

CycleWight Committee, 28 June 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: David Farrell, guest (Pennyfeathers Development), Pete Dyer (PD), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MickW), Matt Whitaker (MattW), A. Lawson (AL). Apologies: George Wilks, Claire Franklin.

1. Pennyfeathers

David Farrell is managing the Pennyfeathers estate which is a development of housing and commercial properties between Westridge Garage on Brading Road and Smallbrook Junction on the Railway Line south of Ryde. CycleWight entered comments into the Planning Application relating to cycle access. DF was keen to make the case that walking and cycling access have been planned in from the start. This includes access to residential properties which is separate from vehicular access. Smallbrook Lane forms the northern boundary and an underpass will provide access to the development for walkers and cyclists. There are connections to existing footpaths which continue on to Smallbrook Stadium which will allow this for the first time to be reached in safety other than by car. The LTN 1/20 principles have been applied to make the area permeable to people.

The Round-the Island cycle route passes via Smallbrook Lane, which is one of the worst parts of the route. He has plans which will reroute the vehicle highway and use Smallbrook Lane itself as a greenway. The ancient hedgerows must be retained so the highway cannot be widened to be suitable for modern traffic. This all depends on agreement from the planning authority and he is keen to have our support. He also noted that other housing developments in the area would greatly benefit from their proposals while not necessarily contributing 106 funding to the extent that they would benefit. He noted that developments would be phased so that properties can be sold to finance subsequent phases. However in response to TT and others he confirm that highways would be in place at day one, which is when they are needed. There was further discussion about splays and crossing at commercial premises, and the use of shared paths rather than separate footways and cycleways due to space considerations.

Planning Number P/01456/14

2. AGM

The Riverside Centre is provisionally booked for Friday 29 September. We hope to raise profile of CycleWight & attract a wider audience in addition to cyclists.

TT is chasing speakers and awaiting a reply. *****Action TT*****

3. Meeting with IW Councillors

A room has been booked at the Riverside Centre for Friday 8 September in the afternoon. It is planned to hire electric bikes and invite IW councillors to participate in a ride. *****Action GW TT PD*****

4. IWC Roads contract

MickW said the Blackwater Hollow work was more than necessary while not addressing the worst sections. In a personal capacity he has written to Island Roads regarding these recent works and addressing the overall state of the Newport to Sandown Shared Path. Island Roads say they will respond in 20 working days. The surface should be maintained the condition when the PFI contract commenced, and GW has provided information relating to when the track was first opened. Letter copied to IWC officers and councillors and to Bob Seely MP, and we await the response.

MattW offered to ride from Newport to Sandown with video camera. Agreed that his footage of condition of the track will be very useful.

5. Going Electric

The event held at IW Technical College last year is to be repeated this year on Sunday July 30. We have been asked to organise displays by bike shops focusing on e-bikes. Al's Bikes, Wight Eco bikes, Keert, are among those attending. TT cannot be there on the day. Leaflets, flyers & bells will be needed for CycleWight display. AL & VGL will bring banner, table etc. A newsletter to be circulated in advance of event? *****Action: GW as lead*****

6. Signs

There are now two Think Bike signs at Whippingham. PD has confirmed that IWC will be ok with more if sponsorship is forthcoming, and he has gone back to Red Funnel. Other locations such as at Fishbourne Lane and at Yarmouth could be good. The signs have turned out a lot cheaper to produce and install than he expected so he is hopeful.

7. AOB

Helen Jones wrote to Cllr Phil Jordan about road safety after a jogger was injured crossing at Blackwater Hollow. She received a reply to say that an island-wide speed survey is underway and will be published in the autumn. HJ will follow up to ask for information to be provided when available.

HJ There is an IW Road Safety group. Do we know and are we involved? TT said we have asked to participate but this has been declined as there are many other organisations who could also claim to attend. Do we know about the Highways Integrity Register? TT said we are aware but we should make more use of it. AL will find out more. PD added he has contact with Lewis Campbell who is Road Safety officer.

MattW said the Medina Greenway is damaged following the IW Pop Festival. He has entered this into Fix My Streets. He also volunteered to do video survey of cycletrack – see above.

MR reported on the Ryde Interchange progress. The route from the station to the east (Appley) is surfaced (green) and broadly in place. However there are no signs to warn traffic or indicate priority where the cycle route crosses the Hover & Pavillion entrances. The route to the west (St Thomas' Street) is to be completed by further work in September although humps are in place. The pier now has a pedestrian walkway which is separate from the roadway which is for cars and cycles.

PD said that Red Funnel have development plans for East Cowes, which are to be set out at public exhibition at the town hall on Saturday July 15 from 10am-4pm.

TT added that we have heard from the Bridleways Group just today about our future plans. They are very positive.

Brading path. We have received conformation of the grant for the survey. We are awaiting the return of the surveyor from holiday to commence the work.

Next Meeting July ? Agenda to include CycleWight Anniversary.