

# Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

09 February 2017 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Will Ainslie (WA)	Sustrans
Sue Bailey (SB)	Recycle: Bikes for Africa
Dizz Dyer	W Advanced Motorists & cyclist
Darrel Clarke	IWC Right of Way
Stephen Cockett	Cyclist
Ross Edmunds	Sustrans
Gian Giblett	Wight Architecture
Martin Gibson	Cyclist
Cllr John Hobart (JH)	IWC
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
John Lee (JL)	Cyclist
Iain Maclennan (IM)	Cyclist
Tricia Merrifield (TM)	IOW Bridleways Group
Rachel Mills (RM)	Island Roads
Andy Newman (AN)	Wayfarers, Cyclewight
Philip Payne (PP)	GP Sport
Tom Ransom (TRa)	Sustrans
Tanja Rebel (TRe)	Cyclist
Gareth Shilton (GS)	GP Sport
Sian Thomas (ST)	Sustrans
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chairman & Wayfarers
Simon Wells (SW)	Powerbike World

## 0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Alec Broome (IWC Sports Unit), Cllr John Medland, Cllr Julie Jones-Evans, John Allen (Wight Cycle Hire), Jennine Gardiner. Your secretary apologises that Jan Brookes of Isle Access was not included in the invitation circulation.

## 1. Wayfarers' Randonnée

Andy Newman said the Wayfarers' Randonnée is on Sunday 30 April 2017. There have already been over 1000 pre-registrations via the website. In 2016 there were around 2900 entrants. The physical limit on numbers is the floating bridge capacity. The floating bridge is currently being replaced and is due to be back in service. However they will need to plan for the possibility that it is not ready. Help is required at the checkpoints. <http://www.cycleisland.co.uk/>

## 2. IW Cycle Fest.

Philip Payne said the plans for the **IW Cycle Fest from 23 September to 1 October** were on track as presented at previous forum. A partnership has been arranged with Eastbourne Cycle Festival, to be held in June, to promote each others festivals. It was planned to have promotional stands at the Wayfarers' Randonnée and at the EXCEL Outdoor & Adventure show.

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Kids bikes were presented as prizes in competitions, with assistance from Saracen. Kids racing programmes were to be subsidised by paying entrance fees. IW Cycle Fest banners were on show & branding would be on 9 sonar boats coming into Cowes.

The draft plan & schedule is published: see <http://www.iwcyclefest.com/> Cyclo-cross racing events will have British Cycling officials present. They hope to have the two Sunday Wayfarers' rides & the Autumn Tints ride to be included. Rides will be free if the ride makes no charge. The events which charge will provide enough funds for insurance. More rides are being added which will cater for a wider range of people

### **3. Visit Isle of Wight Website – cycling**

TT reported there would be a stand at the EXCEL Outdoor & Adventure Show. Help wanted. More cycle route leaflets were nearly ready. Website update is in progress – comments from people about the content were welcome. Tom Ransom said visitor surveys on ferries provided valuable data on visiting cyclists. It is estimated that visiting cyclists contributed more than £5M to the Island economy.

### **4. West Wight Multi User Path**

Sian Thomas is Sustrans Network Development Manager, England South Central, having been appointed 5 weeks ago. She hopes to be involved in route improvements on the Island & will be exploring locally during her trip. Her Sustrans predecessor Nick Farthing is helping.

Darrel Clarke is IWC Rights of Way Officer (and spare time mountain biker). Along with Jennine Gardiner, one maintenance officer & 2 operatives they are responsible for 500 miles of rights of way which have to be recorded, enforced and maintained.

TT addressed funding for improvements to the network. Lottery funding is allocated to concrete projects, but first these must be identified and specified, a process which costs money. For example it was hoped to create a multi user path to West Wight, which connected via Gunville, with Sustrans route 23 from central Newport.

It was noted that IWC has a budget which includes 106 money from developers. Darrel Clarke said the council have looked into projects which could be included in future network improvements. They identified the Medina Greenway (Island Harbour to East Cowes) and coastal improvements as two priorities. The Gunville multi-user project is not to be funded at present.

RM said Island Roads has IW Foundation which will consider bids till 1 May for amounts of £3-16,000 for suitable projects. A sponsor is needed within Island Roads. 2 days of employees time is available. Receipts for cash items will be paid. Objectives to be demonstrated are social inclusion and access to employment. (Note Route 23 East of Blackwater is a possibility for improvement. A sponsor within IR is needed.)

DD asked DC if an addition to the RoW network leading to more maintenance cost was a problem. DC said RoW were ok with that. RM said Island Roads apply a formula to the path when they accept a maintenance contract.

TM said the Wroxall to Shanklin multi-use path now seems a success.

WA asked DC about the Island Harbour to Whippingham Church route. £300k had been applied for on the basis of IWC providing matched funding. IWC now owns land next to the caravan park.

This was discussed in the light of the Coastal Path project. DC said it was not yet determined if the route would follow the Medina River estuary or if the route would cross at Cowes. The Coastal Path project is to be completed by 2020 and will be fully funded by central government via Natural England but only as a footpath.

AL said that cyclists themselves should come up with some funding as had the Ramblers & equestrians.

IM asked if the West Wight route followed the rail route? DD asked if planning permissions were granted subject to restrictions to protect a through route? TT said that the Local Travel Plan made provision for a route. This was confirmed by DC who said that officers were reminded regularly to give special consideration when an application was made near the line of the railway. For example the solar park at Ningwood had a condition attached for provision of a bridleway – although this was held up by a legal dispute which it was hoped would soon be resolved. Cllr JH added that a new housing scheme in his ward was planned with a gap providing for the route included.

