

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

13 February 2020 @ 6pm

Church on the Roundabout, Coppins Bridge, Newport PO30 2BX.

Present:

Steve Ashman (SAn)	Island Roads
Ross Edmunds (RE)	Wight Cycle Training
David Evans (DE)	IW Council Executive
Gian Giblett (GG)	Cyclewright
Julie Giblett (JG)	Cyclewright
Martin Gibson (MGn)	People Powered CIC
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
Lee Matthews (LM)	IWC
Nicky Metcalf (NM)	Wight Cycle Training
Andy Newman (AN)	Wayfarers Chairman
Sandie Norris (SN)	Wight Wanders
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewright, Forum Chairman
George Wilkes (GW)	Cyclewright
Mick Watts (MW)	Cyclewright & Isle Access

0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Chris Gregory, Kayleigh Richter, Darrel Clarke, Jennine Gardner, Nicola Rogers, Matt Townsend, Matt Whittaker.

1. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Lee Matthews reported that the LCWIP was passed to DfT for consideration, and appears to have been well received with mainly formatting issues. It will now be considered by the full IWC in March when he expects it to be approved. It will then be a matter of chasing funding for proposals. His view is that the LCWIP contains good detailed proposals compared to those of other local authorities. However these are subject to further consultation and planning applications.

2. Tour of Britain 2021

In September 2021 the Tour of Britain is planned to come to the Isle of Wight. LM said the Yorkshire-based organisers Sweetspot have sent a delegation to the island and think it is a fantastic venue with good viewing spots for spectators. Ferry operators have already been consulted and are happy to co-operate. The IWC will appoint someone to manage preparation for the event - this is likely to be a professional sponsorship consultant. Preparation needs to be thorough and will engage with schools and voluntary organisations.

3. Housing developments

An Isle of Wight Draft Strategy for Housing has been published, and is open for consultation until 13 March 2020. See <https://www.iow.gov.uk/consultations/>

TT said a report by the UCL concluded that design of new housing developments was inhibiting walking & cycling. He added that there is no mention of walking & cycling in the IWC plans for housing developments.

4. Island Roads/IWC - Newport traffic scheme update.

Steve Ashman said the St Mary's Improvements are progressing well. Cable installation has been completed in right place. Widening at St Mary's next, to continue through to IW Festival time when there

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will be a pause.

SandownNewport Cycle track: Blackrock Bridge replacement has been delayed due to intrusion to the site, but the deck is now done and the track is due to open early next week (w/c 17/2/20) subject to weather at the weekend. Winter cleaning & inspection of cycle tracks including Shanklin-Wroxall has been underway, as happens annually, while verge trimming & inspection is carried out 3x/year.

5. Reporting of Highway Repairs

RE said that water run-off from fields onto tracks is not great & causes flooding due to poor drainage. TT asked where should reports be sent? SA said Island Roads are aware of the problem but improving is something for the longer term. He said reports should be sent to Island Roads via the telephone number. This applies to potholes & cycle track problems. There is a new phone app called FixMyStreet under development by a private company working with local authorities, and IR hope to receive reports which will include images & GPS data from users' smartphones. It will be necessary to register to the app with one's number or email address.

Mick Watts said the Blackwater section is terrible. TT said Cyclewright is really concerned and has submitted a report with photos to the IWC. Between Horringford & Merstone there are 13 places where the track is falling apart. RE said the issue is on the IWC agenda. He added that the 2021 visit of the Tour of Britain will attract many more visitors, and he recognises the need to deal with the situation by then.

6. Nation Cycle Network review Cowes-Sandown & Ryde-Newport

RE said further carriageway widening schemes -eg Medina Way, and Coppins Bridge to Sandown Road will be reviewed in June. Other schemes being looked at in Newport, such as improved crossing points.

In March the upgrade to Ryde Station interchange will be considered. Once the LCWIP is approved then walking & cycling improvements to be pursued include a route to the pier head running between the rail tracks. A walking area round the esplanade will be part of the scheme. There is a highways improvement scheme for the downs road at Arreton – A3506 to the Downend roundabout by the Hare & Hounds. As part of this there will be provision for walking and cycling.

RE said they have been lobbied heavily on upgrades to the NCN. For example the bridge at Alverstone floods out and needs to be raised; it is critical to get funding for this. AN said the route west of Alverstone becomes flooded and this has been raised by local users. MG asked if smaller scale improvements can be included, such as bollards at Dodnor Creek.

