

CycleWight Committee, 26 February 2026 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. Newport Day

SUMMER FAYRE Saturday 30 May 1000 -1600 Victoria Park Newport. Will be well attended. Plans are # A cycle ride on Gunville Greenway # Set up a 1.5 metre minimum overtaking display with an actual car. Other ideas are: # Dr Bike mechanic stand next to ours. # Mobile pump track (at a cost). # Pete's gymkhana idea. # CycleWight advertising display with info on West Wight Greenway. # We could arrange Vectis Vintage Cycles to be shown, (Contact Tony Dymott).

TT has booked our slot with Newport & Carisbrooke Heritage CC. We have lost our CycleWight 1.5metre banner. Can we make a replacement?

2. Rookley

A project to upgrade bridleway A37 which links Rookley to the cycle track has been considered by CycleWight and PROW. This would widen the route and install a surface suitable for cycles and horses, with the agreement of the landowners. It is noted the population of Rookley was 607 in 2021.

GW has considered the way forward. There would be a lot of time and effort. Costs would be at least £500k. Are there potential commuters into Newport who would make regular use of the link? Are there onward destinations for cyclists coming from Newport? GW thought that an upgrade to the cycle track at Blackwater might be more cost-effective in terms of commuting from Merstone to Newport. What did others think?

MR agreed that we should consider the project in the context of other possible links on the island. CycleWight has plans to commission a survey which would cost £10k. MW suggested that we need to talk to parish council and others involved, and capture and publish the plans. As far as possible we should record what has been done, what steps come next, and document where we are as a shovel-ready project. CF suggested that a route from Newport to East Cowes for commuting cyclists would be a good use for this amount of cash. She asked where that route would go. TT said a route was investigated but was not available due to land ownership and ongoing erosion. The planned route for the English Coastal Path is a footpath. It was noted that there are currently barriers at the bottom of Beatrice Avenue towards Kingston Road which can be circumvented

GW took on board the need to document plans. We already plan to meet the landowner, and we will make contact now. ****GW****

3. Harvey Browns

Harvey Brown's Farm Shop and Cafe is a new enterprise at Hale Common. Planning permission was agreed subject to walking and cycling provisions. The arrangements which are in place.

were visited on 7 February by some of the CycleWight committee. Since then HJ along with John Hague of the Isle of Wight Ramblers have held a meeting with the Harvey Brown owner.

HJ reported that the owner has acknowledged that more must be done to comply with the planning agreement. However there are issues which he needs to resolve and he has found it difficult to contact the agencies involved including Island Roads and the Environment Agency. The owner plans to surface the path round the lake. There is a further bridleway through the woods which he has provided. He will install a bridleway towards Hale Common bus stop and other access towards Macketts Lane accordance with planning requirements but subject to discussion.

He was receptive and pleased to meet with the two representatives and HJ expects him to follow through although there may be a wait. MW noted that the plain speaking indicted a rapport was established. The committee noted a good result.

4. Island Transport Plan -final version

The Isle of Wight Council's "Island Transport Plan 4 2025-2040" was approved at the IWC meeting on 25/2/25. HJ who followed the meeting said it was not controversial, unlike other issues including charges to park cars on public highways. We discussed the plan with Kayleigh Richter at our last committee meeting and she has sent the copy of the final document.

Linked [here](#) MW noted the "Case Study: Last Mile Deliveries – Cargo Bikes

5. Biosphere

The Biosphere Festival on the island is from 27 June to 5 July 2026. A ride was discussed to follow the Red Squirrel Trail and include Shanklin/Sandown/Yaverland. HJ could lead a ride starting at Merstone Old Station to Shanklin, Sandown, Merstone. This could be the summer event for CycleWight. If timings are worked out then people can join en-route. We can have coffee/tea/ice-cream/music stop near Yaverland which would be halfway.

It was decided to arrange a ride on Saturday 4 July. GW will flag it to the Biosphere organisers. Also contact Graham Biss / Gift to Nature re Merstone Old Station? More planning to follow.

6. Island Green Link

TT said that Alec Broome is now the IWC project manager for the Island Green Link. CF said we should ask him for his plan and for a map. TT said we should invite him to our next meeting to discuss this. *****TT*****

MR said that preparations are underway on the ground at Wootton, although not fully underway due to very wet conditions. Part of the cycle track is now closed for up to 2 months.

7. AGM

The plan is to hold the AGM in early September. It seems that Newport Minster is unlikely to be available and in any case Carisbrooke Village Hall would be much less expensive. The issues here are lack of a wi-fi connection and the possible background noise from other parts of the building. The venue would be a best option if the internet connection is sorted. *****MW & TT*****

8. Member Mojo

TT had arranged to renew our subscription which was £90. It was endorsed by the committee. CF commented that the service is very efficient. TT said that it does work well for us: they can be set to charge different membership rates and to circulate different messages to different membership categories. We have about 220 members including life members, councillors, honorary members etc. Over 100 adult members pay the current £5 rate which has not changed since 1993. MW thought we should review the rate. ****Agenda item next time***

9. Ryde 10 year vision

MR said Ryde Town Council will have an Open Day in March to set out future plans for the town. The budget which is nearly £2M per year, 75% to capital. This meeting will be an opportunity for public comments. The "Neighbourhood Board" will administer the system. The open day will be at the former Nat West bank building which is the council offices, on Saturday 7 March. MR will provide details which TT will circulate in newsletter. ****MR/TT****

10. AOB

TT has new information that Island Roads intend to review the weight limit on Blackbridge Road / Western Yar Causeway which are routes important to cyclists and pedestrians. It is unclear why this is necessary. It is not proposed to remove the width limit. Objections have been raised already and ****TT & HJ**** will consider reaction for CycleWight.

The many ongoing highway closures for planned and emergency roadworks result in signed traffic diversions such as that at Firestone Copse. MR said that it should be possible to sign these diversions to apply to cars but to allow cyclists through. TT will write to the IWC Highways Department to ask that this is considered in future. ****TT/HJ****

In connection with Sandown Revetment HJ noted comments asking for "Cyclist Dismount" signs. She has posted contrary views.

The bridleway through Moor Farm and Freemantle Gate forms part of the Red Squirrel Trail. The surface is in very poor condition, and a CycleWight member has drawn our attention to this. HJ has raised this with PROW who say they support bridleways as access not as cycle routes. MM who lives locally said there is very heavy agricultural use with the consequence that the landowner has a struggle to maintain the track in good condition especially in bad weather. It seems unlikely that this will change any time soon.

MW will renew the Strava Metro so that the data is preserved. This comes free.

MR noted a fee is due, £24, for the CycleWight website. He has just paid this in the past but TT said to pass the information to the treasurer who will make the payment.

HJ attended the PROW Local Access Forum in January. Cllr Paul Fuller as chairman offered to write to Island Roads in support of our issues on the Newport Sandown cycle track.

Also noted by HJ, at the LAF Cllr Fuller suggested a sub-group to consider safety on rural roads. A speed limit of 20 mph is appropriate on the island on the round the island cycle route in our view. TT & MR noted that in London there seems to be no problem to applying 20mph limits or to implement restrictions to through traffic in residential areas.

Next Meeting: March 2026