

## **CycleWight Committee, 9 July 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom**

Present: Kayleigh Richter (KR) Transport Strategy Officer IWC, Alan Bennett (AB), Peter Dyer(PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), Matt Whittaker (MWh), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL), Simon Richards (SR).

Apologies:

### **1. Kayleigh Richter, Transport Strategy Officer Introduction,**

Kayleigh Richter has taken up an appointment with IW Council reporting to Stewart Chandler who is Transport Strategy Manager and Highways contract manager. She sees her role as assisting to deliver the active travel projects and the LCWIPs, as well as assisting with the Local Transport Plan which is currently being prepared by the IWC with a view to being published in the new year. Her involvement is more or less everything across the board to help SC to speed things up.

Active travel budget pots are available from 2023-24 and 2024-25, adding up to around £100k: this cash must be committed within this financial year which means completing feasibility studies and issuing contracts. Replying to questions KR confirmed that the cash is revenue spending and that plans have been revisited and updated to current costs. She added that LCWIPs are part of this and there are two further areas now under consideration. Ventnor and West Wight. HJ has been in contact with the local councillor for Ventnor.

Questions of concern to CycleWight raised prior to the meeting are about

- progress on the Island Green Link;
- repairs on the cycle track from Horringford to Merstone;
- the “Think Bike” road safety signs:
- use of the Active Travel England budget for the island.

TT said the ATE fund was announced by the last government but was subject to review and confirmation by the new government. It is believed this amount for the island is about £280k (subject to DfT link). CycleWight has asked to be consulted. KR said she was not up to speed on these matters, so she promised to provide answers after the meeting (see below).

PD elaborated that the roll-out of “Think Bike” signs had come to a halt apparently following a dispute between Island Roads and the council. We believe these signs are very important to road safety and they have gone ahead in Portsmouth. However signs relating to badgers have appeared and we have asked for an explanation as to why this has been possible.

CF said we need to understand the plans for the Island Green link, and these details would be best explained by a map. KR confirmed that a feasibility is in progress and plans are in preparation. PD noted that we have been in contact with SC regarding progress on the West Wight Greenway. We do get some feedback but things seem to be taking too long.

HJ & PD elaborated on the cycle track issues which included speed humps, one of which recently caused a cyclist to crash (reported to FixMyStreet & since removed). TT commented that Island Roads carried out their survey by motor vehicle, which is not the way to determine

hazards to cycling. Since the meeting another letter has been sent to IWC highlighting the inconsistencies in the approach to this problem.

MR said in respect of LCWIPs that it is very important to link them together with safe routes between towns. CF agreed. CF also noted the planning application for a development at St Helens which could be an opportunity to connect Embankment Road/ Station Road to Brading by a much safer route. (See other item in minutes) TT also noted that the Horsebridge Hill development has prioritised access for vehicles and the opportunity to improve things for pedestrians has again been missed by the planners. This point was raised in the local press and got wide coverage.

Kayleigh listened to these concerns and responded positively, and arranged to follow up with answers. Here is her post-meeting response to the issues raised.

*“Greenway: We will ask the project lead to give you a detailed update, we apologise that you haven’t been given this already. Please let us know if you don’t hear anything within the next week.*

*Other Funding: This is combined amount of funding that we’ve received, including monies carried over I’ve been told. Budgets are to be pegged down and finalised and I will give you an update on projects and delivery at the next meeting.*

*Various developments: Captiva Homes generally; we’re going to have a discussion with planning how we can better join up the LCWIPs alongside the IPS. They are SPDs so they should be taken into consideration. I’ve also been told that there is now someone in planning that is taking the lead on forming more planning policy around transport and travel, so this is good news. Stewart and I agreed Travel Plans should be taken more seriously and we should adjust our requirements, especially as larger developments are few and far between where this is an absolute requirement. Going forward we will be commenting on any applications that come in that may cause a significant impact/or are of note. We don’t have the capacity to comment on every application, but if you see something that you would like us to take note of, please do not hesitate to let us know.*

*Island Roads: Conversations were positive, meaning that we may be able to get on with things a bit quicker, however we do have a rather sizeable backlog, so please keep this in mind, but do not hesitate to flag anything in the meantime. We’ll add it to the list!*

*BADGER SIGNS: We’re still doing our internal investigations on this, and I’ve followed up with the team on the ‘Think Bike’ signs.”*

## **2. Helen Jones: Fol Shide Blackwater cycle track**

The section of the cycle track from Shide in Newport to Blackwater was topic of Freedom of Information request which HJ submitted to Isle of Wight Council. She has now received a reply which includes details supported by a spreadsheet. Apparently the guidance relates to surface sealed by bitumen but the sections are not sealed. She thinks this is inconsistent as the report refers to the surface breaking down. Essentially the surface is so poor that it is broken down.

