

CycleWight Committee, 27 March 2024 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Mike Marlow (MM), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickW), George Wilks (GW),
Apologies: Alan Bennett (AB), Peter Dyer (PD), Neil Oliver (NO), Matt Whittaker (MattW), Alex Lawson (AL).

1. May 4th Merstone

This will be from 10am-4pm on Saturday 4 May, at Merstone Old Station. Tim has invited Bike shops, bike clubs etc. Who else should we invite: Biosphere people? Sean the Cyclist. Jeff, new mechanic, CF asked if we have circulated schools? Answer no but a good idea. TT would ask Alex Broome to pass on to schools.

Rides to the start are planned as follows: CF to lead a ride from Sandown (which she did last time with 10). Helen to repeat ride from Ventnor via Red Squirrel trail. Maybe Neil Oliver can do a ride from Cowes. MR said bridle path has been resurfaced at Dame Anthony's Common, which could be part of a ride from Ryde. Cowes ride confirmed.

TT has contacted Gift to Nature for permission to use Merstone. Food and drinks providers to be decided and arranged. Poster to be arranged (once bill comes for Kidical Mass posters we could use them again). Toilets will be arranged (£240). If we have music there would need to be a music licence.

2. Kidical Mass: Saturday 16 March.

This was well attended & enjoyed by those present. There were write-ups in the County Press & On The Wight (by HJ). A future event on Ryde was agreed, and could start in the Simeon Road rec. This could be the Cyclewight contribution to the Biosphere event on 28-29 June. TT will contact Biosphere organisers to confirm they are ok with this. (Confirmed.)

CF said she enjoyed the event but noted that the participants were experienced cycling families. She suggested that many kids would have undergone cycle training via Bikeability or school and may need bikes. We should also enable the accompanying adults to cycle. MR said he had 3 extra bikes for kids and TT suggested bikes could be provided. The issue of grants to fund this was discussed: we are not a registered charity which is difficult to set up, but we have a constitution and have received lottery funds in the past.

Continuing the theme of families on cycles, CF suggested that rides on the Island Green Link could be arranged to tie in with this project. MM suggested that this should be targeted at families who do not cycle but might wish to do so? It was agreed to follow up along these lines and also to raise it with the Island Green Link project. Keep on agenda.

3. Rookley

We have been given £100 by Arretton PC & £250 by Rookley PC. Rookley councillors want to walk the route some time in April. We have about £10k in kitty. The full survey (surveyor approved by the council) would cost about £3k. Agreed to fund the survey in full if we need to. HJ asked will developers pay for the entire project if given go ahead? TT replied that the houses are occupied and a fixed £10k of 106 money should have been passed to IWC. He would ask for an update from PROW.

4. Social Media

GW & TT said that Saffie who did the photography for kidical mass could be tasked to prepare and post cycling related items on social media. The price was expected to be reasonable and it would be a better result while taking the burden from TT. MR suggested that a budget should be allocated, as is done by Ryde town council who use Facebook and other media. HJ set out that our objective would be to raise the awareness of Cyclewight on the island and to encourage more people to join. It was agreed to go ahead subject to a suitable price. Suggestions for stories to cover are needed, & MR mentioned the Blackwater cycle track repair work as an example.

5. Cycling UK Promotion

Cycling UK have a grant opportunity £3,500 to help support getting more people on bikes and the raise awareness of cycling.

6. Biosphere Festival

See above.

7. Cowes & Northwood Place Plan

The Connectivity and permeability working group is represented for Cyclewight by Alex Lawson and by Neil Oliver who sits on Cowes Town Council. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cowes, Northwood & Gurnard was prepared by People Powered CIC. Two projects from the LCWIP have been submitted to the steering group. These are #1 A barrier removal on the multi use track near Park Road, and #2 improved pedestrian access from the Redjet terminal to the Southern Vectis bus stance via the High Street.

8. AOB

Island Green Link? TT will contact PF to find out how things are going.

Brading Final report: TT submitted to South Western Railway.

Biosphere: TT to write to Martha with regard to our Cyclefest. Their attendance confirmed.

Bridleway NC23 between Queens Bower and Isle of Wight Airport: MR says this is barely passable. Write to PROW.

Newport to Sandown Cycle Track: TT wrote to Stewart Chandler who has forwarded comments to Island Roads over Merstone Path. Request Island Roads for comment.

Ditto re Wayfarers Randonnee: MM said that the Wayfarers are concerned about the poor condition of the cycle track which is part of the 55km Randonnee route. MM has raised this with Island Roads. One pothole has been fixed. A date for survey work has now been set.

AGM: HJ says Emily Chappell – Tales of Cycling Adventure - would give a talk to our AGM but cost would be such that we would have to charge admission. She has done long distance rides in Europe. HJ also could ask around in London Cycling Campaign. Various options discussed.

Next Meeting: April date TBA.