

CycleWight Committee, 6 November 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Peter Dyer(PD), Helen Jones (HJ), Alex Lawson (AL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickW), Matt Whitaker (MaW), George Wilks (GW), Simon Richards.

Apologies: Claire Franklin (CF),

1. CycleWight AGM 2025.

This took place on 3 October at Caffè Isola, Newport. Pete Fellows gave an overview of the IW Green Link. City Infinity design consultant Mark Philpotts, aka Ranty Highwayman, gave a presentation called “No Man is an Island”. Matt Whitaker gave an update on Keert. Tim Thorne delivered the Chairman’s address and thanked Caffè Isola, Wight Cycle Hire, Wight Mountain & Love Running.

It was felt that the sound quality varied depending on the position in the room. Online the sound was also a bit variable but improved towards the end. It was good for Mark Philpotts which was online. Caffè Isola was a good venue but expensive. Most places are going to charge approx £200. We should plan much earlier next year. TT asked for a volunteer to book, and MW agreed to take this on. Add to committee agenda for January - speaker?

2. Isle of Wight Council

PD has been in touch via Kayleigh Richter. Resurfacing is the top issue, & he has sent photos and a report of the cycle track surface between Merstone & Horringford (29/10) He has been told via transport planning pop-ups that Island Roads are not prepared to put more “Think Bike” signs on existing posts but only on new posts, which would cost more. This is an issue as an agreed amount to the sponsors was given. The mention of a path to the Folly was an error by an external contractor. The issues linked to speed hump removal, barrier removal and the allocation of active travel fund are being actively pursued.

We understand that the tenders for the remaining LCWIPs (South Wight and West Wight) are to go out in the new year which is good news.

The Island Transport plan consultation is nearing an end. See below.

3. Planning Applications

A planning application for 38 additional houses at Rookley was made. On behalf of CycleWight HJ put on record the need to improve the connection from Rookley to the cycle track and the need to include section106 funding condition.

TT noted the current application for 130 houses in Freshwater area. This is a re-submission: we previously commented that LTN 1/20 was not applied in the schemes. HJ has re-submitted our comments with some updating.

4. Island Transport Plan

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/transport-and-parking/transport/transport-policy/consultations-on-island-transport/> The closing date for comment is 24 November 2025.

The format of the questionnaire has 5 key areas which look for comments. You are asked if you are answering as an individual or an organisation. We identified the following points worthy of comment and suggestions to add.

- The introduction of Healthy Streets agenda. CycleWight suggest you could use the phrase 'Cars as guests'
- Design standards in new developments and remedial work should match those in the document LTN 1/20 (cycling and infrastructure design) This helps pedestrians too.
- More commitment to 20mph limits. It is noted that lower speeds in Wales has lessened the number of deaths and injuries,
- A strategic all - island cycle network.
- Tackle excessive traffic noise from motor vehicles and from road surfaces, particularly in the English National Landscape area (formerly AONB)
- A maximum speed of 30/40 mph on the Round the Island cycle route as well as on the major roads where it traverses them. Green Lane/Quiet Lane status for much of the route.
- A more pro active approach to the Speed Review document of 2024
<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16914/Appendix+1.pdf>

This summary of what to say was circulated to members in the last newsletter. HJ & TT noted that John Stewart Murray, a Ramblers committee member, attended our AGM and was included in the newsletter circulation, so we hope for support from them.

HJ said we should be calling for promotion of cycling to schools to be promoted as in transport plans in other areas. PD said that behavioural change was discussed in the report but we should call for the council and councillors to lead from the front. Unless this is seen to happen the public will not see any point. PD will write a paragraph which TT will include. MR said that the success of the plan needs to be measured over time. If the Isle of Wight Greenway is implemented this will lead to changes in cycling pattern between Ryde & Freshwater. CycleWight should consider how this is monitored and what is on record now. TT will contact Alec Broome again at IWC who may be able to position cycle counters in suitable spots – eg Fairlee Road. ***TT***

Send out a reminder & include points made above. ***TT***

5. Bathingbourne Lane speed limit

This item in 4 & 24 September minutes referred to the Bathingbourne Lane/Watery Lane junction where the Round the Island route crosses the A3056 which carries a lot of high speed traffic. The recent speed limit changes on this highway could have made the crossing safer but this did not happen. HJ contacted the council which has since replied with an explanation of the minor changes that they did make. HJ, PD & TT agreed that the failure to apply the new 50mph limit at the junction made no sense.

The Island Speed Review does not mention the Bathingbourne Lane route. TT is to obtain more information from MG over this, and CycleWight will consider how to address it within the IWC Transport Strategy.

