

# Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

18 October 2016 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Will Ainslie (WA)	Sustrans
Sue Bailey (SB)	Recycle: Bikes for Africa
Jo Brockhouse (JoB)	West Wight Wheelers
Jan Brookes (JaB)	Isle Access
Steve Chiverton (SC)	Sunday Social
Diz Dyer (DD)	IW Advanced Motorists & cyclist
Ross Edmunds (RE)	Sustrans
Jennine Gardiner (JG)	IWC Right of Way
Martin Gibson (MG)	Cyclist
Chris Gregory (CG)	A-to-There Ltd
Cllr John Hobart (JH)	IWC
Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (JJE)	IWC
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
John Lee (JL)	Cyclist
Tricia Merrifield (TM)	IOW Bridleways Group
Andy Newman (AN)	Wayfarers, Cyclewight
Sandra Norris (SN)	Wight Wanders
Rob Packham (RP)	West Wight Wheelers
Philip Payne (PP)	GP Sports
Tom Ransom (TR)	Sustrans
Malcolm Ross (MR)	Cyclewight
Alan Sheath (AS)	Al's Bikes
Gareth Shilton (GS)	GP Sports
Justin Steele (JS)	Adrians Bike Shop
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chairman & Wayfarers
Tracey Webb (TW)	IW Fire & Rescue Service
Matthew Whittaker (MW)	Cyclewight
George Wilks (GW)	Cyclewight

## 0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Claire (Route57cycles), Alec Broome (IWC Sports Unit), Rachel Mills (Island Roads), John Allen (Wight Cycle Hire), Cllr John Medland, Val Lawson.

## 1. Transition Funding

Chris Gregory, of A-to-There, is a consultant to IWC, and is managing the delivery of successful bids. Currently the projects being delivered by three teams are 1) Promoting sustainable tourism - Visit Isle of Wight 2) Encourage access to employment, transport to interviews etc. -Sustrans & Chamber of Commerce – 3) Access to education – Sustrans. Working with 48 schools. Years 8-9 age 15-16. A “Mode

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Shift" is sought to walking & cycling which cuts use of private cars; this is coming about.

Current funding is revenue only, ending in March 2017. IWC is applying for funding into 2017 -20. There could be further funding via Solent Enterprise Partnership,

Diz Dyer said that while education for cyclists is included, there seems not to be funding to educate car drivers to share the road with cyclists. Can this be included in schemes funded?

CG responded that funding is given for carbon reduction and economic growth as a primary target, and transport and the safety thereof is a secondary objective. Tracey Webb said she is Road Safety Officer for the Isle of Wight, and the focus of safety training is determined in accordance with accident data. TW said she has access to police data tracking deaths & injuries. The causes but not necessarily the blame for an accident or collision are tracked. She can provide some access to this data but it is not available online.

Martin Gibson said cluster maps could indicate black spots. Tricia Merrifield said that blood on the road is necessary before action is taken. She said that horse riders are wearing headcams to capture video of incidents, and the Rural Policing team will follow up. The battery life could be a problem with this equipment.

AL asked CG about the funding application by the Local Enterprise Partnership. Chris said the government's Access Fund is intended to support cycling and walking infrastructure. There is currently a task force for the Island gathering evidence for potential schemes,

TT noted that Cyclewight is to make a presentation to this task force on November 11, and they will put forward a Cycling Policy & Strategy for the Isle of Wight. Such a strategy must be part of any infrastructure bid. There is no longer an IWC officer linked to cycling or allocated to this task.

## 2. Cycling Festival

TT said the cycling festival did not happen this year. However GP Sport were considering future possibilities, and he introduced Phil Payne.

Phil said their draft plan for a Cycle Festival in 2017 was to hold a series of events over two weekends and the intervening week. The last week of September was proposed, and the launch venue could be Northwood House, although these plans were not cast in stone. A different period could be chosen in 2018. The proposals had been discussed with other organisations. On the Saturday there would be ride-outs from the launch venue and on the Sunday a proper ride would be staged. There could be local food, a bar, and other aspects of the Island would be promoted. With local clubs and organisations there would be rides each weekday. The second weekend would move to a different location, which could be at Shorewell Mountain Bike centre. It was possible that Wessex CX league round could be held, with a party in the evening. A Seven Hills Killer type event might be arranged.

A Isle of Wight Cycling Festival Ltd to cover insurance. Events would need cooperation from cycling clubs, especially for rides in the week. Together there would be a solid festival. In summary:

Small, compact, action packed, short in time, his group do the marketing, cooperation from clubs.

The IW Cycling Festival website <http://www.sunseaandcycling.com/> is well known and established. They hope to negotiate with IWC Sports Unit (Alec Broome) to use it. Jan Brookes said the website was not easy to use for those with poor vision and asked if this could be remedied.

Steve Chiverton said evening rides would be good and their clubs would certainly participate. MW asked if rides would be free. PP said no, there would be a levy of £2-3 as for any British Cycling event. The insurance terms would also determine whether safety qualified ride leaders were required.

PP added that they have been approached by charities who could participate. He said the Hospice might tie in with one event or with the whole festival. Justin Steele said that we could have many non-regular cyclists in this event. Walk the Wight is massive. Also while a combination of commercial & voluntary sectors was good there could be questions asked about profits in the future. PP said that GP Sport were not in it to make a fortune.

Malcolm Ross said Ryde Town Council might support the festival if a ride from there was arranged.

