

CycleWight-Committee, 19 February 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Peter Dyer(PD), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL).

Apologies: Claire Franklin (CF), Neil Oliver (NO), Mick Watts (MickW), Matt Whittaker (MW),

1. Island Roads/IWC impasse

The CycleWight committee has drawn attention on numerous occasions of the rough condition of the Sandown - Newport cycle track but there has been little or no improvement. We have struggled to get answers from the council or its officers where it has reached senior management levels apparently. At some point we will approach local media to raise the profile of the issue. TT has flagged the issue in our newsletter and has asked for members with journalistic background to help with our proposed campaign. It was suggested that we should survey the entire route to prepare our case. However we noted that Mick Watts has previously done a comprehensive report which was used in our dealings with IWC and Island Roads. The Blackwater section has since been mended but no-one will take responsibility for the route overall.

TT & PD will contact Cllr Phil Jordan so that he is aware of our frustration. In the past he has highlighted that the budget provided to the IW is never enough. TT said pictures will be collated to show the extent of the problem, including repairs done this week. PD will approach local media to sound out their interest and will prepare a piece to be published. This will highlight the need to repair & resurface the track between Merstone & Herringford and will also deal with Think Bike signs which are delayed. A right of reply will be allowed. *****PD/TT*****

It was noted that Visit Isle of Wight actively promote activities on the Isle of Wight including cycling & walking, which we will quote in support.

2. Cycle Racks

HJ has noticed there are no cycle racks provided in the car park at Yaverland. However there had been a project by IWC and augmented by CycleWight to provide a comprehensive list of these on the Island. Some are well used and looked after. Others are poorly located and neglected. An early CycleWight project had racks installed. It would be good to re-survey to provide up to date information. TT has the list and will cover in the next CycleWight newsletter.

HJ said that Open Street Maps show a blue spot where cycle racks are available. AB offered to link the map on CycleWight website. *****HJ/AB/TT*****

3. CycleFest

Our Merstone CYCLEFEST is on the Saturday 3 May 2025. Graham Biss of Gift to Nature has agreed for us to use the Merstone site again. Services to consider are food (tbd), coffee, stalls, Portaloos (consider asking for a donation). The kids bump track would be good but there is not enough room to set it up. We need to send invitations to cycle dealers and the recycle people, and to councillors, biosphere, etc. Ideas for other invitees welcome.

Rides on the day from Sandown and from Cowes were successful last year & will be laid on again, We will invite Joe Robertson MP and Richard Quigley MP to participate in these.

****Send invites as above*****

4. Hospital Active Travel

The St Mary's Hospital Estates department held an online meeting to which CycleWight was invited. PD, GW & TT attended. Current cycling parking has been surveyed and they are keen to revise and improve the provision. A follow-up meeting on Friday 21st Feb is planned. This would consider locations for parking. (This has now taken place. It was very successful)

The Trust has carried out a travel survey to establish how staff and patients get to St Mary's. This found that many staff who live close by nevertheless drive to work. The department wishes to consider measures such as training and a cycle to work scheme. This was a good meeting.

5. Cycle Counters

The IWC previously maintained counters at important points on the cycle network. This is no longer the case. The resulting information was helpful as was shown recently when we were able to argue that closing the Stag Lane/ Dodnor Creek bridge for repair in May was an unsuitable time. CW asked why this was so as this data can be used for bids etc. The cost of the annual licence was nearly £4,000 and to replace the batteries biannually another £2,000. A cheaper option would be just to have access to raw data but the cost would still be close to £7,000. A portable counter is available, which CW has used in the past. If we did feel the need to use it there will be a process to go through. We must assume there will be cost to CW or IWC. Island Roads do have a similar machine.

Data is available going back to before lockdown. The location of the sensors were not always well chosen eg hospital traffic using Dodnor Lane was missed. We could deploy the portable counter in locations round the island to give some current information. TT will enquire as to the cost involved. ****TT to follow up****

6. Island Green Link

While the January minutes deal with this issue there is nothing to add at present.

MR noted that an Active Travel budget around £370k was allocated to the IoW as part of funding for councils in the Southeast. The funding comes from Active Travel England (ATE), and is intended to fund new walkways and cycle lanes. TT could not find the criteria for the spending of the grant

Our views can be offered to IWC on the best way to spend this money. Ask for more information. ****TT****

7. AOB

AB maintains the CycleWight website. This was discussed with the committee. AB will look into the presentation of cycle parking facilities on the website.

HJ said the proposed system to have a Mayor for an area to include the Isle of Wight is a matter in political dispute. Should CycleWight participate in this debate? She will follow up. MR pointed out that 80% of IWC budget is taken up by social services leaving 20% for all the rest, something which would not change.

TT said a consultation on Transport Southeast is running and does cover the ferry service to the Island. Individuals may contribute and it runs until 7 March 2025.

<https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/our-vision/transport-strategy/>

PD said the three of four LCWIPs have been adopted. As at 13.2.25 a decision was taken to further amend the Cowes, Northwood & Gurnard Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) as a supplementary planning document. PD added that all responses can be viewed on the link: <https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=5531>

AL said that VGL had advocated a cycling route which would make it possible to cycle across Cowes while avoiding the High Street. This had been proposed by CycleWight to the IWC which had promised to consider. Bring to attention of NO and to our councillor.

TT said that the Rookley Parish Council is very concerned at the speed of traffic through their village. They note that people using the A37 bridleway will be at risk when they come to the A3202 highway and ask for our backing to consider the issue. AL noted that someone in Whitwell has placed dummies wearing high-viz and displaying please slow down notices by the roadside at a narrow section without footway.

Post Meeting note: CF asked in 22.1.25 meeting for breakdown of CycleWight membership by gender. This is provided by MW as follows.

Current Membership	Either	67	29%	(Unable to identify from the first name)
	Female	53	23%	
	Male	114	49%	
	Grand Total	234		

Next Meeting: March 2025