

CycleWight Committee, 23rd May 2026 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. SUMMER FAYRE

CycleWight will attend the Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council SUMMER FAYRE on Saturday 30 May from 10am to 4pm at Victoria Recreation Ground, Newport.

For the CycleWight display PD has procured a model showing the 1.5m passing space required for cyclists stated in the Highway Code. The sign is 1500 x 600 mm with the text message: "Please... GO WIDER of the RIDER... Share the Road"

Invoice to be forwarded to treasurer for payment. PD will use his car to transport the kit on the day, along with bike stand. TT has prepared a newsletter to be handed out on the day. Printing to be arranged MR agreed to print these if TT sends him the file. .

We will have a cycle ride into Newport, which GW & HJ will lead with backup from Matt. GW is worried about crossing Fairlee Road on the route. TT has let the Fayre organiser know of the event which they have agreed to include. Can AB to promote on Facebook please? TT has somehow lost access to CWight page on Facebook so can others monitor posts in case something important comes up. *****PD/GW/HJ/AB/TT*** *Follow up. The ride did not take place due to lack of participants!**

2. New Council: CycleWight follow up.

We need to make contact with new councillors. A cycle ride on the Newport -Sandown track would be good but possible venues close too early. CF suggested a waterfront location such as Puckpool. Instead GW proposed to invite councillors to the Quay Arts. If we can get the conference room Tim can do a presentation. CF added he should talk about Bikeability. The aim is to follow up on replies to the CycleWight letter to candidates prior to the election seeking their views on Active Travel and Cycling. (See CycleWight website and previous minutes) and to inform re the LCWIP relating to a councillor's district. MR said we should explain the Island Green Link and the work which is underway, given the amount of money committed. Should we invite the IWC officers who are running these projects? To be discussed with those officers. PD also suggested to invite the new CEO of Visit IoW.

Thursday 18 June at 4.30pm is suggested. The IWC calendar looks free for that date. TT will check if the Quay room is available. A letter of invitation will be circulated to new councillors when details are decided.

*****Agreed that CF will prepare a letter to councillors and list the email addresses. Matt will edit Member Mojo with the list. PD to contact CEO of Visit IoW. TT to co-ordinate *****

*** The date above was unavailable. It is now suggested 7th July as at present no planned council meetings and checking room availability at Quay**

*** Julie Jones Evans is now the new Council lead for Roads and Infrastructure.**

3. Biosphere ride 4 July

The Biosphere programme includes our ride to Shanklin. Meet at Merstone at 11am then at Yaverland at 12. 30pm then on to Shanklin. We need to decide where to go on arrival. The return is unspecified but participants will be expected to return by themselves. HJ offered to lead the whole loop. As a Biosphere event insurance should be covered by them but GW needs to confirm this. TT think we are covered by Cycling UK for notified events, at least for adult participants, although not for juveniles who need to be registered individually. TT to add details of the event to next newsletter.

4. Go-Electric

Go-Electric will take place again this year on Sunday 19 July 2026 at the Riverside Centre & Quay. GW has confirmed that CycleWight will set up a display. Matt & Keert will also be there. HJ, PD, AL & VGL will be available to support George. MR & gazebo? Tables & displays to be obtained from in advance from TT.

TT noted that Clare of Cycle Recycle has an event at Arreton Community Centre on this same date and asked if CycleWight would want to organise the tea & coffee and raise money accordingly. TT will write to explain our commitment. Post meeting the event date has changed.

5. Merstone - Horingford

Officer KR has replied and provided an update. There is a cycleway improvement fund to improve track surfaces. A programme is in preparation to sort out the problems, which will address the concerns which we have raised.

PD said we should be looking for a timescale. It may be that Island Roads have declined to fund the improvements but the money has been found by the council. As long as the work is carried out then we are satisfied. It is unclear if the IWC plans ensure the money is ring fenced and who would be responsible to deliver the improvements. We could approach the IWC chief executive for answers. HJ wondered if we could approach the Reform group to ask how they will run the budget. MR said the Reform group does not have an overall majority. The decision has yet to be made by the full IWC meeting on who will run the council. **Post meeting Cllr Jones Evans has responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure.**

As noted in last minutes the Local Access Forum, chairman Cllr Paul Fuller, has written to the IWC to ascertain their intentions for the Merstone Horingford section of the cycle track. HJ is unable to attend the next meeting on 10 June. MR agreed to attend in her place.

Post-meeting note: The next LAF has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 8 July.

6. AOB

AGM: We hope to book the Unity Hall 20 St Thomas' Square, Newport, PO30 1SG, This will be once a speaker is arranged and is planned for September. HJ has contacted Dr Jungnickel and it appears the date does not work. Watch this space.

IWC Green Link: Progress. MR has viewed part of the work including the route from Wootton towards Mews Lane. The new gates are fantastic. TT has also viewed part of the route in Wootton which is already in use. He contacted the lead officer to praise the improvements but to

make further suggestions. Signage at Fernhill is high on lamppost & is not obvious. On the Lakeside link section the entrance barriers at either end are unsuitable for mobility scooters, trikes and cargo bikes. Matt can provide pictures of a cargo bike leaning on the fence on the new route. However the gate is too narrow for trikes as noted above. **Post meeting this point has been acknowledged by AB** CW suggested advisory cycle lanes on Station Road. The last suggestion was felt that it could lead to conflict with other road users.

Round The Island signage: There are signs for cyclists coming off the ferries at Yarmouth & elsewhere which direct them towards the blue and white signed Round the Island routes.

Matt asks that we tell the IWC officers PF & AB how wonderful the new path is at Wootton. TT has done this.

Matt proposes that we produce our own NCN signs to guide users on the route? We could do this very cheaply. PD added that Island Roads can change a sign in under 10 minutes.

TT noted that the footpath from the Crematorium to Belmont Lane could be opened soon as a permissive cycle path.

MR said the Bembridge Brading route is ready to be walked. The former St Helens Station House property is for sale & price has dropped to £900k. CF is hopeful that a cycle route will be provided in the new housing development. The route would go round the sewage works so cuts out part of Carpenters Road – although there is still a section in the road without a footway where a speed limit is required.

Walk Wheel & Cycle Trust: Matt & TT Meeting on 13 May: was cancelled . Rescheduled to 2nd June. Can we obtain and install NCN signs as suggested above? Previous secretary Nick Ward is now involved with route signage in Dorset & would be able to advise if we asked him.

Next Meeting: June 2026