



Contact us through the web site
www.cyclewight.org.uk

Cycle Strategy.

Our Cycle Strategy has now been published for six months. Since its launch it has been downloaded over 450 times; over 100 the day after the CP mentioned it. It is hoped that this will become an important document in establishing proper provision for cycling across the Island. It sets out a series of principles that would make cycling better with a series of maps of strategic routes, which would bring the Island together. It is hoped to update it in 2019 when we hope to be able to



cost some of the work we are proposing.

We have distributed it to a wide range of people and institutions. It has been well received and we are particularly pleased the Council will be referring to it in the upcoming Island Plan, which goes out for

public consultation in October. They also have it on their official web site.

It can still be downloaded from our web site. Paper copies are available for a charge of £2 including postage.

SHIFT-IT'

This is the name for the Active Travel Schools Programme on the Island. It is part of a government initiative from their Access Fund. 'Shift-It' has been in place for 9 months now and is busy delivering a range of activities across primary, secondary and 16-19 provision.

This year they will introduce the new "Shift It Schools Award", which recognises schools who promote active and sustainable travel within their community. There will be three levels of award. Successful schools will be able to display awarded a plaque.



A big development is delivering Bikeability in high schools with the aim that more children feel confident to ride their bikes to and from school. It is proposed

to run some level 1 and 2 courses in the summer holidays this year for young people who do not have the opportunity to access the course elsewhere.

Student Power is a project that is supporting a group of students at Medina College who are acting as 'Shift-It' ambassadors for active travel and are meeting with parents and senior leaders of the school to try and push the agenda for upgrading their current bike and scooter storage.

Shift it is being delivered by Wight Cycle Training. If you are interested in any of their programmes or know of a youth group who may benefit from their expertise contact Ross Edmunds <ross@wightcycle.co.uk>

Newport Traffic scheme.

Like many people CW are waiting to hear about the next steps in the scheme. We have written to ask if the submissions are to be published but we have not received any response. Over 150 people have downloaded our 6 page submission.

Our two 'big' ideas are for there to be a multi user path on the eastern side of Medina Way, which would take people down to the town. The other suggestion was the junction design where Forest Road meets Medina Way. It would make it simpler and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to get to the hospital from the town. As part of this we suggested that the bus stop on the Cowes side of the road should be an island design, which are becoming more common. This would prevent conflict between those waiting for the bus and those trying to cross the road to the hospital.

Membership

Membership is £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and send to: Mr D Jackson, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4HR. Or pay by BACS. Lloyds Sort Code 30-95-99 account number: 01247732 Please use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership.

Newport permeability study.

CycleWight was awarded a grant from the Awards for All, part of the Lottery, to do a permeability study of Newport. It was intended to be a means of looking at ways to make Newport more walking and cycling friendly. CW hoped that it would lead to working with IWC and Newport Parish Council to implement the recommendations. It was very much aimed at doing things that would be simple and relatively easy to implement.

The report was published in February and has been downloaded over 120 times from our web site. A presentation about it was made at the "Newport Travel Forum" on Saturday 20th Jan. During May members of the CW committee are doing a formal presentation to Newport Town council.

Some of the ideas suggested would be contra flow cycle lanes in Crocker Street and Trafalgar Road, raised platforms at junctions so as to slow cars, 20mph zones in all residential areas and to create a joint use path alongside Medina Way.

Newport Parish Council has commissioned a town audit in the last few months. It sets out a series of actions that could be taken to make it easier to walk around Newport as well as it make it look more pleasing. This in tandem with our report should provide a powerful set of documents to set out plans for a better Newport.

We also sent a copy of the study to all of the other town and parish councils on the Island. This has led to Whippingham and

Wootton Parish Council commissioning their own permeability study. CycleWight have also been invited to make a presentation to Cowes Town Council in June. Interestingly Cowes has the highest number of people commuting on the Island so it would appear a great place to make further improvements.

Far too often the cry is heard, "It can't be done" It could be, as one only has to go and visit places elsewhere.

