings and working with others, I've supported the opening of an exciting new art gallery in the town (<https://isleofwightgallery.co.uk/>), attended the launch of a book detailing the making of The Queen's Beasts at The Department and attended the raising of the flag to begin Armed Forces Week.

By the time we meet, Ryde Town Council will have hosted an information event focused the development of **St Thomas's Church** – thank you to Kaiya Woodford and the team at Network Ryde for arranging and leading this.

Armed Forces Day will have been celebrated in Ryde. My thanks to Cllr Dore and his team for all the hard work and tenacity that have been needed to organise and run this event.

Between now and our next full council meeting on July 24th, there is much to look forward to:

- The **Police and Crime Commissioner**, Donna Jones, plans to visit Network Ryde on June 30th to celebrate the success of the joint Police/NWR outreach programme and to discuss this with Bex, her team and the young people supported.
- A '**Meet the Funders**' event is planned for July 6th to give local organisations an opportunity to talk directly to those that might be able to help through grant funding. This has been organised by Alison Pearce, RTC's Community Development Officer with the support of the staff team.

- The annual **Mardi Gras** parade is scheduled for Saturday, July 8th and is sure to light up the town as more than twenty schools and groups take to the streets.
- The following Saturday, July 15th will see the **Pride** parade following a similar route, finishing at the event on the seafront. RTC and Network Ryde plan to be represented in this parade – my thanks to Jo Johnson at Network Ryde for her hard work and enthusiasm in pulling this together and making us dance.
- The following weekend (July 22nd/23rd) will see sporting excellence in the town as the **South Island Sevens** arrive with nine sporting events across the town and an athletes' village springing up on the Harbour Beach – see <https://southislandsevens.co.uk> for event details.

All the above have been either developed or supported by the Town Council and organisers have worked with us to bring the best opportunities to Ryde, supporting the whole, diverse community with this rich variety of events. I hope to see you at many of them.

Cllr Richard May – Mayor of Ryde

June 2023