



Contact us through the web site  
[www.cyclewight.org.uk](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk)

## AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Please Support

The AGM of CycleWight is on 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 19.30 at the Carisbrooke Village Hall. This is always a good evening with the formal part of the meeting kept to a minimum. It is an opportunity to find out what the group has been doing and to ask questions. We have been particularly busy this year so come along and find out what we have done. You can also give us a guide on what you want us to do next year.

We have not arranged a guest speaker yet but you can be sure we will do by the night!

As usual there will be a raffle (donations for prizes gratefully received) as well as interesting displays.

## Treasurer

After a quarter of a century of looking after CycleWight's enormous wealth our Treasurer Colin has decided to hang up his ledger book. Do you have the expertise? Do you promise not to run off to the Cayman Islands? We run a very simple system so the duties are not very onerous but of course very important to the group. If you think you would be willing to help, please get in contact.

Colin is like a stick of rock. He has CycleWight all the way through him. He was at the very first meeting in 1993 and has been a member of the committee from day 1. "On behalf of us all I would like to thank him for his steady hand on the tiller conducting his duties with a minimum of fuss," said Tim Thorne

## Thanks for joining

There are times when we take things for granted, like being a member of CycleWight. The committee would like to thank you for being a member of the group.

One of the targets for next year is to broaden the membership of the group so as give our view more credibility and strength. It really would be good if every member of the group could recruit one more person.

## Travel Innovation Grant

Island groups were invited by Isle of Wight Council to bid for grants of up to £10,000 for projects to boost 'sustainable transport'. They were asked to come up with creative and groundbreaking ideas to get people actively involved in "clean, green and healthy travel".

Well we did think of something and made a bid to which we were successful. What was our big idea? Our application entitled 'More Paths for All' builds on our work from the Cycle Strategy and our Cycling Permeability Study of Newport. The grant will give us the means to be able to identify paths on the Island, which are strategically important for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. From this we hope to look at ways to be able to bring them into wider use. In some cases it will be just need an alteration to their official designation. In others it will mean liaising with landowners or finding funds for improvement works. We are collaborating with the Rights of Way team as part of our project.

CW are looking for people to assist in walking the paths to survey them for their suitability. **If you think you could help, please do contact us at [cyclewight@gmail.com](mailto:cyclewight@gmail.com).**

## Updates

The Quay bridge is to be repaired but Island Roads are waiting to hear back from the Marine Management Organisation. The MMO have 3 months to respond to their proposals. We understand the deadline is imminent

The Medina Greenway was damaged during the pop festival. A CycleWight member provided the picture evidence that supported the Rights of Way department to complain to the festival organizers. We have been informed that the most damaged part of the track is to be repaired in the near future. Other parts, where the damage, is less severe are being considered to see what would be the best course of action.

**Membership** £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Cheques 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 Use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail at [cyclewight@gmail.com](mailto:cyclewight@gmail.com) Subject membership

## Newport Traffic scheme.

The saga of St Mary's junction is a long and tortuous one. The junction was re-designed after the consultation earlier this year and went to the Cabinet of the Council in early September for a decision. The new proposals were only issued in the week before the Cabinet met.

Briefly, in the new design, the roundabout disappeared and was replaced by traffic lights. One of the reasons for the re-design was poor provision for bus users. It is good that this was taken into account and changes made. Sadly another reason was the loss of some car parking places. It is always going to be difficult for sustainable transport to be taken seriously if there are times that car use is not given precedence.

The committee were very unhappy with the new design, as it did not acknowledge any of our major proposals. We decided, even though time was very short, to commission a desk top review to be done by a highway engineering consultancy firm called City Infinity, which specialises in active and sustainable urban travel. Amazingly the work was done and we were able to deliver the review of the new scheme and an accompanying letter to the scrutiny committee and cabinet before the meeting. The review not only critiqued the proposals but suggested alternative provision. It did not impinge on the principles of the scheme but gave better provision to encourage active travel. There was a great deal of support from the scrutiny committee. The cabinet passed the project and it confirmed that some changes could be made if they were considered suitable and did not increase the cost of the work.

