

CycleWight Committee, 20 November 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Claire Franklin (CF), Peter Dyer(PD), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MW), Matt Whittaker (MattW), George Wilks (GW), Neil Oliver (NO), Sue Bailey (SB), Val Lawson (VGL), Alex Lawson (AL).

1. Rookley A37 Bridleway survey

From TT: Can I ask for some views please? Ken Fry is asking us if we wish to carry on with the Rookley survey. It could cost between 4 and 7 thousand and we have 11 in the bank. Do we proceed? RoW were supposed to be getting a small amount of 106 money from the developer. There is some money provided by parish councils to CycleWight. It is suggested that Away Resorts holiday park could be approached to contribute. Also Rookley residents could be willing to give support if approached via social media.

It is not clear if a more expensive Libor survey is necessary. Is it possible to do an initial, cheaper survey first? Would the route via Pagham Farm work instead, as it is mostly bridleway with hard surface? This could be indirect and longer: however PD will look at the route.

TT & PD will contact Away Resorts, RoW & parish councils. *****TT/PD to follow up***** TT has since written to RoW to find out situation over the S106 provision and its current status. They are investigating.

2. Meeting with Joe Robertson MP

The meeting with Joe Robertson MP was attended by Claire Francis, Helen Jones and Peter Dyer. The MP is keen to ride the track along with a couple of our members. This could be from Sandown through to Merstone. ****CF will arrange ride with MP****

The funding provided to IWC by the new government was discussed as it currently uncertain. **(now confirmed)** In this context it would be interesting to know which budget covered this work to provide hardcore and to resurface the section at Blackwater.

3. Island Roads

GW suggested we should facilitate an IW Observer article about the condition of Route 22. Before and after photos could illustrate the failure to maintain the surface. To confirm which part of IWC/Island Roads contract is applicable we should pursue an FOI inquiry. However a previous FOI has pursued this and it seems the contract is woolly and indefinite. Further discussion took place around a pre-PFI survey to record the state of the track and before and after photos at Merstone-Horringford and elsewhere. It was agreed that GW can contact IW Observer in the name of CycleWight. ****GW contact IW Observer****

PD updated on Think Bike signs: these are on hold as the Road Safety delivery along with the track maintenance standards are part of the contract with Island Roads. The matter has apparently been elevated to a senior management level within IWC. PD will contact Stewart Chandler on these queries. ****PD contact SC**** Now done. Awaiting reply.

HJ has been in contact with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust who have carried our regeneration work along the Eastern Yar. She has been told that this work did not take flooding of the cycle track into account but should not make the flooding worse. There has been

comment on the flooding at Alverstone on Facebook, so members should keep this updated.

****HJ & members****

4. Hospital Meeting

CycleWight was at a meeting held on 19 November and attended by NHS staff who run the car parking. This is at capacity and an increase in charges has been imposed. This penalises staff who may be part-time or may normally commute by active travel means while occasionally needing to park on-site. The invitation came from the Deputy Director of Estates Rob Graham who is open to investment to encourage alternatives to more car parking. He plans to invite Southern Vectis and the IWC to further meetings.

CycleWight advocated the approach to active transport set out in a list of prompts and questions by Professor Scarlett McNally, Consultative Orthopaedic Surgeon at East Sussex. This contains many suggestions to change the culture and strategies in organisations involved which would target the staff, visitors & public. Professor McNally has authored a paper "Exercise: The miracle cure and the role of the doctor in promoting it."

TT said that access around the St Mary's grounds for pedestrians & cyclists should be prioritised over vehicles. MR said DfT funding has been announced for Yarmouth council to support bus travel etc.. TT noted that there are approx. 1000 staff working at St Mary's Hospital. There needs to be improved changing facilities, and secure storage for bicycles, preferably in a central location.

MattW said that VOI are keen to improve parking at St Mary's for their e-bikes. He added that VOI are very successful across the island in their provision of e-bikes and scooters and are expanding. CF asked about the route from Ryde to Newport which forms part of the Island Green Link. MattW replied that they are currently restricted to use the main road between Ryde and Newport rather than the cycle routes which people would wish to use. VGL said that a lot of NHS staff commute from the mainland and in particular from Ryde Hovertravel to St Mary's and that having to use the Fairlee Road pavement (footway) is highly dangerous.

