

CycleWight Committee, 23 April 2025 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

Apologies: Alan Bennett (AB), Mike Marlow (MM), Neil Oliver (NO).

1. Island Roads/IWC contract

Previous CycleWight minutes record our view that disagreement between Island Roads and the IWC is preventing things that are in the pipeline. The disagreement has been made public in a County Press interview with Cllr Phil Jordan. The Island Echo and OntheWight carry the story that projects sought by CycleWight are delayed. These are listed as; Resurfacing National Cycle path 23 between Merstone & Horringford; Removal of barriers to cycle tracks which block access to cargo bikes & mobility scooters; "Think Bike" road safety signs on highways; Drainage improvements on Shanklin to Wroxall cycle tracks.

The committee delegated PD & HJ to contact the press. They have also contacted Cllr Ed Blake, leader of the Conservative group of councillors. He believes the IWC governing group in its dispute with Island Roads, suggests that payment is part of the issue. It is noted that the terms of the PFI mean that IWC must consider quotes from Island Roads for any work to be undertaken. PD has facilitated the "Think Bike" signs which are delayed. He is frustrated as he feels that the job of erecting these on existing street furniture could be carried out quickly & cheaply.

The committee is considering how CycleWight should proceed. There has been a good social media response from other cyclists. We have nearly 1,000 followers on the Facebook group. and we need to make sure they know about CycleWight and hopefully become members.

<https://onthewight.com/isle-of-wight-council-and-island-roads-dispute-hampers-cycling-infrastructure-improvements-says-CycleWight/>

<https://islandecho.co.uk/council-dispute-with-island-roads-delaying-key-CycleWight-projects/>

<https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/25095429.phil-jordan-addressing-isle-wight-ferry-roads-issue/>

2. Merstone CycleFest

CYCLEFEST 25 is on the Saturday 3 May 2025 at 10am to 3pm at Merstone Old Station. Rides from Cowes Arctic Road 10am (Neil Oliver); Newport Shide Car Park 1030; Ventnor Park 1030 (Helen Jones) Sandown Perowne Way 1030 (Pete Dyer).

- Led rides to Merstone Station from Cowes, Newport, Ryde, Sandown and Ventnor!
- Try out a cargo bike with our good friends at Keert!
- Difficulty riding a bike? Come and try an adapted bike with Isle Access
- Recycle & Bicycle - perfect for cycling gifts!
- Scarrots Lane Bakery for a tasty refuel!
- Really Awesome Coffee to get you pedalling faster!
- Storytelling!
- Photo competition for the best family photo on the day!
- Share your views on what CycleWight should be doing next in our campaigning.

- Find out about our next Kidical Mass ride.
- Lots more too

If you can join one of the led rides, Gift To Nature has created a [downloadable map](https://www.gifttonature.org.uk/discover/out-in-the-country/merstone-station/walking-and-cycling-from-merstone-station/) showing bridleways and lanes in the neighbourhood via which you can make your own way to Merstone Station, PO30 3DD OS map ref SZ527845. Lots of picnic tables if you want to bring your own refreshments. There will even be public conveniences for the event. Come and share your ideas for CycleWight's future campaigns on their stand. <https://www.gifttonature.org.uk/discover/out-in-the-country/merstone-station/walking-and-cycling-from-merstone-station/>

Hi-viz jackets for leaders – TT will make available. A gazebo is available for CycleWight. MM has a plan ready for stalls. The coffee people cannot arrive until 11.00 so will need space reserved. Cost of toilet will be split with Isle Access. TT could hire an electric bike for people to try as there will not be suppliers present. Bells, cycling maps & leaflets are available.

There are closures coming up on the cycle track due to Island Roads maintenance. CycleWight have written to IWC/IR to ensure the path is open for the Randonnee weekend which we have received an assurance it will be. We have had no reply over the diversion, which last time the path was closed, was let down by poor signage. The condition of the path at Merstone is much worse than the sections below but because of contractual issues between IWC and Island Roads it has not been repaired. We have written on several occasions about this and continue to pursue the matter. If possible we should check diversion signs on the day.

The Isle of Wight Council (Cycle Track from Sandown to Newport, Sandown, Isle of Wight) Island Roads on behalf of The Isle of Wight Council give notice that for three shifts between Monday 28 April 2025 and Friday 02 May 2025, or when the works have been completed, no person shall cause any pedestrian or cyclist to proceed along Cycle Track from Sandown to Newport, Sandown between its junctions with Birchmore Lane and Arreton Bridleway 36. The alternative route will be signposted locally. The closure is required for safety during cycle track repair works.