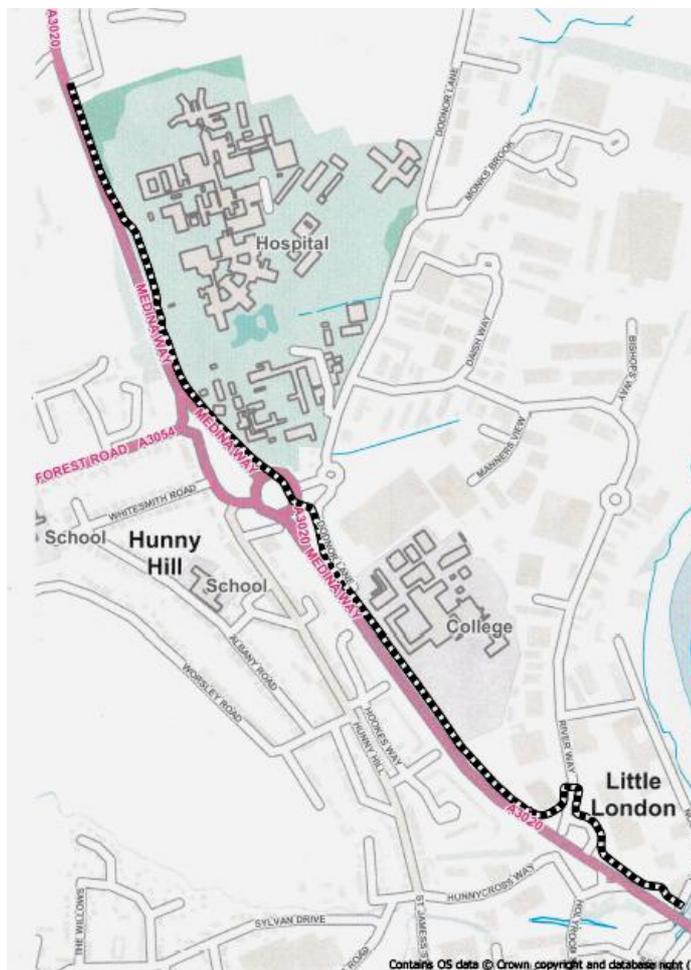
Subsequently our Chair met with Ian Ward, cabinet member for Roads and Infrastructure and Chris Ashman, Head of Regeneration to discuss our review and set out our proposals. Once again it was reiterated that our views would be considered.

After the October Cycle Forum several of the committee attended a meeting at Island Roads to discuss in more detail our proposals. It would be fair to say there was an acceptance of our views on a few small design features but all of our more ambitious ideas, wider paths and the new multi-user path on the east side of Medina Way were thought to be outside of the present designs parameters and so could not be accommodated.

This last sentence seems to committee that the design brief was not detailed enough. At present the design, in our view, does not comply with the Council's own policies on sustainable transport and may not well fulfil its obligations under the Equalities Act.

We had hoped that this project would be an opportunity for there to be a development that fully embraced all users rather than one that only provides for the car. The Newport traffic scheme is built on a 'predict and provide' model. There is going to be more cars in the future so let's build to accommodate it. It is a shame that the same philosophy is not used for people who choose not to or cannot use a car.

We see this scheme as the first step in making Newport a better place to walk and cycle. We are suggesting a plan called St Mary's Greenway. (see map). This would be a multi user path that would go from near Camp Hill down to Little London. All of the land is in public ownership, which should make things easier. We felt that this would assist in Active travel provision for the large housing development, which is planned for the Camp Hill Site.



## Newport to Sandown Track

There has been considerable work on this particular cycle track of late and more to follow. See below. There has been much more contact between IR and CW over this type of issue, which is pleasing.

"We are writing to let you know of upcoming bridge works along the Newport to Sandown Cycle path, in particular the three structures B309 Horringford Boardwalk, B310 Haseley Bridge and B311 Blackrock Bridge located on the three legs of the cycle track between East Lane, Merstone and Alverstone.

B309 – A diversion will be in place between East Lane, Merstone and Stickworth Lane, Arreton. Alternative route options are displayed on the attached plan B309-01. Closed for approx 20 weeks

B310 - A local diversion will be in place between Main Road, Arreton and just east of the bridge. Alternative route options are displayed on the attached plan B310-01. Closed for approx 10 weeks

B311 – A temporary footbridge will be in use allowing this leg of the cycle path to remain open. We kindly request that cyclists dismount to use this temporary structure. Closed for approx 10 weeks"

Quite inconvenient for a considerable length of time but the outcome will be good. All timings are approximate so with a bit of luck and not too many "Beasts from the East" they may be finished earlier.

## The Undercliff part 2

The issue of re-opening the Undercliff to motorised traffic is on-going. Dave Stewart, the Leader of IWC and a Councillor for Niton is keen for it to re-open. For many others there is a different point of view held. A traffic free Undercliff has become a joy for cyclists and walkers.

A CycleWight committee member attended a coffee morning at Niton on 28th July, which was about the re-opening of the road. As one can imagine there was a diverse range of views. These include reinstating the road for all traffic or limiting it just to private cars. Other ideas were to turn it into a proper Quiet 'Green' Road for the use of residents, visitors, cyclists, horse riders and walkers.

