

## CycleWight Committee, 22 May 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

Apologies: Peter Dyer(PD), Matt Whittaker (MattW), Alan Bennett (AB),

### **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 is planned to start at 11am in Dover Street and follow a route down Union Street and along the new cycleway along the sea front. The positioning of marshals was discussed. MR will prepare a map to show more. A halt in the Appley Tower area will be an opportunity to talk to everyone. TT & HJ noted that we are now registered with Kidical Mass and covered under their insurance. TT will update them regarding the event.

Poster will be updated and circulated to Ryde area schools etc – TT will contact Alec Broome. Wight Cycle Hire will give support. We need 10 marshals if possible. Various people are asked to be marshals including Matt and Keert colleagues, plus Ross & Pete. Music needed.

### **2. Benches project: Helen Jones.**

On behalf of CycleWight HJ submitted an application to Island Roads Foundation for funding to provide picnic benches in suitable spots on the cycle network. This is inspired by the IW Ramblers Donate-a-Gate scheme. Island Roads would contribute half the cost and people would donate a sum and would have a person remembered in the inscription. Although the reaction from her contact was positive she had to provide more detail. Based on quotes she could reduce the sum she has requested in the application. On the other hand TT said concrete bases might be required and this could put the cost back up.

Location suggestions were gathered at the Merstone Cyclefest. She has settled on these four: #Appuldurcombe. #NCR22 near Wootton. #NCR23 near Blackwater. #West Wight Greenway, exact location to be decided. TT suggested that the Yarmouth Freshwater cycle path could be provided with an additional bench to one there already.

### **3. Island Roads / IW Council / Island Green Link**

The committee have seen correspondence from TT and Tigg to Stewart Chandler (IWC Contract manager) and Peter Fellows (Island Green Link project lead). The St Mary Junction poor signage was raised: SC responds that this has passed a safety audit carried out by Island Roads, and will be reconsidered when he has time and staff resources. In the meantime we are invited to raise with Island Roads. TT & Tigg think the signs are facing the wrong way and that is the issue. **\*\*\*Action TT follow up\*\*\***

The Merstone “repairs” and the Blackwater section were raised. Coastal protection priorities have meant council inspectors are working at capacity and others are stepping up to fill vacant

roles. Hence a full response has not been provided. However it is expected that the Blackwater work will now take place in June/July.

The funding for the Island Green Link has finally been approved and has reached the IWC. This is very good news as the contracts can be placed. It is added by Stewart Chandler that constructive meetings have taken place with Sustrans with a focus on the IGL led by Peter Fellows. It is hoped to work with Sustrans on Active Travel schemes going forwards.

In discussion MickW asked if we think that the pothole repairs are any good: Tigg says not. It was noted that the Island Roads are now surface dressing highways which they have not done for years. The contract commenced in April 2013. We should let Stewart Chandler know our views on the poor standard of repairs.

HJ said that the Blackwater surface is ok to walk on at present but is very rough to cycle on. Should we arrange for inspectors to cycle the route? Ditto the Island Roads manager?

In further discussion TT said there have been many roadworks around the Island with signs closed road to all traffic and sending road users on huge diversion. Very often closures could allow cyclists without causing problems. When we raised this in the past we were told this is not an allowed signage but TT said we have examples showing that it is allowed. A letter from a cyclist to the County Press (19.5.24) stated that the writer would not be coming back to the Island as closures in place appeared to be unnecessary.

The Island Green Link was discussed. GW wondered who else has been appointed to the highways department. We should engage more actively with Peter Fellows. CF asked if we could have a map, including the Ryde to Newport section. TT asked committee to send him questions & thoughts regarding the Green Link so that he could pass on to PF.

**\*\*\*Action All committee + TT\*\*\***

In the meantime Bob Seely MP has suggested in his newsletter (3.5.2024) that “We can re-allocate 30 per cent of the funds” from the Island Green Link to the A3055 (Military Road, Leeson Road & the Undercliff). His newsletter links to the IWC documents which consider options. HJ has personally written to object to this view but has not received a reply. TT will follow up and consider a CycleWight response.

**\*\*\*Action TT & committee\*\*\***

#### **4. Merstone Old Station Cyclefest**

CF said the CycleFest was super. The good weather helped a lot. We should repeat next year as it is a good way to show what we do. TT added that people see us on Facebook & do not realise how much we do. That they can join CycleWight does not occur to them – we need to promote membership & the CycleFest is the way to do this.

MR asked if the portaloo issue was sorted? Presumably it had. Many walkers on their event on the day took advantage for free.

## 5. National Landscape consultation

IOW National Landscape Manager, Richard Grogan has consulted on their management plan for 2025-2030. <https://www.wightaonb.org.uk/whats-happening/management-plan-consultation/>  
Is this something CW should contribute to? Please have a look. Deadline is 6 June 2024.

