

CycleWight Committee, 20 May 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickWa), George Wilks (GW), .

Apologies: Peter Dyer(PD) Alex Lawson (AL)

1. Kidical Mass

It is to take place in Ryde Saturday 28th June starting at the Golf Course end of Spencer Road. 10.30 for 11.00. It was felt that we would like larger numbers to attend. Ideas suggested were to ask MWh to contact IW Radio and use any link he has with other media outlets. Organisations to contact to aid promotion of the event: Ryde Town Council, Aspire, Ryde Swimming Pool, schools and the We Can be Active Network. We could encourage people to hire a bike from TAV. This event is registered with the Biosphere Festival.

2. CycleFest

CYCLEFEST 25 took place on Saturday 3 May 2025 at 10am to 3pm at Merstone Old Station. The feeling of the meeting was that it went well. Idea for next year include live music. Maybe change time to 11 - 4 as many groups turned up to ride as we were closing things down?

3. Randonnee

PD suggested we make more of the Randonnée. We could ask for information about CycleFest 2026 to be sent out to all those who have signed up. He was at the Freshwater check point and feels this would be a good place for CycleWight to promote its work as the majority of riders are close to the finish and are more willing to take time to talk etc. PD to follow this up with the Randonnée organisers.

4. Isle of Wight Council/ Island Roads contract.

The issuing of a press release about the our perception of the lack of progress on our projects received wide coverage. It also led to a PR by Isle of Wight Council to various media outlets inviting us to meet. TT wrote to the leader of the Council asking for the meeting. His answer is below. Since this though he has been re-elected as leader of the Council and so should TT will write again or contact the officer?

I guess the constancy will always be with the staff/officers and the current roles and responsibilities they undertake. For us, currently, that will be through Stewart.

In terms of Councillors, I have to admit to being utterly confused myself about where, in the new system of Committees (rather than Cabinet) that interaction can take place.

With no individual authority vested in any one councillor, all future decisions will take place through a committee process. Even the Chair of the Committee will have no special or additional powers over and above that of a Committee member.

So, my guess, is that the route into a Committee will be through a staff/officer process, rather than direct with any councillor. I am not sure how this is going to work out. (for info, I was opposed to the change of governance system from a cabinet one to a committee one).

There will be testing times in the changes, which start tomorrow, and things may have to be worked out as they progress.

I would say, for now at least, continue contact through Stewart in the first instance. (until we know more...!)

GW and HJ volunteered to ride the Newport to Sandown route to compare the state of the track with MWa's report done over two years ago. This would be then submitted to Isle of Wight Council.

We have received a copy of correspondence from Island Roads to a member with regards the poor state of the track at Shanklin. He along with CycleWight have been working on this. TT has forwarded his reply from Island Roads to PD

5. Riverfest

We attended the event. it was felt worthwhile with various interactions etc taking place. There was discussion at our position, which was by the entrance. We were next to Wight Cycle Hire which helped with the bike theme but it was felt that the people were too focussed on entering the site rather than stopping at our stand. We could ask next year to be with other voluntary groups. We need a flyer with more information on than the present one we have at present which is basic details of the group. Issue the previous month's briefing? We could have a big map that can be displayed. It was suggested to re-vamp the one we have used before. As ever something eye catching to get people to stop. Penny Farthing?

6. Cycle Counters

We have been supplied with a form by the Council. It was proposed we submit one to see how it would work. The Freshwater path was thought a good suggestion because of its high use. TT to complete the form

7. Barriers.

We are awaiting news on the removal of barriers. We do know our list has been submitted to the relevant department.

8. AOB

GW has been helping at the IW Blind Society and their project of riding tandems. They are still looking for some more sighted pilots.

In the last minutes it was reported the R23 was to be closed at certain time during May which raised concern from the committee. Nothing has been reported from members or on Facebook so we must assume the closures did not go ahead or repairs were completed without inconveniencing users.