The committee did discuss the issue and feel a road closed to motor traffic might become a destination in its own right if the

tourist potential was fully embraced. A recent article highlights the loss of income to businesses along the route. Is there any thought of how much business it might generate because there is a lack of motorised traffic?

Something everyone agreed on was that the signing needs to be improved immediately. Many drivers think the road is open and drive up to the landslip. And on the other hand cyclists seeing the 'Road Closed' sign seek an alternative route rather than carry on. (Not for the fainthearted the last group!)

We have attended a meeting about signing the route for cyclists and other non-motorised traffic. It would seem that this could be a real possibility and not in the too distant future. This would be a great asset to the tourist industry for the Island.

## The Cycle Festival

We attended the launch of the week's events at Arreton Barns. Committee members who manned our stall admired the set up and the racing. It was a great opportunity to engage people about our work as well as well as listen to people's views about a range of issues.

As our contribution to the Cycle Fest, we had a breakfast at our usual spot, Quay Street in Newport. The weather was not kind, unlike other years, but with the help of Andy Newman's camper van we were splendidly protected and were able to offer croissants and drinks to over 60 riders.

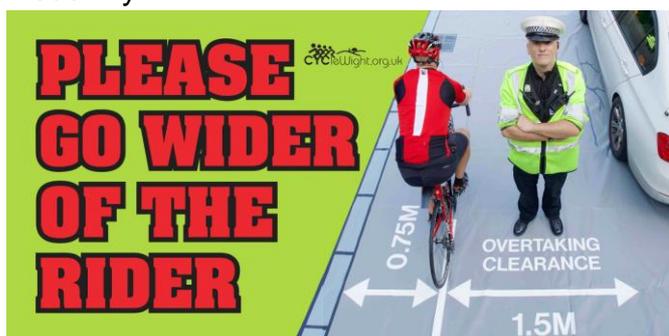
We would like to thank the consultancy "Atothere" for their sponsorship of the event. They have been instrumental in the Council receiving significant grants for sustainable transport over the last four years.



The Spy Velo 'Wider for a Rider' banner in the foreground

## Wider of the Rider

One of our campaigns over the last few years has been "Wider of the rider." You may well remember we did get it onto the back of a couple of buses. This campaign has now received national recognition and there was earlier this year a visit to the Island by Hants Police with their "Too close" mat. We decided to keep this campaign up and devised our own banner with help from Pinkeye Graphics. Much to our surprise, after a cheeky email to West Midlands Police, they allowed us to use the image that has been used all over the country.



Spy Velo were also keen on the idea and have literally taken it to a new level by designing their own banner but life size as can be seen in the picture of the cyclist's breakfast. (You can see ours too) Dave from Spy Velo and ourselves are keen for our banners to be displayed in prominent places to get the message over. Any suggestions would be most welcome.

## Permeability Study

Earlier this year we commissioned a study to look at ways to make Newport a better place to cycle and walk; Newport Cycle Permeability Study. It has been downloaded over 360 times from our website since its publication in February. Its basic premise is to identify barriers to cycling easily round the town. This was done by colour coding every road, based on its ease of cycling to the average user. Eg Fairlee Road was not!

As you may remember we have done a series of presentations on this to various organisations. We have also sent it to a variety of official bodies, such as the County Council and the Council's Regeneration team where it was particularly well received.

The committee have now identified several key places, which we think are important and possible to deliver. We are working with Newport and Carisbrooke Parish

Council to find ways to make this happen.

As part of the bid application it was agreed that there would be a "Cycling Attitude Survey." The report is now published and can be downloaded from the web site. It makes for fascinating reading.



Newport, Isle of Wight  
Cycle Permeability  
Study

March 2018

Creative Interpretation



more than they do now. More than half of those who never cycle at the moment would like to be able to do so. And 84% think there should be more protected cycle lanes, even if this reduces space for cars. Even among those who never cycle 77% agreed with this.

## Can you help?

Isle of Wight Bridleway Group is applying to formalise a path at The Hermitage to make it accessible to all. At present the use has not been 'with permission'. To make this happen there is a need to collect witness statements from horse riders, cyclists and walkers who have been using this route at some point over the last 20 years. The statements have to be on a prescribed set of forms, which includes a map of the route. Penny Edwards from the Bridleways Group has been delegated to distribute and collect the witness statements.

Once this has been done there is then a set procedure to follow, which will include writing to the landowner to notify them of what is being requested. The evidence is very strong of its use but legally, at the moment, there is nothing preventing the owners of the land closing off this well used route.