\*\*\*Action HJ, AL TT etc \*\*\*

## 6. Sport & Leisure Fair on Saturday 1 June

From Community Action Isle of Wight: "Are you a sports or leisure group looking for new volunteers or wanting to expand your membership? Why not take part in our next event [Sport & Leisure Fair](#) at [Newport Minster](#) on Saturday 1st June. " Anybody interested in attending on our behalf? See here for further details:

<https://www.communityactionisleofwight.org.uk/sports-leisure-activities-volunteer-community-fair/>

It was agreed to promote CycleWight at the event, with TT as lead and spells from GW, HJ and (post meeting) MattW & PD. It is necessary to submit an expression form to organisers.

\*\*\*Action TT etc & AL\*\*\*

## 7. AOB

# IOW Cycling Festival domain names: We owe these two domain names? Do we wish to renew them? It costs £20 each. [isleofwightcyclingfestival.co.uk](http://isleofwightcyclingfestival.co.uk) [isleofwightcyclingfestival.com](http://isleofwightcyclingfestival.com)  
Agreed to retain the latter.

# **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. MR said he has a gazebo which he will make available to CycleWight for the event. \*\*\*Save the Date 28.7.24 All\*\*\*

# **Rookley A37 bridleway upgrade:** HJ inquired about progress. TT is waiting for a reply from TM re possible financial support (Post meeting note: The Bridleway/equestrian group may have ceased to operate). However 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\*\*\*

# **£100,000,000 Bike Town — London's Mini-Holland scheme in Waltham Forest turns 10:**  
MR links this Josh Reid channel [https://youtu.be/Wtmpx5jn6DY?si=ShuOV0BL9MI\\_OGm3](https://youtu.be/Wtmpx5jn6DY?si=ShuOV0BL9MI_OGm3)

# **Laura Laker book:** HJ recommended. Agreed CycleWight purchase a copy for circulation. *Laura Laker's book, Potholes and Pavements: A Bumpy Ride on Britain's National Cycle Network, is out now, published by Bloomsbury.*  
[www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/16/cycle-network-strawberry-line-somerset-volunteers](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/16/cycle-network-strawberry-line-somerset-volunteers)

# **CycleWight AGM:** HJ will try to contact Laura Laker. Her subject is very much related to our issues.

# **Think Bike signs:** PD waiting Westridge crossroads signs to happen. Wight Cycle Hire has made a suggestion of the Kentucky Fried Chicken crossroads in Newport as a good location for a sign. They are willing to support this.

# **Pedallers Development:** CF said this will start this weekend.

# 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 PD\*\*\***

# **CyclingUK response e-Bike consultation:** CF submitted CycleWight response to the government consultation as discussed in previous minutes. There was in fact an excellent CyclingUK response but it was not available in time for us to consider. See link

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/blog/does-government-really-know-how-make-e-bikes-more-popular>

[https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/document/2024-04/2404\\_MS\\_EAPC%20regulations\\_con%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/document/2024-04/2404_MS_EAPC%20regulations_con%20FINAL.pdf)

# **Local Access Forum:** Update from AL. These are convened by the IWC PROW department and chaired by Cllr Paul Fuller. I am informed by Cllr Fuller that he has suspended the LAF meetings. The English Coastal Path issues are not resolved with Natural England. The PROW department is under pressure due to damage to rights of way routes over the winter. Clerical staff have been moved to other duties so that only the one senior manager is left.

# **Government consultation on Traffic Enforcement:** From Will Ainsley" I recently saw that the Government is undertaking a "consultation" into how "fair" the current regime of traffic enforcement is by local authorities. It is all part of the Government's "Plan for Drivers" and is about the most skewed and political "consultation" you are likely to see.

The link is below. I have completed it (it is short), making clear that I think the current regime is fair to motorists (who should know the rules and abide by them) and that is that generates a surplus for local authorities, so be it. [Restricting the generation of surplus funds from traffic contraventions](#)

Some crib notes from Will if you feel the same as him. Q4 comments: The enforcement regime should be set up in such a way as to deter anti-social driving and use of vehicles and to make the environment safe, convenient and attractive to those choosing to walk, wheel or cycle, and for motorists who are abiding by the rules of the road.

Q10: People driving vehicles (of which I am one) should know the law. Why is it unfair to penalise people who break rules? Why should there be an exception to rule breaking for motorists? Answer: their shouldn't. You break the rules, you pay the penalty. There should actually be more enforcement of things like pavement parking and speeding.

Q11: No. They should be allowed to enforce rules and if that means they generate a surplus, so be it.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 19 June (agenda Kidical Mass) .