

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

14 June 2017 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Nick Blake	Island Bikeworks
Jan Brookes	Isle Access
Alec Broome	IWC Sports Unit
Ross Edmunds	Sustrans
Chris Gregory	A-to-There
Cllr John Hobart	IWC
Robin Lang	National Trust
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Nicky Metcalf	Sustrans
Andy Newman	Wayfarers, Cyclewight, Cycling UK
Sandie Norris	Wight Wanders
Tim Thorne	Cyclewight Chair, Wayfarers
George Wilks	Cyclewight

0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Dizz Dyer, Jennine Gardiner (PROW), Rachel Mills(Island Roads), Iain MacLennan, Zoe Stroud (Visit Wight), Cllr Julie Jones-Evans.

1. Cycle Safety

West Midlands Police targeted drivers who passed too close to cyclists, in violation of the Highway Code. Offenders were given the opportunity to attend re-education. Mats have been produced to illustrate distances. TT has been told by Inspector Darren Ord that Hampshire Constabulary have one which will be available to the Island. See www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-37384899

2. Freshwater to Yarmouth Track closure.

A bridge on the track was being replaced by Island Roads. A temporary bridge would be provided but the track would be closed at short notice over a six week period. This notification consisted of a single poster next to the track. TT said that this was inadequate in view of the frequent events held by many organisations, and had written to Island Roads and to local contacts who he thought should be informed..

AL said Island Roads have asked us to pass on that the CROSS-NEWPORT CYCLE ROUTE will be closed overnight from 19:30 on 15th June until 06:00 on 20th June between Hurstake Road and Sea Street for carriageway works.

3. Cycling Strategy

Cyclewight is preparing a Cycle Strategy for the Island. This draws on similar documents for other local authorities. It is hoped that the IWC will adopt the document. TT circulated a summary to the meeting (see below). More information is in the Cyclewight Newsletter. This was circulated to the new Councillors after the local elections.

JB said inclusion for those with disabilities should be an important part of the strategy. TT would send a draft copy to JB for her views. TT said CycleWight hoped to send a copy of the Strategy out to interested groups for consultation by the end of June.

FORUM CONTACTS:

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4. Government Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy

Chris Gregory talked about the government plans for a Walking & Cycling Investment Strategy. This was first proposed 13 months ago and the final version is now published. Currently local authorities have been asked to bid for additional support to help them draw up their investment strategy. In the case of the Island it would 30 days of an expert's time. The government has tiers of awards for different authority sizes; the IW comes in <300,000 population. The decision if the Island has won the additional support will be later in the summer. CycleWight's strategy document may form a basis for going forward.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy>

5. Access Fund

A-to-There are assisting IWC to allocate funds of £1.3 million over 3 years for a series of projects. These aim to increase the number of journeys associated with education, work and tourism – an extension of previous projects. CG added that as electric vehicle use gathers pace there will be more of this kind of journey.

AB is managing the process for the IWC. One of the first projects that they are looking for is for exciting ideas that get people walking and cycling. Ideas which are innovative are more likely to succeed. All grants need to be 100% matched funded though this could be in the form of cash, equipment, officer time, volunteers, more or less something that has a value.

Unfortunately this fund is not for infrastructure, it is all revenue money.

<https://www.iwight.com/council/OtherServices/Sports-Development-Unit/EventsPage>

6. Wayfarers' Randonnée

Andy Newman said the Wayfarers' Randonnée had been the second most successful ever with around 2500 starters. As the floating bridge was unavailable a diversion via Newport Quay was organised. He thanked the IWC for marshalling & signing assistance to deal with this. The weather had been somewhat poor which limited the numbers, but it may be undesirable to have many more than the current level and ferry capacity is also a limit. TT pointed out the Gridiron event in the New Forest imposes a limit.

CG asked if work is carried out to understand the economic impact of the event. JB said Survey Monkey could be used to obtain information from people.

AL said that various toilets on the Round the Island Cycle Route had closed, and the Wayfarers should consider a donation to National Trust to sponsor the toilets at Newtown and at Compton Bay. Robin Lang said the Trust intend to keep open the toilets but the total cost was around £22,000 as the Compton toilets had to be emptied. There was some income from car parking but a donation would be very welcome.

7. Traffic Proposals for Newport

TT said around £9M has been allocated to IWC to alleviate traffic congestion in Newport. Cyclewight was keen to participate, and had ideas for schemes to make it easier for walkers & people on bikes, i.e. permeability.

TT said CycleWight have applied for an Awards for All Lottery grant, (since granted) which would be used to survey how to improve permeability in Newport. He understood Shanklin hoped to do the same.

VGL said that the area between the IW College & Lidl's store was prohibitive for those on foot due to lack of pavements & crossings & heavy traffic. TT said this was the area where an earlier traffic congestion survey had proposed removing pavements.

JB said Isle Access had provided an access audit of Cowes to Cowes Town Council, and had been asked to quote to Newport Council for a similar audit. They reported on obstacles and suggested where improvements were possible such as dropped kerbs. Cllr JH asked if the Cowes report was available to access. JB said it was in the gift of Cowes council.

GW asked who had responsibility for Newport traffic JH said this would be Cllr Ian Ward and officer Bill Murphy.

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7. IW Cycle Fest.