The Isle of Wight Council (Cycle Track from Sandown to Newport, Sandown, Isle of Wight) (Temporary Prohibition of Pedestrians and Cyclists) Order No 1 2025

Island Roads on behalf of The Isle of Wight Council give notice that at all times for approx 15 days between Friday 18 April 2025 and Friday 30 May 2025, or when the works have been completed the Cycle Track from Sandown to Newport will be closed between its junctions with Blackwater Hollow and Merstone Lane. The alternative route will be signposted locally. The restriction is required for maintenance works.

(Temporary Prohibition of Pedestrians and Cyclists) Order No 2 2025

3. Crossings

As noted in last minutes Bristol Council is changing controls on pedestrian crossing to prioritise those waiting to cross. It was agreed to put the suggestion to councillors and to Newport & Carisbrooke Business Association which TT & NO have done. It is featured on the CycleWight Facebook.

4. Rookley

The A37 bridleway project could cost £7-8000. The cost is a worry. It was agreed to go ahead with the Ken Fry proposal which is "shovel-ready" but without the Lidar survey which would save approx 50% of the cost.

5. Riverfest / Go Electric

Riverfest is on the 10 May and is at Newport Quay based at the Riverside Centre. TT will check if there is a slot for CycleWight. (There is) MW will be there and can support CycleWight.

Go Electric is coming back for the fourth year. It is also at Newport Quay this year 10 -4pm Sunday Aug 31. GW said car dealerships are signed up but Wight Community Energy also want to feature cycling. CycleWight will be present and hopefully others.

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

6. Cycle Counters

It is important that CycleWight obtains data on cycle routes as IWC no longer does. Cycling numbers are down nationally except for London which has gone up.

Suggested places where it could be collected : Taylor Road, Gunville, Ferry, Arctic Road, Vestas, Newport Quay, Shide, Pedallers, Lower Hyde, Sandown, Yarmouth Freshwater track, the road coming into Yarmouth; the Dodnor - Lane Stag Lane section on Cowes-Newport.

GW asked if committee members can learn how to install counters and if they can be placed in unsurfaced track. MW said KEERT can help deploy and service. They are now official suppliers to IWC. The proposal at the moment is to request to use the Council's portable counter. TT has contacted IWC about the use of the portable counter.

7. Kidical Mass

Kidical Mass will be on 28 June starting at 11am starting in Spencer Road. This is part of the Biosphere events and we will notify them accordingly. *****GW*****

8. Signs

Bay Promenade have placed several signs on the Sandown Shanklin revetment which show the route from Yaverland, Sandown, Lake to Luccombe, and where to find toilets etc. A couple promote sharing the path, slow & considerate cycling, use of bells and looking after dogs, MW & others think they signs are excellent; we should send congratulations to the parish councils.

CycleWight would like to see a similar approach elsewhere. There have been "no cycling" in many Cowes shop windows. These were handed out to shop-owners by a PCSO. MW said that many of these have since been removed, perhaps as a result of customer comments.

9. AOB

PD asked if there is an update on Greenways. We would like more detail about the plans for various sections. HJ asked if we could have a regular meeting with the IWC? GW is unsure what the money is being spent on in Ryde? The money is the original Green Link funding and the £300k which was allocated by the incoming government was for Active Travel. We should push for traffic light crossings to pedestrians. There are sites in Newport and in Ventnor which would benefit greatly. TT will chase. He noted previous request by CF for a map to clarify these plans.

****TT to write****

MW can answer some questions on VOIP use. The figures show that an increasing number of island visitors make use hire facilities. Age distribution tends to be younger riders but a few are over 70. There are active riders who hire multiple times. PD said it would be interesting to know what the visitors thought of cycling facilities & if they know about CycleWight.

MW agreed to obtain a price and to source stickers to promote CycleWight which could be affixed to bicycles. *****MW*****

MR said the Newport - Sandown track should be assessed & graded 1-2-3, We should keep track over time as the surface has degraded over time. MR has pictures which show the initial

condition. The original report by MickW for CycleWight went to the IWC & Island Roads. TT asked him to send a copy of this original. It was agreed to do a re-survey and to allocate sections to the committee. *****MickW, TT etc*****

Next Meeting: May 2025