

CycleWight Committee, 12 Sept 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. Councillors Bike ride

This ride took place Friday 8 September 2023 with four councillors attending in response to our invitation sent to 39. Those were Geoff Brodie, Joe Lever, Karl Love and Richard Quigley.

The ride took the multi-user route to Mews Lane (N208), then the shared pavement (footway) to Belmont Lane. Crossing Fairlee Road, then via Mill Lane (N121) to Island Harbour, then the N120/Medina Greenway back to the Riverside Centre.

CycleWight made a short presentation of our issues, and valuable discussion followed. It was noted that in emailing councillors adding the statement “please share my email with appropriate people” would give that permission for them to forward it to any appropriate person. Overall the turnout was disappointing but gave something to hold onto. The use of e-bikes was a success.

For the future it was agreed to hold a similar event with invited IWC officers. This could be next June/July following the IWC May election and prior to a possible general election.

2. AGM

Tom Page, Groups Officer of Cycling UK will speak. The Riverside Centre main hall is booked for Friday 29 September at 7pm. Please bring prizes for raffle. Please come by 6.50 to help set up on time. Table to be booked for 5.30 to eat at the Bargeman’s Rest (let TT know). MattW will do the IT support & MR provide backup. GW will ask Riverside about facilities and if interval drinks are available & let VGL know. TT suggested a power-point to run in background. This could be Matt’s cycle track video.

Wightlink-Wight Mountain Racing Team and NAUT Cycling Club, Sunday Social as well as other cycle groups have been informed and invited to speak. Autumn Tints has replied so far. A poster prepared by PD is ready to be circulated. *****Actions: Members please help to circulate bike shops etc. TT to circulate CycleWight Membership.*****

3. Island Roads

The PFI contract is not delivering for cycle track maintenance. How to bring this to public notice was discussed. GW said we should try to make the general public more aware of the situation. PD said safer off-road access for cyclists is required. More infrastructure should be seen by motorists as good. TT noted that the island is rated as one of best five places in the country for cyclists to visit but the IWC are not getting the best advantage possible from this. Letter to all Councillors to ask them to respond to the points made.

MickW said it is six months since he first raised the issue of the Blackwater Hollow section of

the Newport to Sandown cycle track. As mentioned in previous minutes he has been promised a reply to his latest letter. This is yet to come, apparently as meetings and discussions are still taking place.

MattW said of 480 issues reported to <https://fms.islandroads.com/> only 400 have been dealt with in a month. If the PFI worked as promised then these issues should have been picked up anyway.

CF said we should emphasize the positive, and noted that more children have been enabled to cycle to school safely. GW suggested an open letter to councillors asking if they consider that the PFI contract has delivered active travel.

4. LCWIPs

CF is flying the flag for CycleWight in LCWIP publicity sessions. The Bay Area LCWIP is due for the last public meeting tomorrow 13 September at Shanklin. See <https://people-powered.uk/lcwip/> where consultation is still open till the 17th. TT noted that a route from Landguard Manor via Scotchells Brook would create an off-road route from Wroxall to Lake on the old railway track/bridle path and then onto Alverstone.

It was noted that the East Cowes LCWIP has not been endorsed by the town council. This is because it mentions a bridge across the Medina, something none of the councillors support. MattW as an East Cowes resident will contact his councillor on the issue.

5. Ryde Interchange

MR said it will be the end of September when the toilets and the western area will be finished. A welcome to Ryde sign will be installed later. Some of the other signage is not correct and there is a need for additional signs. The current cycle track section is relatively short but there is a hope to develop further cycle routes towards Puckpool Park and Seaview. The T-junction to the Hover terminal is working as motorists do perceive the green lane showing that cyclists are using the highway there. TT added that the fact that pedestrians are not on the pier does make life easier. Some of the pier planks would appear to be deteriorating already. It was agreed CW should do some kind of event when the work is finished.

6. Transport Hub meeting

CF had attended today. Some IWC officers attended but Island Roads did not, nor did the Highways Client manager. Proposals to introduce more 20mph were discussed but no real update of transport hub targets was given.

7. Brading Cycleway proposal

South Western Railway provided funding to CycleWight for a survey of an upgrade to the

existing route from Yarbridge to Brading Station. Ken Fry for Mayer Brown has produced a Brading Cycleway Feasibility Survey. The draft has been circulated to the committee for consideration prior to finalising. A new bridge is proposed over the stream to link Marshcombe Shute to the route in order to avoid the steps at Yarbridge where cycle access cannot be provided. The report suggests an alternative could be locating the bridge at a point halfway to the station with a new route alignment on the east bank of the stream to that crossing point.

The IWC PROW view is that the landowner is unlikely to agree to this, while they might agree to an access route close to the road bridge. That would provide a feasible route only if South Western Railways give permission to move the railway fence a little in order to widen the path.

An additional suggestion is for “a new path to be created within railway land between the station (i.e. Platform 2) and the next level crossing on the footpath from Lower Furlong.” This was the subject of a previous report to the IWC and could save users crossing the railway twice.

After some discussion it was agreed #That we have a report to be circulated is to be welcomed, #That the route commence at Marshcombe Shute is essential, #That we should ask for sight of this previous report on the route to the east of the station, #That TT should report progress back to South Western Railways, #That in contacting South Western Railway TT should ask to be in touch with their appropriate manager, #That CycleWight should arrange a meeting with Ken Fry along with PROW if possible, #That we use local cyclists to link to Brading council etc. #That our budget is available for future options to be kept under review.

8. AOB

Red Funnel East Cowes redevelopments: PD has followed the proposals to develop three yards in East Cowes. We have asked for a meeting with Red Funnel to discuss issues which involve cycle routes. Their detailed plans are to be released later in the autumn. To be followed up by for CycleWight.

Next Meeting : AGM Friday 29 September, 7pm, Riverside Centre..