Jan Brookes said her Community Interest Company Isle Access would like to be involved. They are a

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not-for-profit community interest company, who aim to provide bikes to be used or shared by people who need help, She added that they will hold an open day at the Riverside in March.

The timing of the festival was discussed. JS suggested that the Wayfarers Randonnée brought many cyclists to the Island for the early May holiday, so then would a good time to hold the festival. PP said that the walking festival was already scheduled for late May 2017 and the events would conflict. Also the offer to stage the Wessex CX Race applied to September. Sandy Norris thought that hotels would like September when they look for more visitors.

Funding was discussed. PP said Northwood House was very competitively priced as a venue. If there was a prospect of growth then support would come. TR asked if Visit IW had been approached for support. PP confirmed they were interested. Councillor John Hobart said the IWC were supporting the IW Walking Festival, and suggested approaching David Thornton about the Cycling Festival.

Will Ainslie bemoaned shortage of funding for new cycling infrastructure. He wanted a Sustrans for the IW, which for example could purchase bits of land. Could it be an offshoot of Cyclewright? One suggestion is that cycle businesses could charge a small levy on customers on bike hire to fund such efforts.

Councillor Julie Jones-Evans said she was happy to give her support

AN noted the Wayfarers Randonnée will be on 30 April 2017.

### **3. Road Safety & 20mph limit conference**

A conference to promote 20mph limits on the Island had been organised by Councilor Julie Jones-Evans. She said her electorate complain about cars coming through residential areas at inappropriate speeds. She had been interested for 4 years in the subject. Rod King MBE came to address the conference – he is the founder & campaign director of 20s Plenty [www.20splenty.org](http://www.20splenty.org). Relevant people were invited including Integrated health systems. The conference heard that regulations have been changed recently to relax requirements for sign, traffic calming and lighting. Hence the schemes were cheaper to introduce. Many local authorities on the mainland have introduced 20 limits. Research shows that residents have a perception of greater safety. It was hoped that 20mph in urban residential areas and in villages would become the default.

A motion would go before full council the next day (19 October) to introduce 20mph limits more widely on the Island, and people should ask their councillor to support this.

TT said that Portsmouth introduced widespread 20mph limits some time ago, and research found that although in some places there was little reduction in traffic speed 40% of residents felt safer.

JS said he knew villages who had taken it upon themselves to campaign for 20mph limits. The councils then have to take notice. JJE said campaigning material were available.

DD asked if there were specific criteria to determine the location of restrictions. JJE said no, the political will must come from the grass roots, not be imposed from the top down.

Cllr John Hobart said there should be more Green Lanes on the Island with speed restrictions. Sandy Lane for example was a narrow winding lane where the national speed limit applied.

Tracey Webb, Road Safety Officer for the Isle of Wight, said they explained to drivers that their license may not be endorsed when caught exceeding the speed limit, but if involved in an accident then the first question will be about their speed.

JS asked if car manufacturers could be encouraged to install speed limiters in cars.

It was noted that some of the conference was videoed, and there might be a follow up meeting.

TT gave congratulations to Cllr Julie Jones-Evans.

### **4. Sustrans Conference (Tom Ransom)**

TR is a Sustrans Schools Officer on the Island. He attended the Sustrans conference in Wolverhampton, and presented some ideas that came out of it. There were lightning talks, case studies and workshops. He showed slides from the Community Street Design workshop where one idea was to incorporate large

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plastic leaves into the road surface to convey shared used perception. TR has made contact with the Sustrans Head of Design/Engineering in the south, who would be willing to come to the IW.

Ross Edmunds, also a Sustrans Schools Officer, said Sustrans have gained engineering contracts from large firms due to their expertise. He thought many projects would be possible here if access funding came through.

WA said the IWC has an annual capital allocation and it would be good to know how it is spent or if some goes back to the MoT. TW said that the IWC Anthony Cook is in overall control of expenditure, not Island Roads.

TT said short timescales apply when funds become available. Schemes need to be ready to go, as far as possible. Do you have something in mind? MW said we need proposals ready for the 11 November presentation to the bids task force. TT also said that Chichester have obtained a lot of 106 money to finance 20mph schemes, and we should achieve more here.

Cllr JJE said the cross-Newport section of the cycle track was a great improvement for cycling but she would have liked to see cyclists encouraged to visit central Newport.

JB said cycle track access needs to be improved for those with poor sight or balance. Would the Cycle Forum partner with IsleAccess on a project to carry out improvements? TT accepted the need to improve access. In fact we should talk about multi-use paths, which is what they are, not cycle tracks.

JS said that there should be 20mph limits applied where a national cycle route crosses a main road.

#### **4. AOB**

# Planning Applications: could information go on Facebook? It is hoped so.

# Gunville Greenway: Cllr John Hobart asked for an update. TT said some more land opposite the High School was being sold: he hoped provision for a cycle route would be included here. However the direct route which had been proposed was stymied by lack of cooperation from those who controlled a piece of land. TR gave an update on this: as Sustrans Schools Officer and along with a Teacher Champion a team of pupils have prepared the case for improvements in routes to their school in Newport. There has been a presentation to some school governors, and more presentations are planned. Cllr Julie Jones-Evans said to write to Cllr Julie Baker-Smith who is on planning committee. A "constraint" may be added to planning approval to ensure multi-use access.

# Cyclewright AGM is on Friday 18 November in Carisbrooke Village Hall

#### **Date of next meeting**

..... February 2017, 1800,

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