

CycleWight Committee, 10 January 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. Rookley Path.

Received £100 from Arreton council towards cost of survey. TT and GW to meet representative from Rookley Council later this month.

TT suggested we could crowd fund money towards cost of survey. It would be a way to raise profile of project. MWh added that people would have a vested interest. TT to speak to RoW to see what they feel and a possible need to approach landowner.

2. Brading

TT has written to RSPB to seek their views on the Yarbridge end. In addition he has written to South Western Railway to ask for a contact in their estates department to discuss connection on the east side of the station.

The former rail alignment alongside Embankment Road in Bembridge is used as a right of way. IWC solicitors are seeking to establish this as a bridleway. CF said the railway path used to go all the way along Embankment Road. There is a need to consider if the proposed Bridleway could be extended to join with the Public Footpath BB19 to see if a Bridleway for horses, cyclists and walkers could be established as identified in the East Wight LCWIP.'

3. Kiddical Mass Ride,

Committee still keen for it to happen but needs to progress quickly. The date is 16 or 17 March. TT suggested we talk to someone who has organised one. MWh does know of someone and has asked for more details. HJ has also supplied some materials from a contact. MWH will follow up his contact info.

Items needing to be addressed include a Risk Assessment. We have an example of one from the mainland which deals with stopping traffic. As the safety of children is involved this should be acceptable to people provided we give adequate warning.

The Castle to Quay route was discussed. GW and MWh will consider this and prepare a map. The number of marshals required depends on the route. We can recruit via the next briefing. Hi-viz jackets should be available from Bikeability and Keert. Refreshment on the Quay will be arranged. Publicity to follow.

Other routes were discussed including to Island Harbour and to West Cowes and can be for the future.

4. Bike Event at Merstone

Committee keen for May at Merstone to happen again. Sat 4th May is the day before the Wayfarers Randonnée.

MWh to seek refreshments. TT to check with Natural Enterprise that if anyone has a contract to be there this year. TT to contact bike shops/businesses about being represented. Ask Jess to

provide details of firm used for the portable toilets. Live music to be arranged: ask for suggestions in briefing. Tombola to cover some of our costs.

Arrange led bike rides to Merstone from Ventnor (HJ), Bembridge (CF/PD), Cowes (NB), Newport (GW). TT will write to cycle clubs & shops to involve them.

5. Levelling Up funding award - Island Green Link

The CycleWight view is that the cycle track improvements should be funded from the Island Roads maintenance budget. TT wrote to Bob Seely MP to state this, and the Bob Seely did not seek to override IWC decision to prioritise the IGL. TT also wrote to Stewart Chandler to ask if he has heard from the Department of Levelling up. There is little to go on at present.

Post-Meeting reply from SC: DfT meeting held and IWC project review to follow. Meanwhile work continuing on West Wight Greenway and on drainage at Blackwater.

CF asked if we have a planned route from Ryde to West Wight. The bit from Fishbourne to Wootton is the real problem especially when with a group. MR agreed and said Kite Hill is the number 1 issue. TT said we have not been informed about the current plans but previously plans were found to be too expensive and were dropped.

6. Cycle Forum.

This was ran in the past by CycleWight to bring together cycling clubs and businesses and Isle of Wight Council officers and councillors. We also invited Island Roads, the Hants & IW Police Authority, the Health Authority and other groups.

The Committee felt it was important to restore the Forum. MWh felt that this could be a means for cycle related businesses to work together to enable mutual support. AL has supplied the old mailing list. Please can everyone look and add/delete as appropriate. We can consider agenda & location at next meeting.

7. AOB

Transport Hub: Topic at the next meeting is bikes on buses. We were in favour but recognized all the technical problems with it. Would it be possible to take a few seats out of buses during the summer to make more room?

East Cowes: PD asked have we heard back from our email? TT to chase up. *Done. Awaiting reply.*

Cycle Safety Signs: PD said 8 new larger "Think Bike" signs have gone up at Fairlee Road & elsewhere. They look good. In briefing looking for more sponsorship to have more.

St Mary's interchange: MR asked about signs for cyclists? Survey & chase up. *TT has spoken to Tigg. Agreement with Sustrans agreed. Tigg to action.*

Next Meeting: February date TBA.