Actions: Seek info from VOI re use of e-bikes, age of users, length of journeys etc. Request a presentation from VOI to CW and St Mary's estates. Promote route from Ryde to Newport. Raise with IWC the current route restriction & danger. ****TT/MR/CF/others****

Transport info for ESHT ESCC SmcN.pdf attached. To be put on CW website.

https://www.aomrc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Exercise_the_Miracle_Cure_0215.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

5. Kiddical Mass Ride:

The Kiddical Mass ride will start in Taylor Road, Gunville, near the Argos & Home Bargains stores and proceed via Gunville Greenway & Newport High Street, terminating at Newport Quay. It will start at 11am on Saturday 4 January: New Year new bike ride. MattW can provide sound support. TT said that 8 or 9 marshals are needed. Parking is possible near the start and guidance will be provided to those who wish for a return trip.

6. Island Green Link

The IWC bid was approved by the Levelling Up department of the previous government. The new DfT has confirmed funding. HJ noted that a meeting Rights of Way / Ramblers discussed the Island Green Link and a report produced on the West Wight Greenway part of the route. IWC negotiations with landowners are ongoing. The sale of Great Park Farm will delay matters but IWC are in touch with sale agents.

CycleWight has an interest in this information. GW said that CycleWight should also ask for a meeting with Peter Fellows regarding the Island Green Link, which covers Ryde to Yarmouth and so includes the Hovercraft to St Mary's Hospital commuting route (see above).

Post Meeting Note: The funding has now been confirmed and welcomed by Cllr Phil Jordan.
<https://onthewight.com/13-5m-grant-funding-confirmed-for-west-wight-greenway-scheme/>

7. Barriers to cycle tracks: Cowes Place Plan

Neil Oliver, who is a councillor in Cowes Town Council, reported on the Place Plan for Cowes and Northwood project. This put forward the removal of the barrier on the pedestrian/cycle track between Park Road and Seaview Road (CS6). As yet this has not happened, although sleeping policeman on the track behind the cricket club has been removed at Neil's request. The IWC & Island Roads are now responsible but issues have been raised. NO will chase but it is unclear who can progress the matter.

CycleWight has prepared a list of barriers which should be removed to conform to LTN 1/20 standards. This has been sent to IWC officer Stewart Chandler who has passed on to "Island Roads as our Highways Service Provider to assess for an engineering perspective and add to the HSIR which helps inform future capital funding bids and work programmes." PD will follow this up with SC along with the Think Bike / Road Safety issues (para 3. above).

8. Isle Access & Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.

This is a national committee reporting to the Minister for Transport. The annual meeting on the 8 November was held on the island, hosted by Isle Access. The theme was rural transport. The meeting was attended by people from all over the country. TT spoke about the role of e-bikes and adapted bikes as a mobility aid to enable exercise and shopping trips. A smooth surface doubled the number of people using a path in the Lake District.

9. Sustainability and Funding opportunities

The IWC held this "Meet the funders" event at the Riverside Centre. Sue Bailey attended on behalf of CycleWight. SB said ideas for funding were presented. There are many possible projects that could benefit, such as family cycle rides or woman only rides. SB suggested a monthly ride for families with a paid leader such as Breeze do. The aim is to encourage people into cycling and to involve people as individuals. HJ has been a Breeze leader in the past but has since given up.

GW suggested including the annual CycleWight festival at Merstone. SB said there could be seminars in the evening. MattW said that Wight Community Energy would like to be involved in the CycleWight festival at Merstone. They could focus on e-bikes rather than the electric car emphasis at GoElectric.

SB suggested that a VOI promotional event could be arranged. MattW said this could be funded by VOI. He was in agreement with other suggestions which are in accord with CycleWight's aims to get people on bikes. He also suggested that Dave Munday in Southampton would come over to a larger festival event.

MattW has spoken to Trevor Nichols of Aspire who have set up an e-bike rental schemes for people who cannot afford to purchase. The funding is lined up for this and the take up is good. However there is a need for a scheme to provide better quality bikes for children: a "bicycle library" which would provide bikes for children as they grow. If a CycleWight member can help with this it would be good. TT said that there is a shortage of decent bicycles for children: children's bikes often have unsuitable brake levers and are much too heavy for the child. ****TT/MattW/others****

10. AOB

<http://www.CycleWight.org.uk/>

Website renewal by MR, to treasurer.

<https://zoe.com/learn/muscle-building-and-aging> MR/PD flagged paper from Zoe.
YouTube video by Professor Daniel Lieberman.

Activity Festival, Cowes-Gurnard. NO said we could open up the Cowes Gurnard road to active walking, running and cycling for a day. This could be on the day of the Randonnee or planned for 2026 which is the 200th anniversary of Cowes week.

Next Meeting: December/January 2024