

## CycleWight Committee, 10 Aug 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Pete Dyer (PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), George Wilks (GW), A. Lawson (AL).  
Apologies: Matt Whitaker.

### **1. Councillors Bike ride**

TT has emailed councillors with an invitation for a bike ride based at the Riverside Centre on **Friday 8 September 2023 starting at 2pm**. The side room has been booked with the Riverside, and hire bikes booked from Wight Cycle Hire including all available e-bikes. The proposed route commences by the tunnel under Fairlee Road to Victoria Road and follows the multi-user route to Mews Lane (N208). From there it follows the shared pavement (footway) to Belmont Lane. Crossing Fairlee Road it takes Mill Lane (N121) to Island Harbour. The "Will Ainslie Way" (N120/Medina Greenway?) then goes back to the Riverside Centre.

GW will give a short presentation followed by a chance for questions. The more committee members who attend the better. PD commented that lots of good things are happening but not fast enough: so an opportunity to raise local area issues with local councillors would be good.

Tea and Cakes or similar to be ordered from the Riverside. **\*\*\*GW\*\*\***

### **2. AGM**

The Riverside Centre main hall is booked for Friday 29 September. TT has invited Tom Page, Groups Officer of Cycling UK to attend and speak.

It is hoped to broaden out the interests. There are two racing teams on the island; Wightlink-Wight Mountain Racing Team and NAUT Cycling Club and Race Team. HJ said the Island Games were very successful: 80 came mostly from the mainland to race. We should also invite the Sunday Social group and Wayfarers Cycle Touring Club. The main hall will provide space for cargo bikes and other things to be displayed. The usual raffle will take place.

MR said that the Tour of Britain would not be coming to the IW in 2024 – not a surprise, but 2025 could be possible. The IW council had committed £350k in 2022 when the event was cancelled.

### **3. Feedback from Going Electric. Display materials etc**

The Going Electric event at IW Technical College on Sunday July 30 was supported by Cyclewight. It was organised by Wight Community Energy to promote electric transport and green technology. Electric vehicles and bikes, were on show and for sale. A programme of talks covered issues including the IW Mission Zero strategy and electric cargo bikes as the future of delivery. Even the Plaza Ices Eco Van was all-electric.

It was felt that our efforts were worthwhile with steady visits from actual cyclists including e-bike owners. There was interest in possible routes and backing for the need to improve routes and make them safer. The CycleWight banner and information provided worked well. The weather was windy and challenged the gazebo. A CW purchase of a gazebo could be considered for next year (£180?) The Bike Zone and Test Ride area was separate from the main exhibition

and display area. Test riding was well used and the building behind our displays provided shelter from rain. However TT wondered if signs from the car park could bring more to the area.

#### **4. Updates on state of paths**

MWa wrote to Island Roads regarding the overall state of the Newport to Sandown Shared Path. The promised reply in 20 days was missed as a Council officers were involved, A second 20 day interval ends tomorrow. Watch this space. AL noted that the topic of flooding at Blackwater is on the agenda of the IWC Local Access Forum. This has been re-scheduled for 9 November.

TT noted that the Cowes-Newport cycle track is to close for nearly three weeks in order for tree work to be carried out between Arctic Road and Stag Lane. Correspondence with the IW tree officer has been received but the decision involves health and safety issues. September is a dire month to chose: the period is still popular with tourists and commuting cyclists. Both will be forced onto the main road. TT said that previous closures were not signed in such a way as to divert walkers and cyclists onto an alternative route prior to the blockage.

PD said we should ask for "Cyclists in the Road" signs to be put out on the highway, TT has asked for a temporary 30mph limit to be introduced.

\*\*\*Action TT to follow up\*\*\*

#### **5. Think Bike signs**

The initial signs have been put in place. PD has obtained a go-ahead from Red Funnel for a further budget amount from this year which should allow for 8 more signs to be located in the Cowes/East Cowes area. He has two further sponsors lined up and is assessing other locations. He pointed out that they go onto existing posts with other sigs which keeps the cost down.

CF asked if we know when the Think Bike signs were first used in Portsmouth, where there is a high accident rate involving cyclists, and if there is an effect to be detected. TT said KSI statistics were published which should provide this information. HJ said a website could be accessed: <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/>

Further sponsors could be sought including cycle hire companies and Beryl Bikes. Signs in other island areas could be at Ryde or elsewhere on the Round-the-Island route, at the Roundhouse in Cowes, or at Cowes Enterprise College. PD said he has not followed up yet with press publicity for the scheme so we could move to do this.

#### **6. Ryde Interchange update**

MR said it will be the end of September when the toilets and the western area will be finished. In the meantime there has been a fuss about safety issues. We need to wait to see what happens. Any photographs of walkers and cyclists to be sent to TT.

#### **7. AOB**

# The West Wight Greenway. Some work is starting next week – piecemeal? Should we contact Sustrans?

# The CycleWight website. AB said charges are rising and some embedded links no longer

work without a paid subscription. He will look into best solution.

# Brading Path survey. Payment from the South Western Railways fund is expected. The surveyor will then start work. CF & AL are keen to meet up with the surveyor.

# TT will contact PROW about projects at Rookley.

# The Bay Area LCWIP is open for consultation. All members are urged to participate. There is an interactive map set up by People Powered and drop in sessions are scheduled.

Place Plan Sat 9th Sept, 3-5pm, The Lions Club, New Rd, Lake, PO36 9LA

Place Plan Sun 10th Sept, 11am-1pm, Broadway Centre, Sandown, PO36 9GG

LCWIP consultation Wed 13th Sept, 6-8pm, Falcon Cross Hall, Shanklin, PO37 7LA

<https://people-powered.uk/LCWIP/>

<https://app.placechangers.co.uk/campaign/345/overview>

<https://onthewight.com/help-shape-the-future-of-walking-and-cycling-in-sandown-shanklin-and-lake/>

**Next Meeting** : September.