

CycleWight Committee, 24 July 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Peter Dyer(PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Mike Marlow (MM), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickW), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL). Apologies: Matt Whittaker (MattW),

1. Island Roads / Blackwater / Merstone / Herringford / Signage

Island Roads has completed work on the Blackwater section of the Newport -Sandown cycle track. Comments are that the upgrade is excellent, but overall the track is still rough and bumpy, and currently extremely overgrown. AB noted that bumpy could even be good if this keeps the idea that the route is about access to the countryside not a race track.

TT has written to Island Roads manager regarding the Merstone-Herringford section as per previous minutes. The reply was that we should contact the IWC. However a member who raised the issue with Fix my Streets website was told that when the section was surveyed there was nothing wrong. TT then contacted Stewart Chandler who has undertaken to follow up. GW said this is a battle ongoing for 10 years. HJ asked about the failure to sign the diversion during the work; when it was signed it was in the wrong direction. It was noted that a further section will be closed, from Naturezones to Rookley Park, for which no diversion is available

CF noted that various east Wight roads had been closed that day (24.7) causing traffic chaos and making it highly dangerous for cyclists. Meanwhile the Daily Telegraph is featuring the Bembridge housing developments which are opposed by a campaign supported by the mother of Bear Grylls. Is sustainable transport infrastructure keeping up with other development? PD thought we should keep writing to Island Roads. GW thought we should go public: we need lots of photos to show how bad things are. Should we approach to council leader Phil Jordan? We still do not understand who is responsible for what in the control of the cycle network. Write to the two new MPs, to Cllr Phil Jordan and others. *****Write re maintenance contract TT*****

In meantime, MM will report back on cutting back progress *Report from MM at bottom of newsletter.. PD & GW will follow up contact with Island Echo. HJ noted that On the Wight will publish letters and follow up stories. TT noted that Sustrans Ranger Tigg queried the hedge cutting which failed to clear overgrown track entrances and received the response that the contract did not cover entrances.

2. Red Funnel / Island Plan / Pennyfeathers

The Pennyfeathers consultation closes this week. Latest is for 800 houses rather than 900 as in previous plan. Some revision to cycling arrangements is made. MR said that the scale of this development is too large for current island builders to tackle. TT said the Island Plan is open to consultation until 19 August. This is an important strategic document which we should be looking at. Also the Red Funnel plans are currently available for consideration, which MattW and PD are doing.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-in-island-planning-strategy-consultation/>

The Red Funnel Ref is [24/00807/OUT](#).

3. Cyclewight AGM: Friday 11 October.

Our AGM will be at Newport Minster on Friday 11 October at 7pm. Laura Laker will be the speaker. GW has booked the venue. HJ has liaised with the speaker: *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.* Laura is a high profile cycling journalist, said to be on the reading list of the new transport secretary. She wants to promote her book and also to explore cycling on the Isle of Wight. Cycle rides should be arranged probably on the Saturday, either in the Ventnor area or West Wight Greenway. We should try to use her expertise.

We should invite the two IOW MPs, the IWC leader & councillors & officers (Pete Fellows, Stewart Chandler, Lewis Campbell) as well as bike shop owners & Wight Racing. AB & PD suggested we should invite: Tareck Ahmed. Operations Manager. Red Funnel Group. & Deon Redpath. Marketing Director. WightFibre.

Promote the AGM by means of a letter to invitees in September to save the date. Organise a poster to be circulated online. *****Actions HJ/TT/AL*****

4. Wild Beaver Consultation

The Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust conducted a survey and published the results. A meeting is to take place to which Cyclewight is invited. GW will attend.

There is a talk on: Beaver Release on the Isle of Wight - An Update: Tuesday 13 August 7-8:30 pm Victoria Recreation Ground Pavilion, Newport PO30 5DS,
<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/beaver-consultation-survey-results>
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-volunteer-event-beaver-release-on-the-isle-of-wight-an-update-tickets-945649762897?aff=oddtcreator>

5. Rookley A37 Bridleway upgrade

TT will arrange a date to walk the route with Cllr Ian Leah and GW. *****Action TT/GW*****

6. Kidical Mass review: where next /World Carfree Day 22 September

The Ryde Kidical Mass on 29 June went well although the numbers were lower than we hoped. Publicity may be an issue. TT thought there were not the families in the area who cycle. Some comments from those who took part: Marshalling was not so slick as in Newport. Do marshals need radios to co-ordinate front and back of group? This could make for less stopping & starting. We also need to hand out flyers more to the public. PD said we need to invite and involve local councillors next time.

World Carfree Day is on Sunday 22 September. A CycleWight ride in the Sandown area was discussed, based at Yaverland and perhaps involving the Wild Heart Sanctuary. MR said that the Kidical Mass concept meant little to Isle of Wighters. Should we just have family rides? However AB pointed out that we had obtained insurance from Kidical Mass, and HJ said the idea is gaining momentum. It was agreed to plan a further Kidical Mass on that day. TT proposed that we pay to gain publicity for the event, and will follow this up.

MR said he recorded Go-Pro footage on the Kidical Mass. When he tried to post this on YouTube he found issues with children appearing in pictures and with copyright music in background. TT said copyright free music is used by Wight Cycle Hire.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nsUp6kzkcFZjoqT98>

<https://iwbiosphere.org/feedback>

<https://www.worldcarfree.net/>

7. Go Electric:

On the Quay and based at the Riverside Centre, Newport on Sunday 28 July from 10am to 4pm. CycleWight are at stand 18. MR will provide his gazebo & liaise with TT re CycleWight stuff. TT is present in Wight Cycle Hire capacity. GW, AL, VGL part time available.

The program of talks covers Transport, Home and the Big Picture. Expert speakers include Matt Whitaker on the role of E-bikes in carbon reduction.

<https://www.wightcommunityenergy.org/project/going-electric>

<https://onthewight.com/isle-of-wight-gears-up-for-electric-vehicle-and-green-technology-show-2024/>

8. AOB

West Wight Greenway update: The new section at Western Yar linking to the track Blackbridge Road. From there to Freshwater Bay the road goes to the Piano Bar. TT noted that as Bay Road is unadopted and it cannot not advised as a cycle route. On overall progress of the greenway (see last minutes) we have yet to see the contract. Should we enter a Freedom of Information request? TT noted that Stewart Chandler was not aware we had not seen it. GW noted that the officers involved are downbeat over lack of progress. TT will write to request another meeting. *****Action TT*****

Isle of Wight New Members of Parliament: Richard Quigley MP for West Wight has agreed to meet CycleWight in August. A reply from Joe Robertson MP for East Wight is awaited.

Testing capacity of batteries on E-bikes: AB said he has added info on how to do this to website: <http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/blog/index.php?id=000000081>

*"Further to last night's meeting, the verges between Merstone and Herringford were cut back yesterday, so it's much better now. It would benefit from some of the overhead branches being cut back as well but I guess that wasn't in the remit. There are quite a lot with less than 6 foot headroom. "

Next Meeting: August/September (tba)