

## **CycleWight Committee, 4 September 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom**

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

### **1. CycleWight AGM 2025.**

This is planned for Friday 3 October at 7pm. We had hoped that last year's venue would be available but that is not the case. Other venues being considered include Cafe Isola, the Bargeman's Rest and the Pavilion at Victoria Recreation Ground, Carisbrooke. These options will be investigated urgently. **\*\*\*TT/GW\*\*\***

As a speaker we approached the "Ranty Highwayman" but we have not had a response as yet. **(Still the case)** As an alternative or as well the Island Green Link is a topic of great interest. The DfT funding to the IWC was to have been spent by March 2026, but that has been extended until 2029. The IWC officer with overall control of the project is Peter Fellows. CF said we should ask him to attend as keynote speaker. **(Still waiting for a response)** It looks as if only the low hanging fruit is to be tackled: we need plans and maps as requested and CycleWight should be briefed on plans and difficulties. MR said it would be in their interests to provide more information. TT said he felt that if details on the issues people would be more sympathetic. GW said to be fair a lot is up in the air still.

The Ranty Highwayman would bring a national perspective & we should keep trying. Both speakers would be highly welcome & relevant to our members

**\*\*Actions: contact both speakers, contact venues. \*\***

<https://www.highwaysmagazine.co.uk/Comment-A-Ranty-Highwaysman-at-large/14431>

*Post-Meeting: Cafe Isola has now been chosen as a venue and booked for 3 October.*

### **2. Kidical Mass ride - Helen Jones**

Kidical Mass asked its support for a financial contribution to renew its insurance which has covered our rides. CycleWight agreed to contribute £50. HJ reported that their insurers have declined to renew the cover for reasons which are not clear. It was noted we are affiliated to Cycling UK which does provide third party cover to events organised by CycleWight. However this requires parental responsibility forms to be completed along with information on participants which is quite onerous.

The next ride was planned for the 4 October which would be the day after the AGM. In order to boost attendance. TT contacted youth organisations with an appeal to participate. There has been some response to this. In view of uncertainty over insurance and the need to attract more young people it was agreed to defer the Kidical Mass till the spring.

### **3. IW Local Transport Plan**

The link is available to Isle of Wight Local Transport Plan as released for consultation. HJ has read this and circulated her initial thoughts. There are public drop-in events across the island as well as a couple of online sessions. **The closing date for comment is 24 November 2025.**

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/transport-and-parking/transport/transport-policy/consultations-on-island-transport/>

There is also the yearly Island Roads customer survey which is **open until 30 September**.  
<https://islandroads.com/home/customer-survey-2025/>

GW said two issues missing from the Island Transport Plan are low traffic neighbourhoods and rural speed limits. TT will collate issues we raise and circulate members with pointers. He will suggest that they attend their local event and let us know what comments they make in the questionnaire. Circulate members and all members to respond to IWC. **\*\*\*TT/ All members\*\*\***

TT noted the CycleWight Cycling Strategy document was produced in 2017 running till 2019 when it was intended that we update it. This fed into the previous IWC Local Transport Plan. TT will circulate the strategy to consider if we update it once we see what happens with the LTP.  
**\*\*\*All\*\*\***

When discussing speed limits it was noted that the Bathingbourne Lane to Watery Lane on round the Island route crosses the A3056 which carries a lot of high speed traffic. The recently announced speed restriction at Branstone nearby could have been extended to make the junction safer for cyclists. PD said not doing this is ridiculous. HJ has written to ask why not. TT added that each life lost is a cost to the nation of £2M and each serious injury a cost of £200k. HJ flagged up that the Welsh speed restriction has led to substantially cheaper car insurance. GW wondered if the 20mph limit campaign still exists on the island. The issue is being flagged to members. **\*\*\*TT\*\*\***

AL said the IW Ramblers and the IW Bus & Rail Users Group have aspirations which are common with CycleWight so co-ordination with these groups is desirable. For example the Fairlee Road bottle-neck delays buses and is dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists who share a pavement alongside the traffic. There is an old rail alignment which runs parallel and which the IWBRUG have proposed as a bus and cycle route. Also the route from East Cowes to Newport should be developed as a sustainable transport link for commuters, so the English Coastal Path matters to CycleWight and the Ramblers. HJ is an active Ramblers member and is a contact. AL to follow up with IWBRUG. **(Contact with the Ramblers made) \*\*\*AL\*\*\***