Can you help? There needs to be at least 20 statements but of course the more there is the better. Please contact Penny at [billyandbuttons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billyandbuttons@hotmail.co.uk)

## 25 Years of CycleWight

As mentioned in the last newsletter CW has now been formed for 25 years. In the last newsletter there was a list of our achievements.

In the picture you can see Newsletter No 2 from the group. The first edition was more visual than! But interestingly it contains some of the same issues such as the revetment at Sandown and the lack of contra flow systems in Newport! It also mentions a ride to Sandown with the County Surveyor who was impressed with the idea of a cycle track from Newport!



CycleWight is a group formed to improve cycling facilities on the Isle of Wight. This newsletter is produced to inform members of progress and forthcoming events. If you are not a member and wish to join there is a form on the back page. Any contributions to future newsletters - letters, articles, adverts - would be welcome. Contact Nick Ward 299477.

Maps will be available. The last time we held an event on the Newport-Cowes track it was pouring with rain and blowing a gale, 50 people turned up. So if we have a fine day (just about possible in the middle of June) we could expect to see at least 100.

### EVENTS

In April CycleWight had a stall in St James Square, Newport. The response was very good and a lot of leaflets were handed out.

On the May Day Sunday the successful Randonee was held in glorious weather. May we thank all those who took part and raised money for CycleWight.

On 21st May a treasure hunt was organised starting from Brighstone Forest as part of Environment week. The weather was appalling but two young riders from Brighstone thoroughly enjoyed it. This event will be great in fine weather!

As part of National Bike Week there will be a Cyclemeet on the Newport-Cowes cycletrack on June 12th. The proceedings will start at 1430 at the Dodnor end, where we hope to have a display. The finish will be at Medina Valley Centre for tea and cake on the lawn!

There will be options to suit all riders: e.g. Cycle to the Cowes end and back; go on through Cowes down to the seafront taking in some of the lanes round Rew Street, Hillis Gate and Noke Common and back to the Cycletrack.

Please display the enclosed poster in a prominent place and tell your friends and neighbours. Phone Colin (526766) or George (528820) for more information.

*It was originally planned to use the Shide to Blackwater route for the event in June. This was abandoned because of access difficulties and the poor state of the track. However we hope to arrange a ride along all or part of the proposed Newport-Sandown track later in the year. There may also be another public meeting when there is substantial progress to report on that project.*

**STOP PRESS:** Cycle Treasure Hunt organised by Newport Rowing Club, Monday 30th May, start 1400 from Clubhouse (near Dodnor end of Cyclepath). £1 entry, children free. Prizes!

### CycleWight Organisation

It has been necessary to speed up the process of formalising CycleWight's organisation, foreseen in the first newsletter. In order to deal with funding bodies and to enable people to join, it was essential to set up a bank account. This in turn meant having nominated officers. These are: Chairman, George Wilks; Treasurer, Colin Boon; Secretary, Nick Ward. It is the intention to hold a formal general meeting once membership has reached an adequate level. All posts will then be open to election.

## Access Fund

The Fund is now into its second year. The three strands, education, employment and tourism are all very active with a variety of projects across the areas to encourage people to travel more sustainably.

One of the more innovative projects has been working with visitors to encourage them to see the benefits of PAC (Pedal Assisted Cycles) or e-bikes. This was a collaboration between Wight Cycle Hire, Visit Isle of Wight and Warner's at Norton Grange. Twice a week, as part of the activities programme at Norton residents were given the opportunity to try out e-bikes. This proved very popular with

over 90 people taking up the offer. For many of the riders this was the first time that they had ridden a bike for a very long time.

There was nearly universal praise from the participants at the ease of use of the bikes and the way they made riding a pleasure. The other factor that many found surprising was the range of the bikes on a full charge – 60 miles. The bikes used were a mixture of Forme and Peugeot brands with some being step through models and others being hybrids designed to go off road. There were different kinds of motors too; wheel and crank. Some of the guests had ridden e-bikes before but were keen to ask questions about buying a bike and the advantage of the various models and styles.

Norton Grange proved the perfect venue due to its size, lack of traffic and a variety of terrain. An extra bonus of the initiative was the fact that many of the staff took advantage to have a go too and were also similarly impressed.

## At last!

The picture below most probably looks unremarkable. Two dropped kerbs with double yellow lines to stop cars blocking its use. Sadly it has taken about 10 years for this to be installed. For some reason when the street and houses were built in Snowberry Road no dropped kerb was built at this point even though it was clearly in the plans and it was designed to be a joint use path. CW has written to the Council several times over this omission. But to no avail.

Students at Newport C of E, which is less than a 100 meters from this spot wrote themselves in June and within a couple of months the work has been completed. Well done. The only little pat on CW's back was they did contact us and ask who to write to complain!

