

# Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

15 June 2016 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Alec Broome (AB)	Isle of Wight Council Sports Unit
Peter Fellows (PF)	IW AONB
Gian Giblett (GG)	Gunville Greenway
Martin Gibson (MG)	Cyclist
Chris Gregory (CG)	A-to-There Ltd
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
Rachel Mills (RM)	Island Roads
Andy Newman (AN)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
Aaron Orman (AO)	Visit IoW
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewright Chairman

## 0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Jamie Kelly, Jennine Gardiner, Nicky Metcalf, John Lee, Ross Edmunds, Dizz Dyer. Note that the full Isle of Wight Council meeting takes place tonight and councillor apologies are taken as read.

## 1. Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review (Chris Gregory)

Chris Gregory outlined the history of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, produced following consultation in 2006 and now subject to the review required by law at 10 year intervals. To be carried out via the iwight.com website, this will entail 7 or 8 questions so as to be quickly carried out via a representative sample of the general public. There will be consultation in depth of stakeholders including parish councils, cycling groups, walking groups, equestrians and other user groups. Following the consultation there will be an assessment phase to see if the current plan requires an update – he expects this will be needed.

TT asked about smaller cycling groups such as the Sunday Social. TT also brought up the list of schemes sought by Cyclewright.

RM confirmed that Island Roads would be submitting its views. Are the proposals intended to be aspirational or deliverable? She noted that items already included in adopted plans would stand an improved chance in any future funding application.

Note the plan covers footpaths, bridleways, permissive paths, and access to open spaces having right of way over them, but not slipways or the Coastal Path. CG said he is contracted by IWC to see through the review until the end of September.

<https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan-2016-Consultation>

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IWRoWIP>

## 2. Transition Program

CG continued by introducing the government's Transition Programme. Those present would be familiar with the Local Sustainable Transport Funding. The IWC phase 2 programme was written in 2012 (by RM) and its implementation ended in April of this year. Future funding for 2017-20 was announced last November, being re-branded as an Access Fund. In the meantime a slice of this funding was made

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available: the DfT announced this Transition Fund in February with an application deadline at the end of March. At the end of May it was announced which council bids were successful, and the IWC bid was one. Continuing on from the LSTF2 the objectives are to enhance 1) visitor economy & active travel 2) access to employment 3) access to education.

The first of these is run by Visit Isle of Wight, and its Travel Ambassadors. A Travel Ambassador Apprenticeship program is in hand and 250 students and job-seekers will receive training. In addition there will be promotion of the IoW as a walking & cycling destination, and there is possibility to include walking & cycling festivals here.

The Chamber of Commerce runs the Access to Employment program & seeks to encourage and facilitate walking & cycling to work. It is planned to develop the Cowes to Newport route as a Smart Cycling Corridor, and to develop a network of Cycle Hubs. Ideas to help are welcome and commercial partners with new schemes or existing schemes to expand are sought. There is a Sustainable Transport Broker Program, looking at discounted travel to job-seekers and other ideas.

The Access to Education is jointly run by Sustrans who undertake the Schools Engagement programme, and by the IWC Sports Unit who involve other sections of the community. Alec Broome noted the Isle be Active, Sky Rides & Health walks with Public Health.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/21m-green-transport-funding-to-support-job-creation-and-clean-up-air-quality>  
[www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/Transport-Policy/Island-Transport-Plan](http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/Transport-Policy/Island-Transport-Plan)

### 3. Access Funds

CG said these funds will apply to April 2017-20 and the IWC will enter a bid. Guidance will be published by DfT at the end of June but the date to apply is unknown as yet. The funding will be for capital purposes not for revenue.

TT asked if Bikeability training was to be covered in the bid. AB said TW had made an application on behalf of IW Fire & Rescue services to continue their program.

TT noted that funding for capital programs is provided through local growth funds which are accessed by Local Enterprise Partnerships, not by councils. It has been suggested that the island is under represented on the Solent LEP which is in any case very weak on sustainable transport in comparison with other LEPs, some of which have ring fenced such funds. Although the Island is struggling to get capital funding from SLEP, other opportunities for funding may arise such as Coastal Communities Fund, Discover England Fund and the Local Transport Fund.

MG said the SLEP plan leans towards a road building & heavy rail program which seems to be the direction of travel.

RM said the arrangements suit the larger authorities, and the island needs to piggy back into their plans. For example the Red Funnel expansion is part of a larger plan.

CG said the DfT would say sustainable transport is covered in plans by LEPs in the country. Solent Transport Vision document published recently had a brief reference to sustainable transport.

### 4. Sustrans Update (Megan Streb)

- Funding from DfT has still not been announced, and may not be announced until early June. This delay in timing may have a knock on effect on the Access Fund, although we'll have to wait to hear on that.
- Sustrans successfully won the contract to continue to deliver sustainable travel activities and support in the schools. In addition, the IWC Sports Unit is leading on writing School Travel Action Plans, which should help schools identify measures they can take to lead to more sustainable school runs. We're supporting them with this process.
- They are in the middle of finalising an End of Year Report, and people could send a copy to anyone interested.
- Sustrans officers are looking to work with the Isle Be Active project over the summer to support their work in getting more people cycling, as well as running some 'ditch the stabilisers' sessions as well.

