

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

21 February 2019 @ 6pm

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

Present:

Steve Ashman (SA)	Island Roads
Jan Brookes (JB)	Isle Access
Jennine Gardiner (JG)	IWC PROW
Martin Gibson (MG)	People Powered CIC
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
David Marsh (DM)	Island Roads
Lee Matthews (LM)	Isle of Wight Council
Andy Newman (AN)	Cyclewright & Wayfarers
Tanja Rebel (TR)	Sustainable Transport
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewright Chair, Wayfarers
Mick Watts (MW)	Cyclewright

0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Mark Earp (LAF chair), Cllr John Medland, Matt Whittaker, Tricia Merrifield (TM) (Bridleways Group), Chris Gregory (A-to-there), Nicola Rogers (Visit Isle of Wight), Laura Curwood, George Wilks (GW), Steve Archer, Kevin Burton (Island Roads).

1. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Lee Matthews introduced the LCWIP. The DfT supported consultancy for a walking & cycling strategy on the Isle of Wight. There is a particular focus on two key areas; Newport and Ryde. Lee said there were four phases of the programme:

Key strategy, identify walking & cycling routes.

Determine gaps in route interconnections and improvements in existing routes, and prioritise these.

Map onto GIS

Include useable outlines in strategy documents.

In the Newport area routes have already been identified, along with times when key work can be implemented. The Ryde area is now getting up to speed, and it is hoped to have details by end of March. Prioritisation will be considered in April-May, and proposals should be put to IWC members by mid-summer. The DfT supported 30 days of input, of which one third has been used so far. The end point is for a DfT approved plan of work for Newport & Ryde. Further improvement in the route between the towns is envisaged later.

JB asked if the plans catered for adapted bikes which are much wider. Other parts of the country provide for Accessible Cycling. Also, there is a need for suitable parking at cycle hubs. JB said that consideration is needed also for assistance dogs.

LM replied that there is a bit of work to do to establish where changes are needed. DM said that Island Roads base their designs on documents relating to trunk roads, but adapt to local roads and situations. TT said evidence is needed for developers so that planning approvals have 106 money attached and obtained.

JB said accessibility planning needs to join up with the tourism policy on the island.

LM went on to say that the IWC Sustainable Transport Access Fund has invited bids for grants of up to £10,000 for projects which boost sustainable transport. 15 applications have been received & will be

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considered in early March.

The Regeneration Plan, the Island Plan, the various area plans, the Regional Forum, all work as part of an overall strategy. The Isle of Wight Council has just engaged a Neighbourhood Director, Colin Rowland, who has a highways background working with various local authorities.

TR commented on width of lanes & poor lighting.

2. Isle Access Cycle Fund

TT said that Cyclewright together with People Powered Community Interest Company, have worked to identify footpaths which could be upgraded to become multi-user paths. Where improvements or new off-road links whether are possible these could lead to change of designation. This could be statutory or permissive. LM asked if there were many situations where there was a bridleway then footpath then bridleway existing and hence stopping a strategic route from occurring? TT said not many but there are some. TT asked MG if he is able to make a report, but this is not ready although will be soon.

JB said she had been approached by Niton & Whitwell Parish Councils about an unsurfaced path which is a problem for those with difficulty in walking or using a wheelchair. The location is alongside the church in Whitwell, off Kemming Road. A surface like that at Quarr Abbey would be ideal. JG said that IWC PROW have all the details and will follow up once they have the details of the meeting between JB & the parish council.

3. Island Roads

Steve Ashman said that the St Mary's Roundabout Improvement scheme has been postponed while proposals are being reviewed & validated by independent consultants. Hence there is no instruction to proceed to Island Roads, and no date fixed.

After the last Cycle Forum a meeting took place between Island Roads including himself, DM and & Cyclewright members including MG & George Wilks. Possible widening of footway on the St Mary's side, and additional connection into the industrial estate had been considered, but were impractical within existing constraints. A crossing upgrade to a Toucan crossing could also be considered subject to constraints. Also under consideration is an amendment which carries through a shared use path from the bus lay-by at the top of Hunny Hill to the crossing (subway); Island Roads have drawn this up and believe that it will be incorporated into their instructions. DM added that Island Roads had obtained books & documents referenced in the Cyclewright submission which it will take into consideration in this & future designs. They hope to achieve 3m width but may go down to 2.5m. SA said it must be recognised that they are working with constraints.

