

CycleWight Committee, 11 May 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. Brading Path

TT confirmed the success of our bid to South Western Railways Customer and Communities Improvement Fund. (CCIF). We need to complete contract documentation by the end of May 2023 and to confirm that we are in a position to deliver the project by the end of March 2024. Tim confirmed that we have a surveyor in mind and that a new CCIF manager is being recruited by South Western Railway.

MR asked for more information about the route? AL said a route could be feasible from Quay Lane through to Yarbridge which would be entirely on the down (eastern) side of the track and which would not cross the railway line as at present. As South Western Railways have to manage the safety aspect of level crossings this would be in their interest.

The existing route from Carpenter's Road to Quay Lane, Brading is a right of way suitable for walking and cycling. Work to widen short section of right of way linking to Quay Lane was carried out some years ago. A further section of footpath designated B1 continues to the station then crosses the track, goes through houses and along the station platform, and then back across the track. As B69 a footpath continues to Yarbridge. If footpaths B1 and B69 were connected directly and upgraded then walkers and cyclists would benefit. To make this possible would require that South Western Railways agree for changes in the area of their station. Also an improved exit would be required onto the highway at or near the bridge, where steps lead to the highway at a narrow point on the brow of the hill.

MR said that it could be difficult and therefore expensive to access the down side of the track for construction work. TT suggested that we should seek additional funding e.g. from Brading Council. CF said the Yarbridge Inn could be approached. AL said the Wayfarers club should be approached as this potential route is of benefit to the cycling community. TT supported this approach. It was noted that the RSPB may need to be involved for access.

Actions: ****TT CF AL and others ****

Contact South Western Railways to confirm our capacity and intention to proceed. Complete the necessary documentation. Provide our bank details. **Done**

Contact Brading Parish Council via town clerk to continue their backing and obtain advice.

Contact other local authorities building on LCWIP plans in the St Helens, Bembridge, Brading area.

Contact surveyor.

Seek funding to support the Cyclewight project.

2. Blackwater cycle track

The flooded section of track at Blackwater on the Newport - Sandown cycle track is the hot topic from the Fix my Street app, which is a good point of contact between Island Roads, the IWC and the cycling users. GW said we need to keep the Blackwater issue on the boil. CF said we should write in the spirit of being helpful to ask what timeframe is planned, and copy to Cllr Phil Jordan. PD said there are two issues: 1. The need to re-surface & fix potholes. 2. The methodology which is adopted. He suggested that we write to Steve Ashman (Island Roads) and copy to Alex Minns (IWC) & Cllr Phil Jordan. MR said that we understand that high level attention has been given to the problem at Blackwater and we should ask Stewart what outcome has resulted.

TT suggested that there are two issues. These require a letter to Steve Ashman and a separate letter to Alex Minns. It was also agreed that CF raise the matter at the Transport Hub.

****Action TT PD CF AL *****

Post-meeting note: The minutes of the Local Access Forum of 13 April say:

"Island Roads have carried out improvements to cycle track in the Blackwater area. Tarmacking has occurred in places but a very wet, muddy and constantly flooded area remains (behind the Toyota garage). CycleWight is in contact with the Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods regarding this and await a response. Can any assistance from the LAF or RoW be provided in resolving this long outstanding issue? PF said that if AL doesn't get a satisfactory response from the Assistant Director then to let him know. DC said that he would contact the Assistant Director as in the past the flooding has been resolved by Island Road by contacting the owner of the adjacent fields who have done something on their land which has resolved the problem for a number of months."

3. Response to Island Roads: Long Term Works

This follows on from a resolution to the above. ****Action TT PD AL *****

4. AGM

The Riverside Centre is provisionally booked for Friday 29 September. We hope to raise profile of CycleWight & attract a wider audience in addition to cyclists.

TT has mailed the sports commentator & Tour de France TV presenter Ned Boulting, and is awaiting a reply. *****Action TT*****

5. Think Bike signs

PD has heard from Lewis Campbell that the IWC have issued instructions to carry out the work, and the finance department has been instructed to invoice our sponsor.

