

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

10 October 2018 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Kevin Ansell (KA)	Routefifty7
Chris Ashman (CA)	IWC
Steve Ashman (SA)	Island Roads
Jan Brookes (JB)	Isle Access
Kevin Burton (KB)	Island Roads, network Manager
Martin Gibson (MG)	People Powered CIC
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Nicola Rogers (NR)	Visit Isle of Wight
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chair, Wayfarers
Mick Watts (MW)	Cyclewight
George Wilks (GW)	Cyclewight

0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Nicky Metcalf, Ross Edmunds, Chris Gregory, Jennine Gardner, Tricia Merrifield, Alec Broome, Andy Newman.

1. St Mary's Junction Improvements

Chris Ashman Isle of Wight Council works on developments such as the Newport Harbour development, and this is the context for St Mary's Junction improvements.

Jan Brookes asked Kevin Burton why this project was chosen first rather than other projects in Newport or elsewhere. Kevin Burton said it was one of a number of projects which could have been chosen but it was ready to go. Coppins Bridge does not run too badly despite there being 53 to 55000 vehicles per day, and its development would come later.

KB provided a large scale plan of St Mary's Junction. He noted the blue route on the map is land in front of the prison obtained from the Ministry of Justice; this could possibly be extended even further north.

MG said only footways and not cycleways were provided, and the plans are a missed opportunity.

TT said that Cyclewight had engaged a consultant to review the plans. This review had been submitted to councillors although there was a very short time window for the review to be carried out and submitted to the council before it made its decision.

KB said that Island Roads provided information back in May and shared the plans with TT. TT said that we were grateful for that but the plans were in draft and not in writing.

KB said that the original plans drawn up by Mott McDonald, then were reviewed by consultants whose modelling found that a roundabout did not provide enough capacity for projected traffic growth.

Steve Ashman said that there were many constraints and parameters that had to be recognised as the site is not a greenfield site. Council funding constraints are also a factor. He said he had read the Cyclewight Active Travel Review document although it had not been sent to them.

AL said the link was provided in the agenda for this meeting but apologised for the document not being sent. He said that this scheme needs to provide through routes for planned local housing developments and to support access to the hospital by staff patients and relatives. KB agreed with this view and said all schemes provided improved access and eventually all the bits will join together

FORUM CONTACTS:

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GW said this was an argument for getting this scheme right. There was no provision for cycling South or on the east side.

TT said electric bikes will make an enormous difference in the future. KA said he took a survey of bikes on Shanklin seafront and 50% were electrical.

CA asked what task will be actioned from these discussions. Should there be a separate session to discuss details? KB said he has a free day on Tuesday and would be happy to arrange a meeting then. He will leave the large scale plan with us. He added that the carriageways and lanes have been made as wide as possible in the plans.

MG said he is currently looking at the feasibility of cargo bikes for deliveries, on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council via the Access Fund.

JB asked if disabled access features have been considered. KB said that tactile crossings and other provisions are included.

VGL said the St Mary's Junction improvements are very important to the hospital which is a key site on the island.

SA said that Island Roads employ professional highway engineers and operate BSI certified standards. They do look for input from all groups, but they have to work within constraints to find the best compromise.

KB said they will endeavour to get the council project manager to a meeting to the meeting. He added that the east side of the road is constrained by a retaining wall which they butt right up to.

2. Cyclist road safety

TT mentioned the Wider for the Rider scheme. This issue has gone national as police forces including Hampshire have introduced Close Pass Mats which are used to publicise the 1.5m overtaking clearance to be left by a car driver when passing a cyclist. Spy Velo have had made a full size mat which has been on display at the Cycle Fest and at the Bikers Breakfast. Where can we promote the clearance so that drivers are aware what space to leave? CA suggested that supermarkets are a good place to do this. The next section continues the safety theme.

3. Cycling UK & British Horse Society: Be Nice say Hi !

There is a joint campaign by Cycling UK & British Horse Society for co-operation between cyclists and horse riders. This follows an incident when a group of cyclists passed a horse closely, at high speed and on each side. This was captured on video by the rider and went viral on social media. KB said that BBC South Today covered the issue.

Cycling UK has collaborated with the British Horse Society to campaign to stop such behaviour. See www.cyclinguk.org/press-release/be-nice-say-hi-cycling-uk-and-bhs-guidance-cyclists-and-horses

AL said the issue was raised by the BHS members at the PROW Local Access Forum. JB said she had experience on the Quarr Abbey to Ryde route of unsafe behaviour by cyclists who had come from the ferry. More cyclists are coming to the island.

SA said Island Roads are about to upgrade 7.5 miles of the military road, which will be used by cyclists. He does hear complaints about cyclists forming bunches making it difficult to overtake.

