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**Press Release – For Immediate Release 23/02/2022**

The future of Network Ryde is moving a step closer as the project to renovate St Thomas Church begins to see the green shoots of progress.

Brightspace Architects are holding a series of workshops with Network Ryde young people to ensure that the new home is everything that everyone hopes it would be. These workshops have already started and will continue over the next few weeks.

Bex Swan, Network Ryde manager says “There is a whole world of possibilities for Network Ryde at St Thomas Church! The team at Brightspace are harnessing the ideas that the young people have and we are very excited to see what the final designs are going to be. With an experienced architect team in place we are very happy with the way that things are going and everyone is looking forward to seeing results as quickly as possible.”

St Thomas Church was bought by Ryde Town Council in 2021 specifically for Network Ryde to allow for the growth of Ryde’s youth provision to continue.

Michael Lilley, Mayor of Ryde says “Network Ryde is one of the jewels in the crown for Ryde Town Council providing an incredibly important service for the young people in Ryde. The move to St Thomas Church will allow Bex and her fantastic team to open that service even wider and for more young people to benefit from the wonderful work that they do. This is a very exciting step!”

Network Ryde is Ryde Town Council’s award-winning youth service offering support, advice and guidance to all young people along with supplying a safe space at our youth centre in Ryde. For more information about Network Ryde and to keep up-to-date with the latest progress on the St Thomas Church project please see [www.networkryde.co.uk](http://www.networkryde.co.uk)