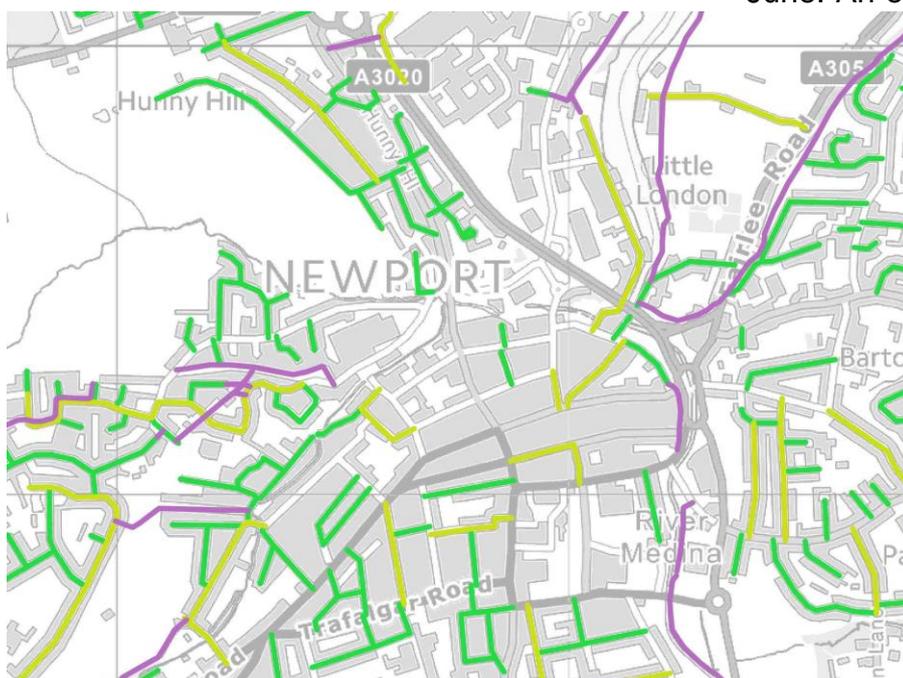
Innovation Grant

Island groups are being invited to bid for grants of up to £10,000 for projects to boost 'sustainable transport'. They are being asked to come up with creative and ground-breaking ideas to get people actively involved in "clean, green and healthy travel". The funding is from the Isle of Wight Council as part of its Sustainable Transport Access Fund from the government. "This is a brilliant scheme, and I would strongly encourage community groups, charities, businesses and other organisations to get involved," said Councillor Ian Ward, Cabinet member for public transport. "We are looking for innovative projects that will really put the Island on the map as a top location for sustainable travel." Last year grants went towards schemes including encouraging the use of electric bikes and to promote therapeutic walking. Applications this year must be sent in by 17 June. An online form and further details are at

www.iwight.com/sportsunit

The Sustainable Transport Innovation Grant forms part of a wider programme of transport interventions being delivered by the Isle of Wight Council over the next two years, using £1.35 million of funding won competitively from the Department for Transport (DfT).

A map from the Cycle permeability study of Newport



The Quay update.

CW has now received an answer about why barriers on the Quay cannot have a gap in the middle to allow cyclists to pass through. We have learnt from officers of the council that Island Roads have told them that the bridge is so badly broken that this would not be possible. The bridge's construction means the footpaths either side are not affected. We



wrote back to ask when the bridge is to be re-opened. It was hoped that work was to begin in June but we understand that this date has now been put back. We have not been told the reason for this or if there is a new date set.

We suggested that one side of the bridge should be for pedestrians and the other for cyclists. This is deemed as not possible because of the height of the railings and the narrowness of the path.

Island Roads meeting.

CycleWight and Visit Isle of Wight met with representatives of Island Roads over various issues of concern. Two of the issues raised were road and path closures and the use of barriers along the paths, which make cycling so difficult.

There was an acknowledgment that signage could be improved, as there are occasions where roads were closed to cars but pedestrians (and cyclists) could access routes. Cyclists would be expected to dismount where the work is taking place, as it is illegal for people to ride on pavements. IR and the Council have to be congratulated on the temporary bridges they have put up in various locations when mending bridges. IR agreed to liaise more with CW and Visit IoW

on occasions where routes would have an impact on cyclists and walkers.

The barriers proved to be more of an issue. The barriers along the routes are there to slow people down, and to dissuade motorcyclists. This was raised by us as there was a barrier replaced on the Shide Path after it was taken down when the cross Newport route was instigated. The committee feels that there are too many, some of them are badly positioned and it can make it difficult for people with bike trailers, tagalongs mobility scooters, etc. In many cases it is felt a post in the centre of the track is all that is necessary.

Since this meeting we have been in contact with Island Roads again and are due to meet by the end of May.

We would like to remind people to contact the IR web site to report defects. There is a register and remedial works can take place if there is enough reporting of an issue. The Shalfleet traffic lights are an example.

Bike Shelters.

These items are becoming more common in places across the UK. They are ideal for areas where the housing does not have an easy place to keep a bike eg flats, terraced houses, houses with little storage.

There are plenty of places on the Island where this is true, mainly in the older parts of the various towns. These shelters could allow people who are put off having a bike somewhere to keep them. They take up approximately one car parking space and so the gain for the community is immense. Can you think of an ideal location or maybe already know of a group of people who may be interested in such a feature? Please contact the group as we are keen to see this get off the ground (well on a street)

