

Ryde High Street

For too long , Ryde ,a once fashionable and elegant town has been mistreated. Nowhere is this more apparent than the High Street that is now part of the Heritage Action Zone.

The disfigured street surface with its variety of disintegrating mismatched materials encapsulates the thoughtless and piecemeal approach to maintenance and renovation of Ryde's public realm in the past decades.



The highest quality areas in England and often the most popular by visitor numbers are often those that changed the least in the 20th century, the ones that preserve high quality public realm inherited from the 19th century and have made limited changes that follow a traditional design palette.





Often the most sound proposals for public realm interventions are tried and tested traditional and robust surface treatments street furniture and tree planting.

To date the HAZ has sponsored a design code for shopfronts. It may well be more useful to publish a design code for public realm so that future work can follow the same design palette of materials and principles

It seems clear that only by doing this can we ensure a wide reaching public realm that is cohesive, harmonious with the environment and easier to maintain cost effectively a traditional classic design is dateless.



There is much concern that the design principles section does not mention Ryde's significance as a Georgian Maritime / horticultural / seaside town and how this character should inform the design.

This character is very different to the examples given in China , Israel et cetera

Although Ryde does have some links to film and they should be celebrated,

‘a unique paving design that incorporates Ryde's links to film ‘

sounds gimmicky and could be costly to maintain.

In years to come it could appear dated and incongruous with its surroundings.

This could become as burdensome as the current mismatched disjointed thoroughfares we seek to remedy.

A classic traditional approach may not seem as exciting but it does bring some guarantees.



up?

Caption



The following points were raised by members of the Ryde Society

1 Floral Decorations

Although the planters are unappealing a better choice of plants could disguise them.

A Flower Power Initiative could be started by HAZ to encourage local businesses to sponsor planters.

They could then be purchased and planted in unity giving a better quality feel and appearance.

2 Meanwhile Use of brick planters.

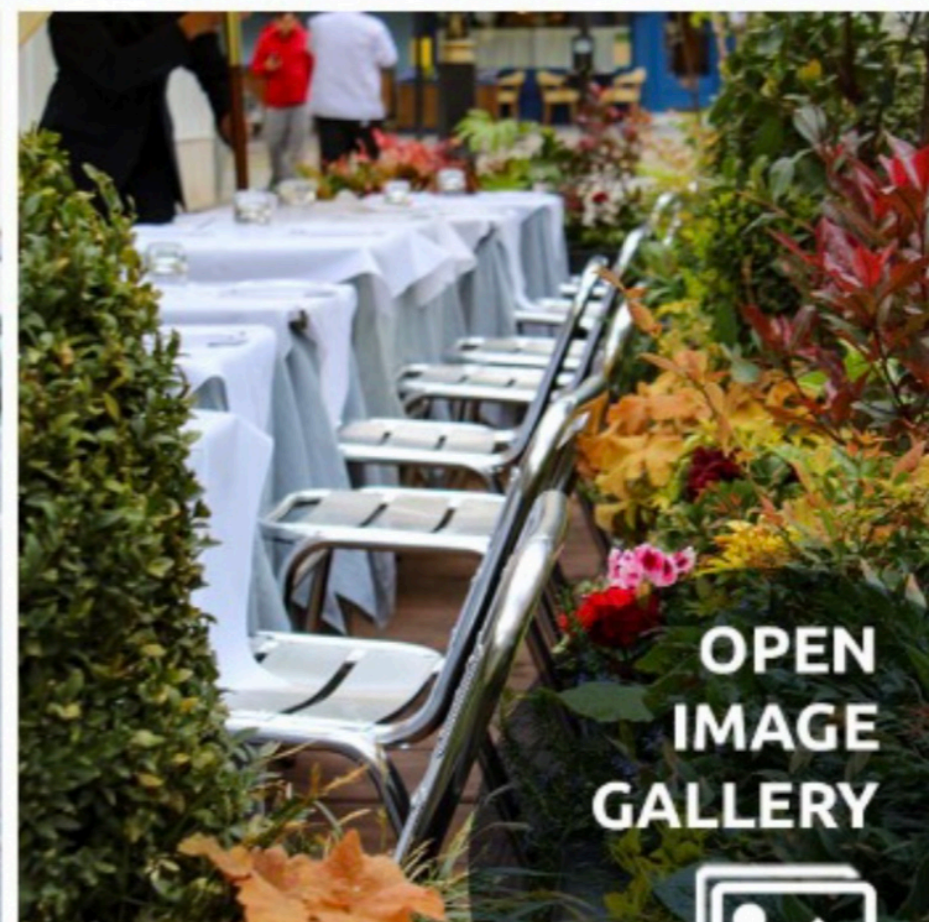
The planters should be reinstated for greening.





BOISDALE 15





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IMAGE
GALLERY



3 Entrance to High Street

There is an opportunity to identify the high street with a decorative arch or portal



4 Traffic Regulations

Drivers continue to flout the new pedestrianisation regulations. They will continue to do so until they are prevented. A simple gate would suffice.



5 Street Art / murals

Some agree that this is an effective way to add interest , all agreed they should be of the highest quality.





6 Planting / Greening

Universally acknowledged that all places look better with imaginative and abundant planting, of course the high street would be much improved with street trees and a planting scheme.

It was also discussed that some of the most successful new shopping centres, Bicester Shopping Village and Gunwharf Quays were most notable for their traditional public realm layout and materials, but also the spectacular planting