#### **4. Smallbrook Junction.**

At the Smallbrook roundabout on 9 August 2025 a car was in collision with a bicycle. The cyclist sustained injuries and was taken to hospital by air ambulance. PD noted that the IWC were warned that the roundabout was dangerous. We wrote to Cllr Phil Jordan on 22 June 2022. HJ queried what legal regulations apply to highways. TT noted the roundabout was given a safety upgrade but design should take all users into consideration. MR said the views on approach are poor. Perhaps the round the island cycle route should have been via Ryde town centre but it was set nearly 40 years ago. The groups of mainland cyclists would not be good through the town. (See Island Roads Final Work on Smallbrook Safety Scheme 18/5/2022).

How should CycleWight call attention to the issue? A press release from County Hall is not enough. Why do reporters not get interviews with the people who have the responsibility. PD will prepare a press release to highlight that IWC was warned. **\*\*\*PD\*\*\***

## 5. Stag Lane bridge closure

Island Roads plan “to replace the entire deck of Cement Mills Viaduct, a vital section of the Cowes to Newport Cycletrack”. This is now scheduled from 15 September to 31 October.  
<https://islandroads.com/structures-programme/cement-mills-viaduct-cowes-newport-cycletrack/>

The official diversion is via Stag Lane and Horsebridge Hill. TT wants to discuss with Island Roads how the diversion will be signed, as this was handled very badly for the Merstone closure. On Stag Lane there is wide footpath/cycle lane but bushes need to be cut back. **(Cut back done)** TT will be in contact with the project manager for Island Roads to pursue these issues. It was noted that there is a designated footpath via the mill pond wall and Dodnor Lane which CW cannot be seen to encourage cyclists to use. **\*\*\*TT\*\*\***

Linked to this TT has been contacted by Visit IoW who seem to have realised that many cyclist visit the island. He will meet them next week 10/9/25 with other committee who can come.

## 6. Display Materials

CycleWight had a display at Go Electric 2025 when MR provided the set-up. He felt that we need to work on our display materials to live up to our prominent name on the Island. We already have the CycleWight banner, CycleWight bells and the large map showing Isle of Wight cycle routes. We do need more materials to hand out, including a supply of A5 leaflets. HJ said maps are great because people really like them. AL said a tripod display stand to make the map easily visible has been good in the past. GW added that the map has velcro on the back for this purpose so all that is needed is a board. TT noted that that e-bikes lead clients to longer rides and the map may need to be modified to take account of this. He will discuss this with Wight Cycle Hire. CycleWight has the copyright to the map. **(Discussed with Visit IOW too)**

Should we hand out leaflets like the old Round the Island maps, or flyers with membership links and the website maps links? TT will circulate the previous A5 flyer to the committee for views. Keep item on agenda. **\*\*\*All\*\*\***

## 7. Newport 2026 Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council show

This summer fair is at Victoria Recreation ground on 30 May 2026 and is quite a big event. Agreed to accept the invitation to CycleWight. **\*\*TT\*\***

## 8. IWC Highways issues

- Why badger signs erected but “Think Bikes” signs not erected ?
- £300k Active Travel funding: How to be spent ?
- Birchmore Lane four humps to be removed as a safety issue
- CycleWight list of barriers to be removed
- What money is allocated to improve Island Harbour to East Cowes, part of Medina Greenway.
- Route 23 surface Horringford – Merstone (Subject to a further report HJ & GW)

PD said we need to chase IWC officers for these currently unanswered queries. We will address the queries to Stewart Chandler and add circulation to others. **\*\*\*PD/TT\*\*\* Done**

## **9. AOB**

# PD: Route 23. Invite and lead councillors and planners to ride it which they do not seem to do.

# GW: Suggested South Today would cover our issues such as Route 23 surfacing.

# GW: re Go Electric. Stephen Cockett has asked for feedback on the Wight Community Energy event. It was less well attended than previous years.

# GW: Suggested a social ride to the Harvey Brown's Farm Shop at Hale Common. There is a new link from the route 23 cycle track to try out.

*Post-Meeting: Saturday 20 September is suggested. See website.*

**Next Meeting:** AGM 3 Oct 2025