

# Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

19 June 2019 @ 6pm

Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport PO30 2QR.

Present:

Will Ainslie (WA)	People Powered CIC
Jan Brookes (JB)	Isle Access
Alec Broome (AB)	IWC Sports unit
Mark Earp (MLE)	IWC Local Access Forum chair.
Ross Edmunds (RE)	Wight Cycle Training
Chris Gregory (CG)	A-To-There
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Tricia Merrifield (TM)	IOW Bridleways, BHS, LAF.
Andy Newman (AN)	Cycleisland CIC, Wayfarers, Cyclewight
Sandra Norris (SN)	Wight Walks
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chair, Wayfarers

## 0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Steve Ashman (Island Roads), Jennine Gardiner (PROW), Nicola Rogers (Visit Isle of Wight), Kevin Ansell (RouteFifty7), Matt Whittaker, Martin Gibson, Matt Townsend, Cameron Gould & Sam Hodgson (IW Mountain Bike Centre).

## 1. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

TT said work by SSE on the Cowes Newport Cycle Track has been responsible for its closure since April, although it had been opened on a temporary basis for the Randonnee & other holiday weekends. The detour was long, steep, so a major inconvenience to visitors during the tourism season. Signing was inaccurate and was not changed when the errors were identified by Cyclewight members. CW did write to Island Roads but received no reply.

The Newport to Sandown cycletrack will be closed for 10 weeks from September. We have written to those listed as contacts but again no reply. TT added that scaffold bridges have been in place in the past but it looks as if this will not be provided this time.\* *A reply has now been received though no information on diversions or signage.*

Chris Gregory said that when the track was opened for half term the workmen were there, in which case why could it not be open at other times?

There was discussion about whom we should contact at IWC. TT said Dave Evans at IWC has now become Strategic Manager Roads and Highways. It was said that communication and some logistical issues seems to be poor on occasions from IR.

## 2. St Mary's Junction

TT said that Cyclewight submitted a seven page critique of the proposals with input from an expert with experience of schemes elsewhere. Our suggestions have seen little response.

AL said that the Local Access Forum has highlighted that the housing developments at Parkhurst will create the need and the opportunity for sustainable transport network in parallel with road development. Mark Earp confirmed this and added that the LAF thinks a new crossing of the Medina could be money better spent. MLE added that an Association of British Insurers observer thinks that the standard of driving is the problem rather than the junction layout in Newport.

Those present were in the dark about the status of the St Mary's Junction scheme. There was more

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discussion about who to contact. TT agreed to write to the David Evans at IWC for information about St Mary's Junction and about the cycle track closures.

It is felt that the IWC is not an intelligent client able to assess costs and benefit. The cost was £7000 to move a bus stop at Shalfleet 1.5m.

### 3. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

The last Cycle Forum was attended by Lee Matthews who has overall responsibility. Chris Gregory has some oversight of the cycling aspects of the LCWIP. He said that stage 4 is in preparation. A cycling audit was undertaken in March, April & May. Costing has been reviewed, draft proposals submitted for evaluation, and it is hoped these will be implemented in the autumn provided DfT makes funds available for capital investment. CG added there is now a head of steam for this.

WA noted that People Powered have now performed audits of walking permeability at Newport, Ryde and Cowes, and have identified utilitarian routes and means of improvement such as raised tables.

Tricia Merrifield said the IWC is still Highways Authority and should do more, rather than just leave to Island Roads. TT said more consultation of users is needed. MLE said the Hampshire Local Authority prior to five new developments asked users including cycling groups and equestrians what improvements were needed e.g. junction moves.

CG said the LCWIP aims for transformational change, The government has set ambitious targets and will require the results to be verified. The work by People Powered (WA & MG) is about achieving this.

### 4. Wheels for All.

Jan Brookes said Island Roads provided funding to Isle-Access for accessible cycling machines. Additional funding has come from Wight-bay. The cycles were demonstrated at IW Wheels for All Accessible Access Day, which in March, which showed how popular they are.

