CycleWight Committee, 29 October 2026 Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Peter Dyer(PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Alex Lawson (AL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MW),

Apologies: Alan Bennett (AB), Stella Peterson (SP), Matt Whitaker (Matt), George Wilks (GW)

1. Review AGM

The AGM was on 25 September at the Unity Hall, Newport, PO30 1SG. The speaker from the Walk Wheel & Cycle Trust unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute. TT made a presentation of this year's work. We used a video of John Grimshaw talking about the early days of Sustrans. It was noted that other speakers had initially agreed to come then withdrew, so the scheduled speaker was very kind to have offered. Various members of the committee ran the PA and streaming as well as raffle & refreshments. However the zoom presentation was poor: at least one person online gave up and CF said for her this is the second year of problems. It was suggested we need two computers for it to be more effective as well as a microphone. Due to a prior booking access to the room was unavailable until 7.30 pm to test the setup.The hire fee was reasonable in comparison the Riverside is £200-300. There was support for rebooking for next year at an earlier time, say 6pm. While about 30 attended and more could be accommodated, space is a bit limited.

CF suggested several changes to the AGM format to attract a larger audience and gain membership. A speaker on the Island Green Link / West Wight Greenway could be booked and councillors invited to attend. The event should start much earlier or even take place during the day on a Saturday or Sunday to make it easier to attend. It could be held in May or June. Are schools available? Outside catering could be an attraction as this went well at Merstone. Others were open to the ideas and to an earlier date although it was felt that the central location at Newport is important.

TT noted that we have used schools previously. The Pavilion at Victoria Recreation Ground could also be option, with good access for cycles, catering and parking. After much discussion it was agreed to consult & investigate and to continue at next meeting. Talk to members about time of year/week/etc and approach school contacts and Newport & Carisbrooke CC about venues. ***TT & committee***

TT added that Newport & Carisbrooke CC have invited us back to their **Summer Fayre** at Victoria Recreation Ground on Saturday 29 May. We were busy here last year and agreed to attend. MR proposed to make a 10 minute film to run to promote local cycling.

2. Supermarket survey

In a report titled **"How cycle friendly are Isle of Wight Supermarkets?"** PD has surveyed more than 20 Island supermarkets with respect to facilities for cyclists. He has rated each one for such things as parking with a shelter and its proximity to the entrance. His report sets out the benefits to health and to the local community of shopping trips by cycle and asks how much supermarkets are prepared to do to accommodate Island shoppers wanting to tale advantage of the lifestyle benefits. Having circulated to the committee for suggestions PD is making additions

and refinements to the report. We should plan to circulate the survey along with a briefing by mid-November. ***PD/TT***

TT noted the new McDonalds and Costa Coffee premises have opened. Aldi in Ryde is adding an extra 27 car parking spaces which should come with more space for cycles – the applications do always include facilities for bicycles but it is difficult to know if they mean proper Sheffield racks or other substandard designs . Health on the Island is poor and declines after age 59, lower than the national average. TT to write to Aldi to outline what is needed to provide high quality provision. CW committee members could check the new store at Newport to check on the provision.

3. Car Parking Charges

HJ said the IWC Finance committee considered a general rise in parking charges and a new charge in some car parks which are free. The proposals will come up in January. There is pressure not to raise these charges. HJ said the push back on charge increases is depressing: they assume that everyone disagrees with them. Active Travel England has good information which shows enhanced footfall once the environment is improved. Simon Moon, the Strategic Director of Community Services also made the case. TT said evidence shows that removing car parking increases shopping levels. TT asked the committee to look for evidence that we can put forward to make a case for sustainable alternatives car parking in High Streets. This can go on the website and to the press.

4. IWC: Island Green Link & Signs

We sent a letter with our concern that the money allocated to the Island Green Link would not achieve the desired result given the current progress and possible deadline date. We were told in reply that there is until March 2029 to commit the budget, although delivery can continue after that. A follow-up meeting, which TT has been asked attend in person, is to be arranged to discuss progress on the project. TT is in contact with the IGL project manager to arrange this but dates conflict with Bikeability sessions.

MR noted that work in Ryde for the Green Link has been contracted to Island Roads. Other work in the High Street pedestrian precinct has been carried out from other budgets. This does involve cyclists sharing the area which has led to a backlash from some councillors. A similar situation exists in Cowes. PD is prepared to write to councillors involved.

PD said six 'Think Bike' safety signs are not going ahead. We wrote for an explanation which we have received which cites various reasons. Meanwhile there is a programme to install pictograms on the back of council vehicles as a road safety measure. PD feels this approach is not based on any evidence of effectiveness.

5. Active Travel England

HJ attended two webinars held by Active Travel England introducing their design guidance, which is primarily directed towards people working in active travel in local authorities. The guide is about 250 pages with another 100 of case studies, and the contents makes very good reading. There is a broad overview of which paths are suitable for shared use, how to design traffic free routes, how to design traffic calming measures, how to handle crossings. There is a direct link to the issue of the Fighting Cocks crossroads, and to the meeting HJ & PD held with the IWC officer. Other sections classify cycle routes in relation to rider categories. Considering

the Round the Island route HJ think it would not be fit for purpose. To fix it will be a major project in the future. This would need the IWC to be on board, but at present it is taken up by the Island Green Link. ATE plan in the future to set out how to approach land ownership for route projects. Land negotiations have been a problem for routes on the Island in the past.

6. Tigg Trailer

Tigg is the Walk Wheel & Cycle Trust Ranger. He carries out maintenance on the National Cycle Network routes. He has obtained a trailer to carry his tools. There was a moderate cost to the purchase and to adapt his bike to tow the trailer. The committee agree to reimburse Tigg as he does such a lot of the various routes. ***TT to arrange***

7. Biosphere invitation

CycleWight arranged a ride as part of the Isle of Wight Biosphere Festival. We have now been invited by the Biosphere organisers to a “celebration and reflection at the Quay Arts Centre”. GW will go and there is space available for at least one other. It is on 4th November from 6.30pm – contact TT for booking information.

8. AOB

PD: the cycle track from Merstone to Horringford. Our evidence shows that there was a good bound surface along this section. It is understood some money has been allocated but the surface is still under discussion. We are not being provided with any timescale for this. In the meantime Cllr Whelan has been shown pictures of the present state of the path and the inadequate repairs. He said he would contact IR. We await a reply. The provision of a bound surface requires machinery known as a form paver. We do not know if this is available on the Island – it needs to be 2m width.

PD: St Mary's Hospital bike parking, (they had £20k to spend]. Ongoing.

HJ & TT said that work on a culvert between the industrial estate & Dodnor Lane requires some closure of this section of the Newport to Cowes. This has been arranged to avoid the peak commuting period. TT added that it is a “good” diversion with clear notices at the closures to assist people. TT to write to IR to thank this measure. ***TT* email sent and reply recieved**

Part of Footpath/Cycleway CS31, between the Cowes to Newport Cycle Track and Medham Village has been surfaced, a big improvement. The repairs have come from the Highway budget.

MR said repairs have been carried out to cracks in new surfacing at Whippingham, Fernside & Lakeside.

Gather on Wednesday 30 December at 10. 30am at Harvey Browns, Hale Common.

Next Meeting: Harvey Browns 30/12/2026