6. Reflections on Cyclewight 30 Anniversary

This took place at Merstone Station on Saturday 29 April. Rides included Sandown ride leader Claire Franklin. Shanklin ride RouteFifty7. Ventnor ride Helen Jones. Cowes ride Martin Gibson. Plus support from Justin, www.tavcycles.co.uk ; Sean www.seanthecyclist.co.uk ; RouteFifty7 Bike Hire <https://routeFifty7.com> ; and <https://keert.uk> : and Storytelling from Sue Bailey. Thanks

to Gift for Nature for their support and for enabling us to use Merstone Station,
<https://gifttonature.org.uk/discover/out-in-the-country/merstone-station/> .

The event was very enjoyable and high profile and there are photos on cyclewight.org.uk. However not many new members were gained. PD volunteered to distribute membership flyers to bike shops on the island. The food stalls have logo flags which were very effective and CycleWight should acquire a flag with our logo it was agreed. MR volunteered to contact Biltmore printers to obtain from them a quote for flag which he thinks are £180 +VAT.

7. More Green Festival

Moorgreen Reservoir Park PO31 7LS in Cowes is an area with woodland walks, allotments and community facilities. More Green Festival is a community event on Sunday 28 May which will provide craft music and food and promote green issues and the Isle of Wight Biosphere status. Cyclewight have been invited to attend GW, HJ, VGL and AL will support this. ****Liaise with organiser etc AL**** <https://iwcreativenetwork.com/calling-all-traders-be-more-green-festival/>

8. Barriers & Posts

Following an accident when a cyclist was injured PD has contacted Lewis Campbell at IWC to ask for removal of posts on the Newport Cowes cycle track. LTN 1/20 supports this request. This is under consideration, and we have been asked for exact map references relating to locations of barriers and posts on the island cycle network which are on our list for removal. *****PD to go through the list and provide map references.*****

9. Elm Farm

This is a land sale near Shalfleet which affects the route of the West Wight Greenway. TT has spoken to the land agent who will inform him regarding the future intentions of the purchaser once the sale goes through.

10. Going Electric

The event held at IW Technical College last year is to be repeated this year on Sunday July 30. We have been asked to organise displays by bike shops focusing on e-bikes. CF said this is a great idea. More use of the cycle network by e-bikes should attract funding and contribute to the net zero target of the Transport Hub. Agreed to do this with *****Action: GW as lead*****

It was noted there are already lots of e-bike riders out there. TT spoke to a group who came over for the Wayfarers Randonnée who were complementary: he will forward their letter to Cllr Phil Jordan. **Action TT**

11. AOB

CF noted that the government is proposing to permit larger lorries to use the highways. This is a safety concern especially if allowed onto the Isle of Wight roads, although MR queried if the ferries would accept these lorries. PD suggested that we contact the Member of Parliament, the Chief of Police and the IWC Leader. ****Claire agreed to draft a letter and liaise with TT****

PD has spoken to IWC planning official Lewis Campbell who is seeking prizes for competitions in schools. TT said we would provide names and emails for cycling shops and businesses, who would be potential sponsors.

MR said the Ryde Interchange will be finished by then end of June with segregated cycling along the esplanade and seafront as far as Puckpool. There is also a crossing at new traffic lights connecting to St Thomas Street which carries on to Spencer Road. MR added that Ryde is a beneficiary of the government's Connecting Cities fund. Should an event to promote the opening arranged by CycleWight?

CF said that the new Island Line service only carries four bikes, 2 per carriage. This info comes from TAV Cycles. MR said the South Western Railways planned to run four carriages but it is now only 2. Should there be a booking facility? Should CycleWight push for more capacity?

The IWC Local Access Forum page has a link to the CycleWight cycling strategy for the Isle of Wight. PROW secretary Jennine has drawn our attention to the fact document was issued in 2017 so is out of date. However TT said that we are awaiting an update to the DfT national guidance, as also is the IWC Planning Department, so that an updated version for the local strategy is not possible. Can we ask that the LAF page be amended with a note to this effect]?

****AL will look into this and ask for the addition **** <https://www.iow.gov.uk/libraries-leisure-and-heritage/recreation-and-leisure/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum/>
<https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/1376-Cycle-Strategy-2017.pdf>

The Island Echo had publicised the Cyclewight 30 Anniversary and also had reported on the local council discussion over the use of the Sandown Shanklin revetment by cyclists as reported in these minutes. MR said their Digital News reporter does draw on us as a source. TT added we need to be aware of what we publish.

Next Meeting : June