This is "A week long celebration of all things cycling, set on the spectacular Isle of Wight", from 23 September to 01 October, see <http://www.iwcyclefest.com/> . There is a full page advert in June/July Cycle, the Cycling UK magazine. The Wayfarers & Autumn Tints are arranging to co-ordinate their programmes. AB has also made an input. There appears to be little currently on the website. The organisers were circulated for this meeting.

8. Isle Access

JB said that at the end of April they had an event with bikes for people with disabilities to try. 13 bikes were hired from New Forest centre. Even more complex disabilities can be catered for by bikes from Phoenix. The day was very popular and they have been asked to repeat it on a Saturday. This will in fact take place on July 8 at Meadowland at Shide, using the facilities of Island 2000. **Helpers are need for this event:** <http://www.isleaccess.co.uk> info@isleaccess.co.uk

They also would like to participate in the launch day of the CycleFest. TT would put her in touch.

9. 20's Plenty

This has been adopted as policy by the IWC, and a report is to be produced before a final decision is made. It is unclear who is writing this report.

10. Cycle Network: Island Roads

Rachel Mills had apologised for absence but has asked us to pass on that the CROSS-NEWPORT CYCLE ROUTE will be closed from 19:30 on 15th June until 06:00 on 20th June between Hurstake Road and Sea Street for carriageway works. As of the 14th a Southern Water broken pipe has been identified and will need to be repaired before the surfacing work can continue. It was also noted that the section between the Bargemans & Sea Street will not be surfaced at this time as due to its construction a specialist sub-contractor will be required. The section from Hurstake Road to the Riverway Path is not the responsibility of Island Roads.

VGL said the route was used by motorists as a rat run at peak time, and the section by the Bargeman's was extremely dangerous to cyclists. Motorists may not be fully aware that cyclist are entitled to use the contra-flow, as signage may be inadequate and the green paint is faded to invisibility. In any case there are discontinuities in the green paint lane due to the narrowness of the road at certain places.

RE said traffic speed was a major problem and the green surface should be renewed. GW said more cycle signs on surface would help, although AB said these seem to be rather expensive.

The Forum agreed that 20mph or even 10mph. Also urgent to renew green paint even if has to be redone after highway section finally renewed.

TT to raise with Island Roads contact. ***TT***

AL to register a hazard on website <http://www.islandroads.com/23-report-it-online.html> ***AL***

11. AOB

JB asked about cycle training for younger cyclists. RE & NM said this was available from bikeability.

JH Hopes to arrange for the director of 20's Plenty to visit island.

Date of next meeting

October 2017, 1800. Venue TBC.

Summary of Cycle Strategy

SECTION 1: Introduction

SECTION 2: National and Local Policy Overview

SECTION 3: Local Priorities

SECTION 4: Improving the Cycle Network

SECTION 5: Maintenance of the Cycle Network

SECTION 6: Training for Safer Cycling

SECTION 7: Promoting cycling on the Isle of Wight

SECTION 8: Evaluation of the Cycling Strategy

SECTION 9: Proposed Development of the Cycle Network - Inter-Urban Strategic Route Maps

Principles

PRINCIPLE 1: A network of high quality routes will be completed throughout the Island, providing convenient and safe access for utility and leisure cycling. Where a desired route is currently designated as a public footpath, we will explore the opportunity to convert to a multi-user path or bridleway to permit cycling. Detailed recommendations for new and improved routes can be found in SECTION 9 of this strategy.

PRINCIPLE 2: Wherever possible measures will be provided which give people who cycle priority over motorised traffic in terms of accessibility and journey time.

PRINCIPLE 3: Cycle parking, in accordance with the Council's adopted standards, along with appropriate facilities for people who cycle, will be provided in all developments (both new build and change of use) that result in the employment of people. Secure cycle storage will be provided in all new residential developments, and, where appropriate, at railway stations and ferry terminals. The provision of Cycle Hubs in all towns will be investigated.

PRINCIPLE 4: CYCLEWight will encourage the Council to work with Island Roads and other relevant partners to ensure the regular and cycling-aware maintenance of all cycling infrastructure across the Island, and that highway alteration schemes have full regard for people who cycle.

PRINCIPLE 5:

- 1) All year 6 children will have the opportunity to participate in Level 1 and 2 Bikeability training.
- 2) The feasibility of introducing Bikeability Plus will be investigated.
- 3) All children in years 7 to 9 will have access to Level 3 training.
- 4) Adult cycle training will be available through a range of initiatives including work place travel planning.

PRINCIPLE 6: Cycle routes will fully advertised and signposted across the Island and cycle maps will be available for all routes. Digital information will be kept up-to-date, utilizing relevant new technology as well as established data sources

PRINCIPLE 7: Automatic counters will be installed throughout the cycle network to enable a detailed analysis of usage. Each new proposal will be assessed to see if an additional counter should be added to augment the data gathering process. All relevant sustainable transport data will be shared with the Council (and other relevant bodies) where possible.

PRINCIPLE 8: All proposed routes shown on the Inter-Urban Strategic Route Maps will be investigated, with a view to the costing and prioritisation of those that have a realistic prospect of being delivered. The Strategy review will facilitate the inclusion of a detailed delivery plan in the second version.

PRINCIPLE 9: Permeability reviews will be carried out for Newport first, and then all of the Island's towns. The detailed outcomes will be included in the second version of the Strategy.

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