VGL suggested putting posters on ferries to promote safe riding. CA said the Access Fund might provide some funding. NR confirmed that Chris Gregory oversees this fund and could be consulted about funding. KA said some of their customers do the round-the island route but most do not. TT

4. Solent Local Enterprise Partnership projects.

AL said the Solent LEP is inviting businesses and other organisations to apply for funding from the new Solent Prosperity Fund. Partnerships could be formed for example between Cyclewight and cycling businesses. The fund is for infrastructure investment, in contrast to past sustainable transport grants which mostly go to revenue. However SA said that 9 November is deadline for any project through to 2021, and KB said bids need to have all necessary permission in place to be considered. There are very strong filters applied and he did not hold out hope that we could meet timescales. The West Wight Area

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Regeneration and the Yarmouth Newport Regeneration projects are infrastructure with funding although some permissions from landowners are awaited.

MG said projects need to be spade ready, something that historically we struggle with on the island. We need to be more clever. JB asked if matched funding is required for such projects.

https://issuu.com/iwchamber/docs/island_business_september_2018/8

5. Access Fund grant.

Cyclewright and have secured a grant from the Access Fund to work with the IWC Rights of Way department to review footpaths which have the potential to be upgraded to bridleway status for use by a wider range of users than at present. Volunteers will carry out initial surveys and People Powered are contracted to identify and prioritise.

AN said Shanklin seafront presented an opportunity to open up the revetment for women & children, and his company would work with Isle Access. SA said Island Roads would help with bridleway review.

TT said the BHS Bridleways group have studied possible bridleway upgrades. Often some land access is the issue. The MP Bob Seely has been lobbied by the equine community. It seems he is happy to help.

6. IW Cycle Fest 2018 report

JB said she had expected to participate but was contacted far too late and could not do so.

TT said it was a successful event and families were able to participate. He hoped that temporary speed limits could be introduced to facilitate access next year, and asked Island Roads whether this is possible.

KB said this is possible & has been done in the past: posts are available which currently bear no signs.

7. Round the Island route & Randonnée

NR said the Undercliff route would be signed by Island Roads, as an alternative to the current round the island cycle route which the Wayfarers would continue to use. The signs would be colour coded to aid navigation. It was hoped this approach would be future proof and that alternative routes could be developed elsewhere on the island. GW said a further meeting with Island Roads is to take place 25/10..

8. Reports: Visit Isle of Wight

Nicola Rogers attended the Cycle Forum for the first time on behalf of Visit Isle of Wight. They wished to encourage visitors to come without their vehicles. To this end they worked with accommodation providers and placed information on the web about routes and facilities.

VGL said to encourage visitors not to bring their cars they need information in advance of their visit. Is this available as distinct from information once they arrive?

AL said touring cyclists need public toilets. Many have been closed on the island, although some honourable parish councils have taken on their toilets. Dorset have maps on display at public toilets showing location of other toilets.

TT said a survey is underway to find people's experience of cycling on the island. It is in three parts over less than a year. First results will be available soon.

9. Reports: Isle Access,

The second accessible cycling event which provided machines adapted for cyclists with special needs took place on 8 September at Seaclose. About 57 people attended, including cyclists, carers, and parents. The response of cyclists who found they could manage the bikes was gratifying also to the carers.

Isle Access is now looking for funding of £4000 to develop an inclusive strategy and to purchase machines, and have applied to the Gannex foundation. TT & VGL suggested supermarkets and other businesses could be approached for sponsorship. JB said they currently hire machines from the mainland and have to pay ferry fares on top. She was also seeking storage facilities.

SA asked JB to provide further information to him as Island Roads may be able to assist. He had signed

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off £80k for charitable schemes that day.

The next accessible cycling event is to be held from 10am-3pm on Saturday 3 November at Seaclose.

10. Island Roads

Newport Harbour area: Quay Bridge is still closed and at some point will be rebuilt by Island Roads. KB said the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) response was awaited. Their involvement comes as Newport harbour is tidal. It is hoped to commence work within 3 months. VGL asked about the Harbour Development as it affects cycling. CA said cycle routes are very much part of the brief.

TT said that he has been kept informed of closures by Island Roads staff and expressed thanks. AL drew attention to the projected work at the Horrington board walk, which would last for several weeks and involve a diversion via the road.

MW asked if there is any news of the Medina Greenway work to fully repair the damage caused at the pop festival. This is ongoing but will no doubt be funded by the pop festival. MW also asked about the Kingston Road to Saunders Way connection at East Cowes. KB said there is an issue with the gate at Kingston boatyard. CA said a planning objection was entered to provide turning for HGVs. It is hoped to resolve this soon so that Barratt can complete the development work.

11. AOB

The venue for the next meeting was considered. Some Isle Access members cannot manage stairs and use public transport. The IW F& R HQ has stairs, while the Scout Hall in Woodbine Close is at ground level. KB said that the Island Roads premises would be available to us for an evening meeting. Both alternatives are some distance from Newport bus station.

TT said attendance at the forum has fallen, and asked how to improve the meeting. Circulating a reminder a couple of days before could increase numbers. AL said the absence of councillors and of the police was unfortunate. Safety could be better covered as there is a body on the island which deals with this.

Date of next meeting

February 2019

POST-MEETING LINKS

<https://onthewight.com/sustainable-transport-funding-boosts-for-isle-of-wight-businesses/>

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