The new machines will be delivered on 30 July, along with helmets, straps, handgrips and other accessories. On 31 July there will be a day of training about fitting bikes to users. **Volunteers are required to undergo this training and Jan requests people to contact her: [Info@isleaccess.co.uk](mailto:Info@isleaccess.co.uk)**

**Wonderfest from 1-4 August** at Combley Farm, Downend (near Robin Hill) is when the bikes will be available.

The machines can be transported by hired van, to events such as festivals where they will be made available. The other issue to be resolved is where to store them – a large shed would be ideal. Suggestions were made – to be followed up.

A fundraising event will take place at Tesco at the end of September when teams will compete on a static bike kit.

### 5. Cargo Bike Scheme

CG said funds up to £44k will be available soon for electric cargo bikes in the Isle of Wight. Applications are being evaluated next week.

### 6. Paths for All

TT & WA said the report has been finished and will be available soon. 10 feasible routes have been identified. Ramblers & Bridleways Group will be appraised of this & we can send copies to them now. People Powered did most of the work with assistance from Cyclewight members.

CG said it is important that there is a real outcome because of the way this has been funded.

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## 7. Reports & AOB

# Andy Newman reported for the Cycleisland CIC that the Randonnee on 5 May 2019 was 10% up on any previous year. They estimate 70% come from the mainland for the event & many stay for the weekend. There were issues with traffic conflict. The miles cycled are 250,000 so perhaps this is to be expected. It is expected there will be a 2020 Randonnee on Sunday 3 May. However the Bank Holiday will be on Friday 8 May, which could mean fewer cyclists will stay for the weekend.

AN said money was raised for charity by riders, as well as by the school associations who provide food & drinks at checkpoints. WA said there were no road closures although the event attracted many visitors. He suggested that Cycleisland could obtain PR support from Visit Isle of Wight or other source. AN said they made contact with media on their own behalf, but could consider this.

# The Junior Cycling Club is organised by Alec Broome, who coaches junior cyclists and has help from parents to organise. They use car parks in Ryde and in winter they use the Go-cart track. It could be possible to use the Wheels for All bikes when they become available.

# Ross Edmunds said Wight Cycle Training provide cycle training in schools. In March they held an Active Travel Week involving all but two of the island's schools and 17500 schoolchild interactions. Via classroom recording the proportion walking, cycling, scootering or skateboarding to school rose from 61% to 69% in that week and settled at 65% in the longer term. In the subsequent 3 months 16 schools use Wight Cycle training on a more or less regular basis.

# TT said IWC has launched a consultation on the reinstatement of Undercliff Drive to vehicular traffic. It is proposed to produce a design at a cost of £200,000. It was noted that the route is available to walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and could be used by Wheels for All. The consultation runs from 14 June to 26 July. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/UndercliffDriveConsultation2019>

# TT asked if Bikeability cycle training is being funded? AB said funding is to be in place till March 2020. RE said he attended the Bikeability conference in Herefordshire. The message is that Bikeability will be continue to be funded but with tighter controls on its delivery which will be monitored by external quality control. This is in line with standards for other highways training.

# Mark Earp commented that the Red Funnel cycle facility is excellent and well used, being full by 915. There did seem to be some unused and abandoned bikes however. MLE added that a scheme to allow 6 bikes on the 7-8 am service seems to have died the death. *Post-Meeting: we have heard from Red Funnel management that they do monitor abandoned bikes and take action.*

# MLE has met with Bob Seely MP and has discussed Island Line trains with him. The Haven Street Steam Railway will be given permission to run their trains to Ryde St Johns Rd station. The third rail is to remain.

# AL said he hoped that the possible route from Yarbridge to Carpenters Road via B69, B1, B2, and bridleway B75 plus new alignment east of the rail line at Brading Station could be provided. TT said South Western Railways Customer & Communities Improvement Fund will be launched and should be approached with the proposals.

# JB said para-athlete Laura Curwood has achieved her second award.

# WA said an event held at County Show Ground known as Isle of Wight takeover had been connected to subsequent dangerous driving on island roads. TT confirmed reports of racing speeds and cyclists being endangered.

# IW Mountain Bike Centre: video of the superb mountain bike circuit was shown.

Date of next meeting

October 2019

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