

## **CycleWight Committee, 7 March 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom**

Present: Peter Fellows (guest), Alan Bennett(AB), Peter Dyer(PD), Claire Franklin(CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross(MR), Tim Thorne(TT), Mick Watts(MickW), George Wilks(GW), Alex Lawson(AL).

Apologies: Neil Oliver, Matt Whittaker(MattW),

### **1. Island Green Link:**

#### **“Transforming Connectivity with an Improved Active and Sustainable Travel Corridor”**

We welcomed Peter Fellows to give an update on the Island Green Link. The IWC bid to the Department of Levelling Up submitted in 2022. Although it failed then it was granted last year somewhat to the surprise of the council. To complete the work in two years instead of three a lot of work has gone into re-profiling the budget. Approval is awaited from the department to the IWC revisions: it is hoped this will come through this month and expenditure can then be authorised by the IWC.

The scheme was made up of eight elements:

- Ryde People First Zone
- Newport People First Zone
- Gunville Greenway and
- Taylor Road links
- West Wight Greenway (Newport-Yarmouth multi-user route) “jewel in the crown” .
- Yarmouth Transport Hub
- Active Travel between Ryde & Newport
- Rural public transport infrastructure

The PFZ projects have already gone out to tender and so are likely to progress first once the bid funding comes through. Peter said that he has been tasked to the project in the last couple of weeks, along with other duties. Once approval comes though Peter hopes to be give more detail than he can be at the moment.

As a cyclist himself he is keen to make things happen. He is keen for round table collaboration from stakeholders, whether Active Travel, CycleWight , IW Ramblers or others. He went on to talk about People First Zones (PFZ) in Newport and Ryde. The idea is to reduce the dominance of traffic and encourage more people walking. The Ryde to Yarmouth corridor is 32km. Is it fit for purpose? There are gaps, some of which have been pointed out by TT.

GW asked how the project relates to the Heritage Action Zone? Peter said that the baton will pass to the Island Green Link along with any funds left at the end of March. TT asked if more IWC staff will be deployed? Peter confirmed that staff will be dedicated to the People First Zone and also to West Wight Greenway.

## 2. Kidical Mass: PO30 2EL, Saturday 16 March 2024, 10 for 1030.

MickW has produced a risk assessment which is of a very high quality. TT has been having great difficulty to register for the Kidical Mass insurance as the lady who arranges this is currently unavailable. AL said that the Cycling UK insurance is not a great match for this type of event. It would be necessary to complete forms to register non-members who participate, and to complete the parental consent forms for children who participate. Needs to be resolved by start of next week.

TT said the route will now start from Seaclose PO30 2EL. We will have a dry run this Saturday 9 March. Marshals GeorgeW, JohnA, HelenJ, PeteD, NeilO, SueB, MattW, MickW, TT. The route is along the Quay and Sea St, past Hursts to Lugley St, then follows the normal route to Drill Hall Rd where it turns left into High Street, and continues back to Seaclose. See Website.

TT is still trying to arrange refreshments for the event. However there is an "official" photographer, via Wight Cycle Hire. TT will bring flags, bells, first aid kit, sweets, etc.

## 3. May Celebration

This is planned from 10am-4pm on Saturday 4 May, which is the day before the Wayfarers Randonnee. It is at Merstone Old Station where we had the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event last year. We hope to build on that, with several rides to the site and with food and music laid on as well as bike shops and displays.

## 4. Biosphere Festival

**A weekend for local businesses, organisations and communities to celebrate our Biosphere status together, with the goal of creating lasting change** takes place on 29 & 30th June on the Isle of Wight. From the organisers ...

*"... the Biosphere and the Biosphere Festival. I'm the joint comms officer for the Biosphere Steering Committee and producer for the Biosphere Festival <https://iwbiosphere.org/biospherefestival/> ... I'd love for cycling to be a big part of the latter, in some way or another. And wondered if you had any thoughts? Perhaps a bike repair session as part of the Quay Arts hub activities? Or a critical mass style ride out like the kidical mass one coming soon?"*

*Agreed to support this in some way – TT will write back.*

## 5. Transport Hub

Clare Franklin reported on the meeting held today. IWC officer Stewart Chandler said that Local Transport Plan is to be recommissioned. Public consultation will be in the autumn, and LTP4 will be announced in January 2025.

With reference to the Island Green Link bid Peter Fellows spoke. Certain proposals are currently out for tender. Subject to DfT approval the budget may be "re-profiled". Priorities are being evaluated by the IWC. Links from Newport to Ryde and to East Cowes were mentioned as well as West Wight Greenway. CF thinks that the cycle route is particularly dangerous at Wootton and should be prioritised. TT thinks that the West Wight should be prioritised.

There is currently a planning application for housing development at Place Road in Cowes where a cycling route should be provided, so this also was discussed. TT said the planning

application as submitted did not appear to take LTN1/20 into account, as it should. The LCWIP for Cowes should also be taken into account.

## **6. Cowes & Northwood Place Plan**

The Cowes & Northwood Place Plan was prepared in 2021 and set objectives for Learning & Skills, Health outcomes, Food security, Local environment, Housing standards, Connectivity and permeability, Local business, Connecting people, Young people.

With backing from IWC it is hoped to secure funding from sources such as University of Southampton. Working groups have been established to take things forwards. CycleWight was asked to attend the Connectivity and Permeability working group. AL & Neil Oliver both attend, along with Will Ainslie & Martin Gibson of People Powered CIC which prepared the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cowes, Northwood & Gurnard.

<https://www.cowestowncouncil.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COWES-AND-NORTHWOOD-PLACE-PLAN-April-2021.pdf>

<https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/documentlibrary/view/cowes-gurnard-northwood-lcwip>

## **7. AOB**

# PD asked if the Cowes LCWIP has been adopted as policy by IWC?

# Regarding Route 23 from Newport to Sandown PD noted that the drainage at Blackwater is to be sorted, hopefully starting in April. Was there ever a resolution of the requirement to maintain surface standards over the entire length? There has recently been serious flooding by Alverstone. Will this be addressed? TT said he has asked the question about the Horryingford section and awaits a reply. To stop the flooding at Alverstone would require the track level to be raised as was done years ago on a section of track near Golf Links Road. It has been suggested that a visible flooding gauge to show the water depth would be of assistance.

**Next Meeting:** April date TBA.