

CycleWight Committee, 19 June 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

Apologies: Claire Franklin (CF), Matt Whittaker (MattW), George Wilks (GW),

1. Biosphere - Kidical Mass: Saturday 29 June.

This will take place in Ryde on Saturday 29 June in support of Isle of Wight Biosphere events. It will start at 1030 for 11am in Dover Park School and follow a route down Union Street and along the new cycleway along the sea front. Posters and press releases have been spread around, and lots of publicity is out there on Facebook. Island Echo etc.

HJ has registered the event with Kidical Mass which means that insurance cover is provided from them. MR has contacted the police. Mick has prepared a preliminary risk assessment for the route. Malcolm suggested the route from Union Street, rather than via the roundabout and traffic lights should go left into St Thomas Street then pick up the pier entry road and cross the raised table to the (nearly complete) cycle route along the esplanade. A helmet-cam video of this bit of the route would be good – Malcolm will have a go at this.

TT has asked Ross Edmunds to be lead marshal. About 10 marshals will be available including RE/MR/HJ/GW/MattW/TT/NO/PD. We can gather in Dover Park School area (which needs to be locked). Parking should be available in Dover Street for those arriving with children & cycles. TT will ask TAV Cycles to come to check over bikes before the start.

The basic route is about 1.5 miles but will be extended to Appley Tower and finish at Puckpool cafe. A map will be available and should show the route returning to Dover Street. Also to be organised CycleWight flag (MR), PA system (MattW).

2. Island Roads / cycletrack: Shanklin Wroxall / Blackwater

The Shanklin Wroxall cycle track has been subject to complaints about persistent surface water. PD has raised the issue with IWC Highways inspectors who have visited to review. There are three places, the worst being at a place they call Three Arch Bridge where standing water extends for 100m. This flooding is attributed to ditches on both sides which have been filled in. As this is more than 1m from the track it is outside Island Roads contract to fix. Highways could follow PFI procedure to obtain a quote from IR, but PD thinks it could be quicker & cheaper to use other contractors. A second area is attributed to a blocked drain which is now scheduled to be cleared. ****TT/PD to write**** A third area is yet to be inspected.

The Newport Sandown track is currently receiving major works at Blackwater. 120m is to be raised to make it less prone to flooding, and will be resurfaced along with a further 540m of track. The work is due to finish by 12 July. This time has been chosen to do the work as the area needs to be dry, and to avoid events like the Randonnee and Walk the Wight while being before the main holiday season. TT has seen a picture of the work in progress and it does look good.

A diversion via Birchmore Lane is available and was supposed to be signed, but as of 10 days after commencement this has not happened. Wight Cycle Hire has had two parties of visitors

who have got lost! TT will follow this up with IWC Highways. *****TT*** It has been rectified but only after another intervention.**

It is to be welcomed that the Blackwater flooding is at last being fixed, but are no plans to repair other parts of the cycletrack to Sandown which are also in bad condition as noted by the Wayfarers. TT has observed 14 bits of missing surface on the Merstone-Horrington section. Tim has got MM to take photos. *****TT*****

3. Cowes & Northwood Place Plan

For the Cowes & Northwood Town Councils working groups are considering projects which can be of benefit to the area and organised on various themes. Meetings to proceed are organised by Ross Edmunds, and that on Transport & Connectivity on 17 June was attended by Councillor Neil Oliver & AL who are members of the working group on along with Martin Gibson (People Powered CIC), & Leah Coburn (a civil engineer from WSP). The group's proposal has been taken forward, to remove the barrier on the cycletrack between Park Road and Seaview Road, which is an unnecessary obstacle to disabled person's transport as well as users of cargo bikes.

A further group is looking to introduce a people first approach to Cowes High Street. This might improve safety and convenience for pedestrians between the Red Funnel Terminal in Fountain Yard, and the Southern Vectis bus stance now at M&S in Carvel Lane.

TT noted the Cycling UK report about how restricting parking improves the economy of local shops. AL will forward this to Cowes Town Council *****AL***** <https://www.cyclinguk.org/press-release/more-movement-makes-us-richer-says-new-create-streets-report>

4. CycleWight AGM : Friday 11 October.

Laura Laker's book, Potholes and Pavements: A Bumpy Ride on Britain's National Cycle Network, is out now, published by Bloomsbury. Reviewed in Jun/July Cycle.

HJ has contacted Laura who is a cycling journalist and is involved with Sustrans. She is willing to speak at our AGM. She hopes to sell copies of her book during her visit. HJ & AL are contacting Medina Bookshop. She would be likely to stay overnight and hopes to do a bit of cycling on the next day.