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#### 4. Visit IOW: Electric Bikes & Red Squirrel Trail

Aaron said it is now possible to hire electric bikes at Newport, Yarmouth & Cowes. This is going well, especially in the last three weeks. Excellent feedback is received; such as the grandmother who could enjoy cycling on an electric bike with her grandchildren on push-bikes. GPS data is gathered from the bikes and will provide analysis of suitable routes.

#### 5. Cycle Festival (Peter Fellows)

Peter explained that he works for the IW Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. AONB does not have recreation specifically in its remit, but it does want to see people out and about enjoying the Isle of Wight. AONB has been discussing with the IWC the Access to Visitor Experience commitment which identifies an expanded series of walking and cycling festivals as an aspiration. This could be over a period of time, not necessarily as a two week burst as in the past. The Transition Fund covers the period to April 2017: there is not a vast amount but some money and some human resource.

TT said some events have happened such as "Foot out Flat out" and could be incorporated in any further Cycle Festival Plan.

VGL said there were many groups and clubs for faster cyclists on the island but not for beginners & easy riders. What was needed was Health rides, the equivalent of the Health walks. She asked if insurance would be available for this and if training would be supported for leaders for these rides. There would need to be a pool of leaders so that they could cover for each other.

PF said they were analysing the data for past events and looking at what would keep the island in the public eye. Through the Cycle Forum he asks for ideas for events to achieve these aims.

He said there had been 4-5000 participating in the Cycling festival and 12-15000 in the Walking Festival.

MG said obstacles to events are promotion & insurance. PF said he thought this could be provided.

AB said the other option for insurance cover is to become an official ride leader. Training can be provided through British Cycling. It is necessary to become a member of British Cycling to be covered by this insurance. CG said they are looking at 15-20 rides per year, led by trained leaders.

VGL had prepared a list of current cycling organisations which she would pass to IW Libraries. She added she would participate to organise rides provided the effort was shared.

#### 6. Parking Policy (Tim Thorne)

There is an IWC consultation on Parking Policy: [www.iwight.com/consultations/](http://www.iwight.com/consultations/) Cyclewight consider there should be secure parking for bikes in new developments. Provision of Secure Cycle Storage is also an aspiration for Cycle Hubs as part of the Travel Transition bid.

Cyclists object to cycle racks installed as an afterthought at a remote part of a car park where damage or theft is less obvious.

It is possible to install secure storage for six bikes in the spaces required by one car: There is a scheme where residents pay £30 per year for secure parking:

<https://www.eta.co.uk/2016/05/17/cyclehoop-your-street/>

VGL said parking for disabled motorists should be given higher priority.

#### 7. Improvements to Highway suggestions: Way Forward?

TT circulated Cyclewight's latest list of Highway Improvements. This had previously been sent to the IWC and to Island Roads but had not apparently reached the right authority. TT added he is shortly to meet Councillor John Medland. AL added that Councillor Paul Fuller has acknowledged the suggestions and will provide a response.

RM confirmed that Island Roads operates to its Private Finance Initiative contract which covers existing schemes on a like for like basis. There is a Network Integrity and Safety Register which compiles a list of problems which arise. New Items are considered by them for feasibility and their views passed to the council. They can then be costed, whether by Island Roads or anyone else, and it will be up to the

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council to consider for funding.

There was some discussion about the item to amend No Entry sign at Newport, Little London where there is a cycle contra-flow. This is seen as urgent.

Post-Meeting #1 Jennine Gardiner IWC PROW has said a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be required for this. The PFI contract management team (CMT) would have to consult with Island Roads before reaching a decision.

Post-meeting #2 Cyclewright has heard directly from Island Roads (via Ian Middleton) that the suggestions for Highway Improvements have been logged onto the Network Integrity Register as Enquiry Ref:16080263 - Cycle Improvements.

## **8. Newport Multi-Use path (Gian Giblett)**

The proposed route stretches from the centre of Newport to the outskirts of the urban area on Gunville. It would enable local people to safely access residential areas, schools, shops and recreational areas while avoiding heavy traffic. GG noted that the route involves Christ the King school, the subject of a current planning application. Provision for the route is not included on plans. Please write to councillors asking for an easy route going west from central Newport. This needs a strip on the north edge of the site to be allocated for the purpose. Also please see planning application at [iwight.com/planning](http://iwight.com/planning).

RM asked if the school draws pupils from the local area or from further afield. It is thought about 1/3 of pupils are local. AN asked what type of crossing would be provided at Wellington Road. GG said the crossing would be light controlled with a raised table, which RM said is called a Pegasus crossing.

## **9. AOB**

# A Cycling Challenge, presented by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Charitable Association (IOWDECA), is managed by Alec Broome's IWC Sport Unit. There are Bronze (32km), Silver (32km), and Gold (52km) routes which can be found on Facebook. More info from [iowdeca2015@gmail.com](mailto:iowdeca2015@gmail.com) or Duke of Edinburgh Award Cycle Challenge, County Hall, High Street, Newport, IW PO30 1UD.

# 2900 cyclists participated in the Wayfarers' Randonnée, held on Sunday 1 May, Andy Newman said. This was the largest number ever. 60-70% come from the mainland to do the ride.

## **Date of next meeting**

..... October 2016, 1800,

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