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TT said that plans for Carisbrooke College in Newport had been submitted with a travel plan to be written after the building had been completed and with parking provision for only 20 bikes for 600 children and 40-50 staff. Following Cyclewright's submission this had been improved with more cycle parking and a travel plan which would be prepared before construction commences.

RM said a transport policy was in place that planning officers should apply. TR said planning restrictions & levies were important but only came into play if the landowner was a developer. He asked if there was a way to incentivise other landowners? TT said Natural Enterprise, a community interest company, could source possible funds which might cover this. GG said it is the role of project managers and planning officers to see what incentives are available instead of more punitive actions.

## 5. Road Safety & 20s Plenty

Stephen Cockett said he is campaigning in support of the 20s Plenty campaign of Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (who was at an IWC executive meeting). He pointed out that 15 million people live in areas where they benefit from traffic speed restriction. It is not proposed restrictions would be applied to trunk roads. He is happy to be contacted has a Facebook page and his email is [s.c5654@gmail.com](mailto:s.c5654@gmail.com).

Cllr JH said he supports the campaign, and that new council leader voted in support at council today.

VGL said that the Remember Evie charity is supplying wheelie bin speed limit stickers. RM said she understood the police recommend not to do this for legal reasons.

DC said a funding allocation of £100k is proposed for 20s Plenty schemes in the IWC budget for next year. TT said legislation has been rescinded or simplified so that it would be less expensive than before to introduce the schemes.

## 6. IW Cycle Network: Island Roads

Rachel Mills was asked to explain to the Cycle Forum the maintenance policy for cycle networks. For the contractor Ringway Island Roads she explained that the company model was that there was front-loaded investment which should pay off due to longer life of roads over the 25 year timespan of the contract. The legal responsibility for highways remained with the IWC, while a company known as SPC contract to the IWC to manage the financial side. There are milestones built into the period of the contract and the core investment is to be complete by start of 2020 financial year. The two categories which they recognise are carriageways (roads) and footways (which includes cycle tracks to us). The contract delivery is monitored by UK PMS, Payment Management System.

A detailed visual inspection carried out on 20m sections, with scores averaged and target set to be met by the 2020 date. There was a rolling program of these assessments, but IR believe they are on target once the resurfacing is complete. There is a lower target, below which resurfacing will be done. In overall terms they are responsible for safety of carriageways and footways. With respect to cycle tracks unbound surfaces cannot be surveyed and hence are not included in the resurfacing programme. Island Roads are responsible for cutting back to 1m on each side of the track, and they approach landowners when there are overhanging trees.

DD asked what IR considers to be safe on road surfaces? He thought some carriageways had been surfaced unnecessarily and others left undone which were dangerous. RM said Island Roads maintain an online safety register to which any unsafe place can be reported. This can be done online at [www.islandroads.com/23-report-it-online.html](http://www.islandroads.com/23-report-it-online.html)

DD also asked about sweeping up hedge cuttings? This should be done within 48 hours. Cllr JH noted a lot of hedge cutting is done under contract with IR.

AL said that route 23 east of Blackwater is in a very poor & waterlogged state. RM said it could be reported as unsafe to the above link.

WA asked about Newport harbour and its improvement which has been postponed several times.

## 7. County Press Cycling Page: Simon Wells

SW explained that he is arranging with the County Press for a regular cycling page, to cost around £300. He hoped to raise funds from cycling businesses or groups, say six X £50 per issue, and was aiming for March. Cllr JH said he should contact Cllr Julie Jones-Evans who is responsible for the Regeneration portfolio which does have a budget.

SW said that the IWC is not supporting the Cycle to Work initiative to allow paying via salary deductions

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for a new cycle. VGL said that St Mary's Hospital also is not supporting this scheme.

## **8. Sustrans in Schools: Tom Ransom & Ross Edmunds**

TR has arranged for primary school pupil crews to count the number of bikes & scooters in the racks on any particular day: this provides good data to support their efforts. Also they take children out onto the streets to look at design of junctions & how they could be improved. Schools are now keen on this approach.

RE said the 'Parents Voice' organisation at Medina/Carisbrooke is looking into cycle racks and schemes to share bikes. They have been awarded some money from the Access fund to do this. 5000 children had been involved in Newport and West Wight in Sustrans activities. TT said that this information can be used when talking to planning meetings and for bids etc.

## **9. AOB**

# TT said that the IWC will need a walking & cycle strategy in due course, something that other councils have found necessary. Accordingly Cyclewight are producing a document.

# Cyclewight has also proposed four specific schemes for the IWC Transport Plans. These are the West Wight Greenway, Gunville Greenway, East Cowes to Newport corridor and Improved Permeability of Newport to walkers & cyclists.

# Government funding via the Transition Fund will be followed by the Access Fund next year. It has just been announced that and IWC bid has been successful & that £1.3M will be available. TRe said this was good news but where is the funding for infrastructure improvement? TT said the government had postponed announcements from November, so no answer yet.

# Sian Thomas said Sustrans believe that leisure cycling is to be encouraging as it leads to more cycle commuting.

# WA said there is a Jobseekers scheme to issue cycle repair vouchers to someone on benefits. These are worth £50, and can be used at Wight Mountain, TAV Cycles, Spy Velo, AI's Bikes etc.

## **Date of next meeting**

June 2017, 1800. Venue TBC.

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