

THE RYDE SOCIETY



Dear Members, supporters, friends,

As we emerge from a truly devastating global crisis, it is difficult to find the right words to address all our community. We have shared a common event yet our individual experiences have varied on so many levels. The depth and breadth of emotion for us all, tragedies and heartbreaks, happinesses and celebrations ,have all been heightened by the general anxiety of the times.

We do all share one common bond, our belief in our town and community, fragile and vulnerable as it is at this point in time.

We all know uncertainty lies ahead, particularly a grave economic situation, and we are going to need to re evaluate what we consider to be valuable, not only in our own lives but also in our wider civic life, to support the growth, prosperity and wellness of our town and residents.

With sincere good wishes to you all,

The Ryde Society



Planning.



Pennyfeathers:

The agent for the developer of the Pennyfeathers site on the outskirts of Ryde submitted 2 variation s73 applications in April during lockdown - 20/00607/RVC and 20/00670/RVC. Both seek to change wording of conditions attached to the outline planning approval gained in September 2015, which expires on the 31st August 2020. The Ryde Society have written to both the Isle of Wight Council's and Ryde Town Council's planning committee members in the strongest terms asking them to refuse these 2 applications; and 3 questions relating to them were put to the IWC's virtual planning meeting on the 2nd June 2020.

To date we are still awaiting a written response with a definitive answer to one of those questions. Neither application had appeared on the IWC press list and, due to lockdown, no site notices had been put up. This has now been rectified. A letter from The Ryde Society has also been sent to our MP, Bob Seely, asking if he would issue a statement. Due to continued lockdown it has been impossible to hold a public meeting to discuss what the outcome could mean if either or both of these applications were approved. Questions have also been put to Chris Ashman (Director of Regeneration IWC) but, to date, we are still awaiting his reply.

158 & 155 Marlborough Road:

A new planning application has been submitted, 20/00855/FUL, to marginally widen the Westridge Cross traffic light junction on this side by reducing the curtilage of these 2 properties. This is a stand-alone application and not linked to any other road or junction widening schemes urgently needed for both Elmfield and Ryde in general.

Nicholson Road:

The Isle of Wight Council is keen to gain full planning permission for this development and we expect it to appear on the agenda at one of the IWC's virtual planning committee meetings over the summer months. There are serious infrastructure issues - mainly roads and junctions - which still need to be urgently addressed.

West Acre Park:

Again it is expected a full planning application will be submitted to the Isle of Wight Council over the summer months.

Westridge Farm:

Approval was given for Captiva Homes to increase the density from 80 dwellings to 86 dwellings. This was approved in March 2020. Work on the site did cease for a period of time during lockdown but has now started again.

Puckpool Hill:



This is a proposed new development of up to 50 houses on land at the top of Puckpool Hill, almost opposite the entrance to Harcourt Sands. There has already been an online presentation as a public one could not be arranged due to lockdown, and Seaview & Nettlestone parish council held a zoom meeting on the 18th June 2020 to discuss the proposal. Expect a planning application soon.

New Ice Rink:

Since approval was granted in December 2019 there have been no further updates. We are told talks continue with AEW and the IWC regarding the future of the old ice rink building on the Esplanade.

Ryde Town Hall and Theatre building:

We are told talks continue with the owner.

Ryde Harbour:

We are told talks continue between RTC and the IWC for the town council to take over ownership and the running of the harbour.

Currently, due to lockdown, RTC are dealing with planning applications under delegated powers. However, we are told they too are now looking at holding virtual planning committee meetings. Details of how these would work regarding public participation have yet to be released.

Greening our Town:



A request went out from the Isle of Wight Council for help in planting up the flowerbeds along the Esplanade as, due to lockdown, the contractor was struggling to meet *natures* deadline to get the 10,000 bedding plants in place. A small army of volunteers completed this task and we look forward to enjoying all their hard work over the summer months.

HAZ Project:

We have received no new information to date regarding the Heritage High Street scheme..

High Street TRO:

We are hoping that as soon as lockdown allows the signage (which is ready) will be installed thereby making the High Street a much safer place for pedestrians. It is hoped this will encourage footfall back into the town centre as lockdown eases and more shops etc. are allowed to open for business

Peter Pan's Children's Playground:

Despite opposition the Isle of Wight Council have now granted an adult gaming licence for this popular children's playground along the Esplanade.

From Ryde Business Association

Zoe Thompson, Chair of Ryde Business Association said: “As more shops begin to re-open, we would like to encourage people to ‘Think Local First’. Businesses have worked extremely hard to get to this point, and with tough times far from over, we need everyone to use our local shops. We have a strong network of independent businesses which we are really proud of. With the continued support of the community and the resilience of our brilliant business owners, we will do all we can to ensure Ryde makes a full recovery!”

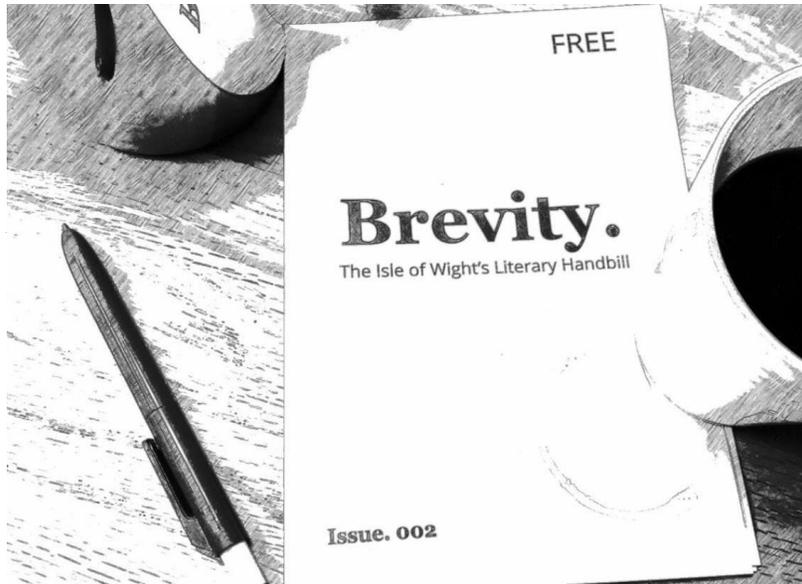
Ryde Business Association
@RBAlsofWight

SHOP LIKE YOUR HIGH STREET DEPENDS ON IT

BECAUSE IT DOES!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS AND BUSINESSES.

#WELOVERYDE



Brevity is (and hopes to remain) a 6-times yearly, literary handbill that launched in October 2019. In the past you could find Brevity FREE of charge at places like the Island's libraries, French Franks, Chocolate Apothecary, Bagel Wrap, Monkton Arts, Seaview Hotel, Medina Books in Cowes, Babushka Books in Shanklin, Ventnor Exchange and The Freshwater Coffee House to name a few.

It should come as no surprise that publishing has come to a halt. But while isolated Ryde resident Anmarie Bowler the Founder and Editor of Brevity recreated the publication ONLINE. Go to <https://brevityisland.home.blog/> to read new short stories and poetry from Isle of Wight residents.

While we wait for normal print service to resume, Brevity is gratefully accepting submissions and posting the best ONLINE. Submission guidelines remain the same: 500 words or less from residents of the Island.

Top tip: now's not the time to submit work that leaks gut-wrenching melancholy.

Ready to submit? Simply drop your 500 words or less – short story, poetry, essay – into the Comment Box on the Brevity Contact Page.

Be Bold, Be Brief – and be sure to have a read at <https://brevityisland.home.blog/new-writing-2/>