

# **CycleWight Committee, 17 April 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom**

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

Apologies: Alan Bennett (AB), Mick Watts (MickW),

## **1. Merstone CycleFest**

This is on Saturday 4 May, at Merstone Old Station PO30 3DD SZ527845, with permission from Natural Enterprise. Request MM to prepare plot layout. Open to public from 10am-4pm. Toilets will arrive the day before & be removed the next day. Coffee & refreshments arranged. Recycle Wight who do second-hand clothing cycling artefacts are coming. Also Jeff Smith, Nick Blake Bikeworks. Child's cycles can be hired from John Allen @ Wight Cycle Hire, which could be set off from Newport. CycleWight flag plus literature are arranged. Do we have a gazebo? Music will be arranged by MattW. Posters made by PD are in progress with printer with some issues to be resolved. Other promotion via Facebook, CycleWight website, CyclingUK website including start locations & time. <https://www.cyclinguk.org/event/merstone-cyclefest>

Rides to Merstone are as follows: HJ from Ventnor Park bandstand, NO from Arctic Road, Cowes, CF from Perowne Way, Sandown, GW from Riversdie Centre, Newport, MR from Ryde on Red Squirrel Trail. Leaders should obtain contact details of participants and parental permission for under-age. If possible arrange a publicity picture of the ride setting off. CyclingUK will be provided with a list of our committee and ride leaders for insurance purposes. Hi-viz marshals jackets to be passed to leaders.

Photos from Merstone from last year: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Y2FA84WpVCAQtdzq7>

## **2. Biosphere - Kidical Mass: Saturday 29 June.**

Agreed to stage a second Kidical Mass ride in Ryde at 11am on Saturday 29 June as part of the Biosphere weekend. TT approached the Isle of Wight Biosphere organisers who are in agreement. The logo will be included in our promotion. The route is to be finalised but will go along the seafront & finish by the Appley car park area. An 11am start was agreed. Cafes are available in the area. We are covered by the Kidical Mass insurance as last time.

## **3. Transport Hub and E-bike consultation**

CF reported that the Transport Hub meeting was poorly attended and was cut short apart from the following item. The government is currently consulting views on e-bike regulations. They want to encourage cycling, and want views from groups in the industry on changes which could include raising the power limit from 250W to 500W. CF said that in her view those with mobility problems could be enabled and encouraged to cycle with e-bikes. She agreed to prepare a general response for CycleWight. The deadline is 25 April and the link is at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/smarter-regulation-proposed-changes-to-legislation-for-electrically-assisted-pedal-cycles>

In discussion PD thought e-bikes will encourage less strong riders to cycle on the hills of the IW towns and villages. AL thought that the pedelec restriction on e-bikes made it starting on hills and at traffic lights more difficult. HJ said that the police do not seem to stop those doing

excessive speeds on illegal machines, although those dangerous individuals will be hard to stop. MattW said some in the industry are opposed as the risks of collision are increased. He does acknowledge the risks but says the change is an enabler which should go with a more professional approach to provision of e-bikes. It is essential to move in this direction if we are serious about replacing motor vehicle with bicycles. CF added that CyclingUK do not seem to have much to say on the issue.

#### 4. Brading Station

TT has submitted our final report to South Western Railway, and has had a further response expressing their concern about cycling on the platform and that a boardwalk would not be in keeping. CF has suggested that CCTV would help to manage cycling on the platform. AL said that as the boardwalk will not happen the connection to Yarbridge will remain a footpath and the platform issue does not arise.

#### 5. Island Green Link

From Peter Fellows *"We've just finished a meeting on this subject. Just identifying the additional resource we will need to bring on board to enable delivery – highway engineers, project managers, legal support etc – and how we can do that in a speedy fashion. The chief frustration is however that we've still not received the confirmation from DLUHC for the grant award. Apparently it is sitting on a Ministers desk for approval. However, we're doing what we can in the background to prepare the decks."*

CF proposed that we make contact with our MP and demand that he lobbies the minister to have things speeded up. The levelling up fund was announced six months ago and it is wrong that the go ahead has still not been received. Agreed all round. CF will prepare letter for TT to send.

#### 6. Riverfest May 11

No volunteers forthcoming.

#### 7. AOB

# Randonnee route through Cowes: The long term suggestion is that the route should include the High Street in the 2025 route. The Castle Hill and Victoria Road route would also be an option. Cowes Town Councillor Neil Oliver has put forward the idea, which could have a huge benefit to the town as lots of people come from the mainland and make a weekend of it on the island. It was noted that numbers have been limited this year to 3000 participants.

# Cowes to Gurnard sports plan: There is a proposal to have temporary traffic arrangements for skateboarding, cycling, running, rollerblading between Gurnard and Cowes. This could perhaps be done monthly in the summer. The idea will be put to Gurnard Parish Council by GW. It is fully supported by the committee.

# High Sheriff Graham Biss: MR noted this honour for Graham Biss of Natural Enterprise. He has supported CycleWight events in the past. We agreed CycleWight should congratulate Graham on the honour. **TT has invited him to the CycleFest**

# AGM plus campaigning: Some ideas for a speaker were discussed. HJ again mentioned Emily Chappell. Alternatively a London Cycling Campaign contact who could talk about women in cycling or about more kids in cycling. She said that we need to encourage parents and children

to attend our events. PD agreed as the Kidical Mass in Newport drew positive feedback from parents. There was a lot of scope in other towns across the island to involve parents with children who cycle.

It was noted that Island Roads are making grants available to address social exclusion, deadline on 6 May. <https://islandroads.com/still-time-to-apply-for-our-iw-foundation-grant-money/> GW said we could broaden out the AGM by considering town traffic planning. There is a Civic Square organisation which could advise. AL said we could ask for an update on the Island Green Link. It was agreed that a firm decision is needed as part the May meeting.

# Think Bike signs: PD is in dialogue with IWC following his request to locate three signs on the Tesco's roundabout. Their reply said that data led to a view that sponsorship money was better spent on advertising than on the signs. However the permanent signs initiative as put forward by PD is now accepted as the way forward, and these will be located at either the Tesco roundabout or the Westridge crossroad.

In further discussion HJ noted the report of a serious injury to a cyclist on the Lidl's roundabout in Newport. AL noted that the Somerton roundabout in Cowes is a crossing point used by local schoolchildren and is a safety concern. PD said that the rules on European style roundabouts gave priority to pedestrians crossing at roundabouts which would fix the problem. What up to date data is available on serious injuries to vulnerable road users? The following links to crash information came from PD & TT:

# THINK Map – THINK! <https://www.think.gov.uk/thinkmap/>

# CrashMap. <https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search>

**Next Meeting:** May date TBA.