As last year we hope to hold the AGM at the Riverside Centre. GW will be best placed to contact them. TT said that Recycle Bikes would wish to have a stall, and PD said VIBE, a spin bike centre in Rookley. would wish to attend. *****Actions HJ/TT/GW/AL *** GW has contacted the Riverside but it wishes to charge £180. No reduction for voluntary groups**

5. List of CycleWight ACHIEVEMENTS

- National Cycle Network Routes 22/23: Cowes to Sandown, Newport to Wootton, Ryde to Seaview.
- Signing of the Round The Island Route
- Assisting the Council in the bid for grants, which has led to £5million spending on sustainable transport on the Island.
- Installation of cycle racks around the Island
- Bikes on Island trains.
- Creating a Round the Island map for visitors and Islanders
- L truncates from Newport. High St into St James Sq
- Getting drainage holes drilled in to the bridge at Stag Lane

- Drainage improved at Dodnor Lane
- LCWIP contributions
- Blackwater flooding fixed
- etc
- etc
- etc

More could be added, going back to 1993? Minutes on AB's archive can be searched,

6. Wayfarers' Randonnée

From the wash-up meeting: # The Randonnette route was subject to complaints about the rough and potholed surface of the Alverstone to Newport cycletrack. The Blackwater section was especially criticised (see above). TT said the bit from Blackwater to Shide is also quite bad and unappealing – could a diversion via Marvel Lane be nicer? They would like to advertise the Randonnette but given the poor condition this is not a good idea.

Complaints were received that the Randonnette route is badly signed. Could CycleWight promote signing the Randonnette half route ? Could CycleWight assist the Wayfarers to stage this section of the main event?

7. Island Green Link / West Wight Greenway

CycleWight has met with Peter Fellows who is the IWC lead on the project. It will be split into sections which will be allocated to individuals to lead on each section. It is hoped that that there will a start by the end of the month or early in July for some sections. March 2026 is the official closing date.

The West Wight part is challenging in terms of land ownership, particularly as the Great Park area is on the market. On the other hand a lot of preparation has been done, as in the Taylor Road and Gunville Greenway area. A planning application will be submitted soon for the Hill Place Lane to Thorley Road,

The East Wight part is about improving and interconnecting parts where less work has been done, such as Kite Hill. The council do own some land behind Fairlee Road which helps. There is not the possibility to be compliant with LTN 1/20, so other funding will not be available from some sources. TT we have urged IWC to use those with expertise in large projects to be consulted.

GW is keen to install cycle monitors to measure cycle traffic before the project commences.

Suggested points are

1. Adjacent to Quarr Abbey
2. Shared pavement opposite Island Harbour entrance .
3. South end of East Cowes road, to catch the East Cowes cycle traffic.
4. Between the railway tunnel and Riverside Centre.

AL added that the Ramblers have a shared interest in the West Wight Greenway.

8. Island Election Hustings:

Hustings for our would be MP for West Wight, organised by Island Business Association & notified by Councillor Julie Jones-Evans, at Apollo Theatre on 27 June 1800-2030.

The question is “Newport, how much do you care about it (not really but it is about the County town). <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/925411248957?aff=oddtcreator>

All Committee

9. Transport Advisory Committee Conference

CycleWight received from Isle Access this invitation. "On September 11th, a delegation from the government organisation Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) is visiting the Island for the day, to meet with various transport providers. They wish to understand the good points about transport for the disabled, and what things need improving.

“We would very much like you to attend as the representative of cyclists on the Island. Other invited guests include all ferry companies, Sir Christopher Garnett (Transport Infrastructure Board), Southern Vectis, Visit IOW. “

We have been invited to the discussion session in the afternoon. Anyone like to attend?

All Committee

10. AOB

CycleWight Website: AB is able to provide a login for someone to post to the website while he is not available to do so. TT suggested that MattW would be the best person to do this.

CycleWight banner: MR has this large display banner and proposes to adapt it to current purposes. This was agreed.

Ongoing ...

Isle of Wight **Parliamentary Elections:** PD suggested writing to the eleven candidates to get their views regarding local cycling provision. Agreed to do this *****Action TT/PD*****

CycleWight has addressed questions to election candidates regarding support for cycling improvements. We need to chase a few to answer.

Go Electric: This event will again take place at the Tech College. The date is Sunday 28 July. GW asked if we wish to participate, and it was agreed to do so. *****Save the Date 28.7.24 All*****

Rookley A37 bridleway upgrade: HJ inquired about progress... It was agreed to proceed with the next stage which is a commitment of around £3k. A further slice should be met by developer – but TT waiting on PROW for more information. *****Action TT*****

Next Meeting: July (tba)