

CycleWight Committee, 7 February 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickW), Matt Whitaker (MattW), George Wilks (GW),

Apologies: Alan Bennett, Peter Dyer, Alec Lawson, Neil Oliver, Malcolm Ross.

1. Kidical Mass: Castle to Quay, Saturday 16 March 2024.

A meeting with Southampton Kidical Mass organisers took place, which provided enthusiasm and tips. The core of what we planned is good. There are a number of jobs to do soon.

MickW has produced a risk assessment which others should review. MattW will do this. MickW also looked at the documents for the Exeter Kidical. They generated a "Note to Marshals" which provided details for each junction: this seems a useful idea. TT asked if we need a marshals meeting? It was agreed to have a dry run for marshals a week beforehand. This should be on 9.3.24 to hold the Kidical Mass ride on Saturday 16 March. It was agreed that 6-8-10 marshals will be needed, more being better. The ride will be led by a cargo bike (MattW) with banners and notices arranged somehow to explain and promote the event. A cargo bike (HJ) will bring up the rear. Hi-viz for the marshals is necessary and should be identifiable with a distinctive colour and CycleWight logo if possible. It was agreed to fund this. (King Textiles from Newport are recommended.) Can music equipment be carried on the bikes? Do we need a licence? MR has a very good system used at the AGM

Publicity on Facebook is key. Images from the national website can be used although select with care. HJ agreed to take this on & TT will add her as administrator. TT is waiting to hear from the police, **(Now received and replied to)** from Carisbrooke Castle and Public Health and is in contact with IWC Sports Development (Alex Broome) to seek to recruit marshals. Bike maintenance support is to be sought eg Wight Cycle Hire. A poster is to be produced (MattW to arrange). Sweets to be arranged. To be decided: if we finish at the Quay or lead return ride to castle.

2. Brading & Bembridge

An answer has come from RSPB regarding a possible realignment of B69 at Yarbridge. This states the area is wet grassland habitat which is "important for ground nesting wading birds and wintering wildfowl." A cycle track would lead to loss of habitat and cause disturbance to birds in the vicinity.

HJ said she accepted the points and that the realignment was not possible. GW added that there was scope to improve the route B1 from the level crossing to the north of Brading Station to Quay Lane. (A short section of multi-use path was constructed from there linking to B2 which continues to Carpenters Road). TT has asked South Western Railway to be put in touch with the Estate manager.

Claire Franklin reported on the LCWIP for Bembridge/Brading/St Helens and on her meeting with Cllr Joe Robertson and Cllr Jonathan Bacon which discussed the issues. She passed on the information regarding the CycleWight Brading Station route survey. It was noted that the RSPB manages much of this area.

There are aspirations to improve the walking and cycling routes around Carpenters Road and along the former rail alignment alongside Embankment Road in Brading. At one time there was access through to the former location of St Helens Station. Planning applications are anticipated in these areas and will be an opportunity to bring about better access. CF to write to Bembridge Cllrs in approx 4 weeks to find out any progress.

CF added that CycleWight and the Isle of Wight Ramblers could work together in this local area. HJ said she had recently joined the Ramblers & attended their AGM. She supports the Ramblers moves to improve coastal access and thinks our organisations can co-operate.

3. Island Roads Survey.

Island Roads have an annual report which does not mention cycling. CycleWight members will be encouraged to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IslandRoads2024>

The campaign to save the Military Road near Compton was discussed. TT was contacted and while being neutral he agreed to add the link to the Facebook page. HJ however thinks that a walking and cycling route in its place would be a good thing. There has been debate in the media and there is to be a public meeting to discuss proposals to spend a large sum on a diversion.

4. Bike Event at Merstone - Ongoing

From January ... 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.

TT has written to Graham Biss with regards the date. Jess has supplied the contact details for portable toilets. TT suggested to seek the cost of a fully accessible toilet. TT has re-written letter and will send it out soon to parties.

5. Island Green Link

West Wight Greenway and Levelling Up funding award. TT chased this prior to this committee meeting and received this response from Stewart Chandler.

Progress is being made, Lee and I have just completed a validation process with the funding body, so hopefully we will receive final confirmation soon.

The project is made up of 8 work packages two of which are the People First Zone projects for Ryde and Newport, which are also progressing.

In addition, proposals for the West Wight Greenway are being progressed, being led by Darrel in the PROW team, with support from Graham Biss and others within Highways.

Likewise, we are in the final stages of recruiting a Strategic Programme Manager who will take this project forward and to start focusing on the other work packages so they can be stood up. Once appointed we shall of course advise you to ensure you are getting the required updates as a key stakeholder.

It was noted that CycleWight is a body that has been involved in local cycling issues for decades and has much to contribute. HJ said we should contact Cllr Phil Jordan to express our

disappointment at a lack of information and consultation. MattW said he is not confident that the long term vision is there but this should be a golden opportunity to keep things moving.

Update: Since initial minutes published a further reply has been received from Stewart which is much more positive.

The following is an out of date reference to the Green Link.

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8367/6c%20-%20Cabinet%20Report%20LUF2.pdf>

6. Cycle Forum - Ongoing

From January minutes: This was held 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. ParkThatBike

TT referred to this scheme <https://parkthatbike.info/> The IWC are not prepared to be involved financially but the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council will consider funding in the 2025-26 budget. N&CCC have already been supplied with the explanatory documents by ParkThatBike, and will make local businesses aware that they can apply.

MattW said that Newport Business Association are supportive of the scheme and it would be good for CycleWight to contact NBA directly. The current 1 hour free car parking scheme costs the IWC and N&CCC something like £80k, so that a smaller amount for cyclists should be justifiable given that the cycle racks are regularly full on Saturdays.

8. AOB

The CycleWight display boards have gone to the NCCC community centre in the High Street. These were of substantial construction, made for us by a member, so this is welcomed.

HJ noted that the PedalAid scheme has come to end.

Also ongoing: East Cowes ferry & town cycle routes. Think Bike cycle safety signs. St Mary's Interchange signs for cyclists.

Next Meeting: March date TBA.