

## CycleWight Committee, 13 Apr 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

### 1. Cyclewight 30th Anniversary

Will be based at Merstone Station on Saturday 29 April from 10am-3pm.

Mike Marlow will be the contact for Natural Enterprise. Toilets booked, plus food vans: Fat Shaun. Checklist follows: table, chairs, gazebo, CycleWight literature (newsletters, strategy document, RTI maps), alcohol gel, bells + tools, PA system (MR), T-shirts (link to Rapanui), etc TT will arrive later in the day. Action to gather & transport & erect gazebo etc: to Merstone 9.15am liaise MM & PD **Action \*\*AL/VGL\*\***

Promo poster has been circulated to organisations & people and more to come, discussed. Full programme of rides on website. To inform Cycling UK (insurance) **Action \*\*AL\*\*** Further ride organisation. Send RA to ride leaders. **Action \*\*TT\*\***

All rides to record participants contact details. Under 16 to be accompanied by responsible adults (add this to programme – Done). Sandown ride leader Claire Franklin. Shanklin ride RouteFifty7. Ventnor ride Helen Jones. Cowes ride Martin Gibson (back marker thro' Newport MWa. GW wait for group at Shide.

### 2. Response to Island Roads re Blackwater cycle track

Resurfacing work carried out by Island Roads at Blackwater was disappointing as it did not repair the very rough and muddy section behind Leslies garage. We wrote to Island Roads on this and other matters. Steve Ashman's letter was circulated prior to committee meeting. It stated that a flooding issue was under investigation and under discussion with IWC, and that it is inappropriate to surface this section until the issue is resolved. Further there are different contract terms and inspection regimes for different surfaces which can lead to one section being treated when another section may be considered as in a worse condition.

AL attended the PROW Local Access Forum held earlier today, and raised the flooding issue on the Blackwater section of the cycle track. In response Darrel Clark offered to follow up the issue which it may be possible to resolve with cooperation from the adjacent landowner. LAF chairman Cllr Paul Fuller is also in touch with Island Roads, where highways flooding issue have arisen previously and have been resolved. Before a further response is made it is suggested CycleWight should leave more time for investigations to be pursued.

### 3. Response to IWC Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods: "Cycling Matters"

CycleWight wrote to IWC Planning Department regarding Cycle Track maintenance. A reply arrived just too late to be considered by last committee meeting. IWC Assistant Director of

Neighbourhoods Alex Minns stated his wish to explore opportunities to improve existing shared active travel routes and to establish new ones, and is happy to work with CycleWight and for his colleagues to do so.

Our letter specified examples. In response Alex Minns has put our point to Island Roads and has added his own response for the IWC planning department. In summary:

*CycleWight:* While the contract does not require upgrade beyond the standard as adopted, there are several places where we believe the standard has been allowed to fall into disrepair.

*Island Roads:* Particularly in the last winter of significant rainfall there have been areas where flooding has caused wash out and loss of material. These areas have been highlighted and are being considered, and other jobs are scheduled following inspection.

*IWC planning authority:* please make use of **Fix My Street** <https://fms.islandroads.com> which records things formally and involves the District Steward.

*CycleWight:* There needs to be a plan of work going forward rather than reaction to problems as they arise. *Island Roads:* Will continue to inspect routes and attend to maintenance issues. Will seek conversations regarding cycle route strategy. *IWC planning authority:* As well as Fix My Street, please make Highways CMT aware as early as possible of possible subsidence or need for significant intervention.

*CycleWight:* Costed plans should be ready so as to access funding when it becomes available. The 5 LCWIPs provide a framework. *IWC planning authority:* The forthcoming LTP4 will create an Active Travel Strategy document drawing on the LCWIPs and considering gaps not covered in these along with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Active Travel England Capability funding is utilised in this planning. Council aspirations include the West Wight Greenway, Mews Lane to Crematorium, and Island Harbour to East Cowes.

PD said the letter from Island Roads says their contract is to keep the cycleways free from potholes, ruts and ridges. We should pursue this by using the Fix My Street app more. TT asked PD to put his thoughts in writing. TT referred to a number of deteriorated sections. Why are these problems not being picked up? CF said Blackwater is nearly impassable and Alverstone frequently becomes impassable after heavy rain. She suggested that we should ask the membership to contribute to a list. Canvass members for their list of faults which need maintenance. **Action: \*\*TT\*\***

#### **4. AGM speaker**

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 said suggestions include Sarah Mitchell CEO of Cycling UK, and the sports commentator & Tour de France TV presenter Ned Boulting. After discussion it was decided to contact the latter who is popular with road cyclists & mountain bikers. **Action \*\*\*TT\*\*\***

## 5. Elm Farm

TT said that Elm Farm near Shalfleet is on the market. It includes Lot 1, which is not part of the current West Wight Greenway proposed route but is on the line of the Newport to Yarmouth railway. He proposed that we try to find out the asking price. Perhaps someone out there would be willing to help. GW said this was a fantastic idea. Agreed to follow up. **Action \*\*\*TT\*\*\***

## 6. PROW Local Access Forum

AL reported on this meeting held earlier. Will Ainslie of People Matter attended and gave a presentation on the Cowes LCWIP. Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise gave an update on the West Wight Greenway. The CycleWight 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster was passed round, and will also be circulated by Jennine with the LAF minutes. In addition the Wayfarers Isle of Wight Randonnee was promoted.

ROW manager Darrel Clarke gave updates for rights of way, which include closures due to subsidence and steps being lost as well as re-openings such as at Bramble Chine. He also passed on reports about the English Coastal Path from Natural England and from John Brownscombe who is implementing schemes on the ground. Other reports raised the possibility that the introduction of beavers on the Isle of Wight could lead to undermining of the Newport - Sandown cycletrack.

## 7. AOB

# PD referred to his project to erect Think Bike traffic notices. He has secured estimates to produce and install signs on posts which already exist by the highway. The cheapest estimate is from Island Roads, and will be funded by Red Funnel. PD has asked Lewis Campbell to go ahead.

# PD said an accident was caused by a collision with a post at the bridge on the Cowes Newport cycletrack. The rider went over the handlebars and received facial injuries. The posts are unnecessary barriers so PD will write on behalf of CycleWight to ask Lewis Campbell for their removal. **Action \*\*\*PD\*\*\***

**Next Meeting : May**