AL said the Island Speed Review outlines that the Department for Transport applies constraints on measures which can be applied by local highway authorities. The document analyses many situations on the island in detail taking into consideration traffic speed measurements and accident statistics. Improvements are suggested which presumably will cost money. CycleWight

should ask members to look at the issues in their local area and to raise with local parish and town councils to take up the cases with the highway authority. HJ added that the Local Access Forum has scheduled a presentation on the Island Speed Review and on road safety as a future item of business.

TT took the point about DfT legal constraints but said the lack of common sense about speed limits on many Island roads made him query how these judgements are made. They appear to have more power when they wish to use it. TT also noted that IWALC the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils have been good to contact on these issues. (see AOB).

TT to suggest to members to raise the Island Speed Review with their councillors. ****TT****

6. Local Access Forum

Helen Jones reported on the Local Access Forum of 8 October. This is held by the Public Rights of Way section of the IWC with Cllr Paul Fuller as chairman.

PROW manager Darrel Clarke outlined the current state of the ROW network together with the English Coastal Path. There are difficulties arising from subsidence and landslides but remedial and new work is in progress and out for tender. The section from East Cowes to Wootton is still out for consultation. The Ramblers have disputed the proposals but did not push this at the meeting.

The scheduled presentation on active travel from a member of the Highways department did not happen. Instead Richard Grogan gave a presentation for Isle of Wight National Landscapes (who provided the venue for the meeting). This organisation is applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for money to support the Unesco Biosphere on the island. This could include support for quiet roads / green lanes in the Chale and Brighstone area. TT and HJ attended a meeting about this project with Cllr Critchison. A 'Green Lane' scheme exists at Alverstone and does seem to be successful to a point. TT would look to see if there is any paperwork about this scheme in CW archives.

There was mention of cyclists who do not possess bells and who disturb walkers by overtaking without warning.

7. Funding: Isle of Wight Council's Community Capacity Grant and AirBnB.

TT noted the opportunities for funding. The IWC have a scheme for community run projects. We have previously discussed promoting Kidical Mass rides and also updating the display material and the map in particular. MW thought it would be great to pay someone to help promotion & attract as many as possible to further Kidical Mass rides.

TT said Lewis Campbell has money available for road safety schemes. TT would recommend Dr Bike events in school prior to any Bikeability training to try and get more children to participate. PD proposed a Gymkhana to be organised for kids at a single venue. This would be along the lines he had seen in a town on the Tour de France, and he has seen something similar at Eastern Parade organised by Ryde Town Council. MR will inquire to find out more. ****MR****

MWh has ideas about providing bikes for kids which they would borrow then exchange as they grow, so that they have decent bikes which are the right size. A bike could be £400-500. Some good bikes go to the dump.

We are waiting for information regarding application to these funds and on guidance on what would be successful. PD is waiting to hear more from Lewis Campbell, and is willing to organise applications which need to be submitted by 21 November. The summer school term March to June would be good time to aim for projects to be implemented. *****PD*****

The other possible funding would come from AirBnB. TT said we have mapping data which needs to be updated and reconstructed as it is from 2016. We could source handout maps as well as large maps for public display. Visit IoW may support us. MWh agreed and said ferry ports would display maps for us. He suggested we should apply for at least £25k to do the necessary update and printing. *****TT*****

8. AOB

TT: Active Travel England have sent information about what to look for in design work to help people to walk & cycle. He will circulate to committee. *****TT*****

PD: LCWIP for South Wight is needed. HJ confirmed it is out for tender. (Kayleigh Richter)

GW confirmed that Island Roads have completed work on Cement Mills bridge at Dodnor. There is no run-off but there are drain holes – square: we need to watch what happens. TT noted the bolts are rather prominent.

GW has looked at the West Wight Greenway part of the Island Green Link, which is not a direct route as there are over 20 right-angle bends. Is it an overpriced white elephant? Is no cycleway better than a terrible one? It was agreed we should be concerned and that we should write to the IWC and put this in writing. *****GW*****

MR The IWALC newsletters were monthly but the last was June 2025. He will follow up the situation with local councils. *****MR*****

HJ said the Newport Sandown route 23 cycle track has already been subject to flooding. There has been some clearing between Newchurch & Alverstone but this is not good. GW said there has been talk of raising the level. TT will try to contact members local the area. *****TT*****

GW suggested a committee get together over Christmas. A consensus was to do this on Saturday 3 January, possibly at Harvey Browns. To be confirmed. HB's is open on the 3rd.

Next Meeting: early December 2025