MWa produced a survey of the track from Merstone to Horringford which was a sealed surface but has become terrible. CF said we should circulate to local councillors and ask for their views. TT said we need to challenge the report. **\*\*\*Action TT/HJ/MWa\*\*\***

### 3. AGM

The preferred date would be Friday 3 October at Newport Minster as last year. As speaker HJ suggested Andy Cox, the police officer who has lead on fatal collisions for National Police Chiefs Council. Tim suggested the Ranty Highwayman,"one of CycleWight's favourite cycling advocates" who we decided would be best. **\*\*Actions: contact speaker, contact venue. \*\***  
<https://www.highwaysmagazine.co.uk/Comment-A-Ranty-Highwaysman-at-large/14431>

### 4. Rookley

Ready to start when time to action – but TT has many other things on his plate. Any volunteers to lead on this?

### 5. Kidical Mass review

The Kidical Mass ride on 28 June was poorly attended by children, which was disappointing. There was a good turnout of marshals who we thank. The route worked well: starting at Ryde golf course via Spencer Road to the front at Appley. We have to find ways to contact youth groups directly. If we could contact Guides & Scouts then they are island wide. AB proposed a mail drop to schools in the area of the next ride. MR suggested that we award certificates on completion of the ride. The ride in Newport has been successful. MWa said we had a publicity procedure which worked for the first ride but we have not followed since. He agreed to take this on board, while asking for others to help. He proposed to go for the 4 October which should be the day after the AGM. Agreed to hold in Newport, from the park. **\*\*action MWa/TT/ others \*\***

A future event could be a fun day along Cowes - Gurnard sea front, with priority for cycling, running and walking. (Suggested by Councillor Neil Oliver.)

### 6. Cycle Counters & cycle paths

IWC is currently not recording data on cycle use. They do have a portable counter which we have asked to be used. Application submitted and waiting for a response. A favoured site would be on the cycle track on the Newport side of Stag Lane.

With usage data we had been given before the suspension of collection, we were able to persuade Island Roads to postpone the bridge work at Stag Lane so as not to close the track in the spring. AB recalled that there is counter equipment available which could be a lot cheaper to use so he will have a look. **Action \*\*action AB \*\***

A future event could be a sports day along Cowes - Gurnard sea front, with priority for cycling

### 7. St Helens developments

There is currently an application to build five houses on land next to St Helen's railway station. If a gap was left between houses it may be possible, in the future, to link to the old railway track which is goes to Brading. This would enhance the paths use. Letters have been sent making this suggestion. TT noted that there are several plots of land and several owners in this area: it is all a long shot but worth pursuing. A submission was submitted to Planning by CW.

### 8. Local Access Forum

Note previous meeting was on 23 November 2023 then 11 June 2025: see link here.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-heritage/draft-public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum/laf-meetings/>

At the meeting on 11 June 2025 the English Coastal Path update was main item of business. Also to discuss *"what LAF is about and how proactive member involvement is needed."* User group updates. For CycleWight AL said that West Wight Greenway should be on future agenda.

HJ is willing to take over as CycleWight representative on the LAF and was endorsed as such.

## **9. AOB**

# AB runs the website for all of us. Any suggestions or improvements let him know. There is a counter facility to look at how many use the site and where from.

# MR said there are more bikes in City of London than cars now as a result of the infrastructure provided. Noting that many of these bikes are delivery e-bikes, AB added that if they have very large motors in the hub they are likely to be illegal.

# Noted by HJ & TT that we have a member called Cathy Kerr who is active on the Facebook site and helpful in other ways - thanks.

**Next Meeting:** August/September 2025