

Cabinet – 14 July 2022

Written question from Cllr Michael Lilley to the Leader:

RE: Former Ryde Arena (Ice Rink)

Please can IW Council publicly update Ryde and IW Residents on the current and future of the largest empty building on Ryde's seafront which has lay empty now for many years and is simply an eyesore. IW Council supported the Ice Rink campaigners to get the Ice Rink reinstated though supported motions to Full Council and IW Council as the freeholder did take legal action on the leaseholder, AEW, to try and get the lease dissolved. There has been no public update for at least 18 months. The proposed Ice Rink on Smallbrook has failed to progress and the Island Ice Skating/Hockey community have been left with nothing, although Island Skating teams are still travelling to Gosport and winning national and international trophies. There was speculation that the building lease had been sold to a local distillery but now there seems to be total silence. It is important that IW Council through its public faced meetings provides a full update as the Ryde Gateway although being improved by the Ryde Interchange, still has a pressingly dilapidating eyesore of a building.

Response

The IWC has agreed to the assignment of the lease from NY Mellon (AEW) to a prospective new tenant which would facilitate the refurbishment and reuse of the premises. The agreement of terms for a new lease is a matter between those two parties but given the time that has lapsed since the IWC assignment, the council will be writing to the current leaseholder to seek an update on the current position.

It is disappointing that the proposal at Smallbrook has not been able to progress and I can confirm that officers have been and will continue to support local stakeholders in identifying an alternative provision here on the Island