RE said the DfT have just announced funding for sustainable transport including cycling routes. The Isle of Wight has not had capital funding for a number of years. The Local Transport Plan is to go out for consultation, to find out how people see things in 20-30 years. This will feed into the Internal Capital Improvement programme. We should have a good case for more funding & they expect a bigger chunk to cycling & walking than previously. He asks TT to co-ordinate this.

KE said that Smallbrook Junction near Ryde is prioritised to be improved for vehicle and cycle access, with funding in the next financial year 2020-21. This was postponed from this year but may be better in the end. AN said that Smallbrook is on the Round the Island Route cycling route and is a section where heavy vehicle traffic is a problem. Also dangerous to cyclists is the Lessland Lane to Redhill Lane crossing at Sandford, which is a staggered junction with poor sight lines to traffic on the Godshell Sandown Road. SA said there are constraints due to land ownership on what can be done to improve existing road layouts.

7. Access Fund & other funding

Chris Gregory sent apologies to the meeting & provided this update.

- IW Council has secured a one year extension to it's Access Fund programme, effective from 1 April 2020.

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- The 20/21 Programme will continue to deliver sustainable transport interventions which promote active and sustainable modes for journeys associated with education, employment and visitor travel.
- IW Council is currently recruiting for two Active Travel Officers to support the delivery of the 20/21 programme. Details on the IW Council website.

Kayleigh Richter also sent apologies, and added the following:

Workplace Engagement Programme/Sustainable Transport Broker Programme- 7 travel plans complete in this financial year, with scope to expand next year as success of marketing increases. Systra Ltd delivered this in two years, so it is apparent that the locals appreciate a local presence. I think the establishment of a proper brand has also helped the programme become more attractive to prospective businesses and other stakeholders. More and more people are making enquiries about the things we offer as the brand establishes itself further, which is excellent news. More options were taken up this year including Cycle Skills and Cycle repair vouchers compared to last financial year which saw no interest. People are also requesting personal travel plans, and a campaign with Southern Vectis around commuter travel is planned for next year.

Electric Cargo Bike Fund- Grant Agreement signed and first payment issued this week. – Expect to see the project start in the next 6 weeks.

IW Council are recruiting for two Active Travel Officers (As Chris mentioned in his email). I will be moving on to the role of Environment and Sustainability Project Officer, but will still have some involvement with the projects to some extent. Happy to answer any further questions on my new role or the success of the projects for last financial year if needed.

Other bids: MG added that People Powered CIC have entered a bid to the National Lottery Community Fund which supports Climate Change related projects. They have schemes to enhance active travel corridors, working with IWC & GTN as partners. They are hopeful as 640 initial entries are now down to 40, and will hear between March & May if successful. Funding could be up to £1/2M/year with some capital funding.

8. Undercliff

TT noted that IWC policy is to seek funding for the road to re-open. Cyclewight has a different viewpoint and thinks it should be made an area to add to the tourist offer as well as to residents. A business case has been made out for re-opening the route but has the case been examined with the route closed. TT added that central funding for re-opening may in the end bring more cost to the local authority.

DE said that the IWC is actively trying to gain funding for re-opening. A substantial £5M is sought and they expect to hear in the summer. No solution is on offer currently. In the meantime a speed limit of 30mph is to be introduced for the length of the Undercliff.

9. Reports & AOB

The 2020 Isle of Wight Randonnee will take place on 3 May. AN said the event is normally on the Sunday of the bank holiday weekend, but the government has moved the holiday to the following weekend which is when the Mountbatten Centre Walk the Wight takes place.

It remains to be seen how numbers will be affected but there is a lot of interest already. Last year numbers were around 3500 which was a record but is on the limit of what works. More info and registration at <https://www.cycleisland.co.uk/>

Isle Access MW said they now have storage available for the accessible bikes, in a container located at Freshwater. An **Accessible Activities & Services Day** will be held at West Wight Sports & Community Centre on Saturday March 14 from 1030 to 1530. More info at www.westwight.org.uk

Paths for All: People Powered CIC along with Cyclewight members surveyed & proposed a number of possible upgrades. TT said that the IWC PROW department have visited all proposed routes. Two have been eliminated, as too narrow or too steep. Permissions and funding are now sought, and parish councils are to be contacted. MG said that one scheme is on council-owned land so is likely to go ahead with a change in signage only. TT undertook to put DE in touch with the PROW secretary who keeps a

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log of progress.

Date of next meeting: June 2020.