TT emphasised how important it is to involve all users from the start of the design process. TR asked if trees would be removed and if roundabout planting would be replaced? SA said trees would go but would be replaced if possible.

SA said while surfacing is currently suspended during winter, surfacing & overnight road closures will resume soon. Fishbourne Lane re-surfacing is in discussion and planning, & upgrade is planned for the back end of year.

The cycle track at Herringford has re-opened this week after the board-walk has been replaced by a wider built track. AN & MW had been to the track opening, and said the surface at present was unsatisfactory. This appeared to be due wet conditions & to clay being dug up. Note that the widening and surfacing was carried out in order to allow horses & cycles to pass safely.

4. Round the Island Signage.

It had been proposed to re-route the Randonnée along the Undercliff. However as confirmed by AN the Randonnée route would continue to be along Whitwell Road, where there is a checkpoint at the rugby club.

However with the involvement of Visit Isle of Wight and Garry Stretch from IWC it was agreed at a meeting at Island Roads that the Undercliff route would be signed, as a traffic-free alternative to the current round the island cycle route. The signs would be colour coded to aid navigation and avoid confusion. TT did raise the point that it is very difficult to understand the various roles of the members of

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the council's highway team. IWC have approval from DfT for a new road sign indicating a leisure route, so the plan could go ahead. TR said wildlife must be considered.

5. Island Planning Strategy Comments

The deadline is on Monday 25 February. TT said the comment process could involved paragraph by paragraph entries or it was possible to email comments to the address on the home page. JB said online entry make be a problem with those who are unsighted or not on social media. MG said it is important to express support for items such as cycleways, rather than merely expressing objections.

6. Randonnée 2019

The IOW Randonnee is on Sunday 5 May. Entry by registration at :

<https://www.cycleisland.co.uk/randonnee/online-registration>

AN said the Wayfarers Cycle Touring Club have decided to register the event as a separate legal entity, and have created the Cycleisland Community Interest Company ("Cycleisland CIC") company number 1610015. Cycleisland CIC has limited liability, along with insurance due to affiliation with Cycling UK (CTC). Community Interest Companies are "designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good". This step has been taken after consulting the Charity Commissioner and taking the views of members of the Wayfarers who volunteer with the event. The objectivess of Cycleisland CIC are to:

1 promote community participation in health and recreation and in particular cycling and cycling related activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight and its visitors;

2 raise funds for donation to charities and other organisations with charitable purposes which promote and/or benefit the health, recreation (and in particular cycling) and welfare of inhabitants of the Isle of Wight and its visitors."

In the past beneficiaries have been Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, and Cyclewight.

7. Reports: Bridleways Group

It was reported from TM for the Bridleways Group that parts of the Newport to Sandown cycle route are now shared use with equestrian and cycling. However the bridge at Alverstone is unsuitable for dual use, as it is rather narrow. It is hoped that Island Roads can be contracted to build a replacement, and that Cyclewight will support this.

It is also reported by the Bridleways Group that they wish to designate a path to become a bridleway. This is near the Hermitage, who oppose this upgrade, while the Bridleways group believe that the section has been used for 20 year by horse riders and cyclists. It is requested for people to complete the necessary form and send it to the Bridleways Group. CycleWight do hold some of the necessary forms.

8. Report: Isle Access,

Island Roads have agreed to provide funding to Isle-Access for four accessible cycling machines. These cycles will be launched at IW Wheels for All Accessible Access Day, which is on 16 March from 10am-3pm & takes place at the Island Riding Centre, Staplers, PO30 2NB

Warrington Bikes, the company who supply the machines will be present. In addition there will be archery & a climbing wall, food & drink, horse riding and more. For more information or to book email info@isleaccess.co.uk or see <https://isleaccess.co.uk/>

JB also said that a local para-athlete Laura Curwood is seeking sponsorship as she need an expensive machine with special wheels and custom tyres.

9. AOB

MW asked when the bridge at Newport Quay to the Riverside Centre would be repaired. SA said the work would commence within the next month or so.

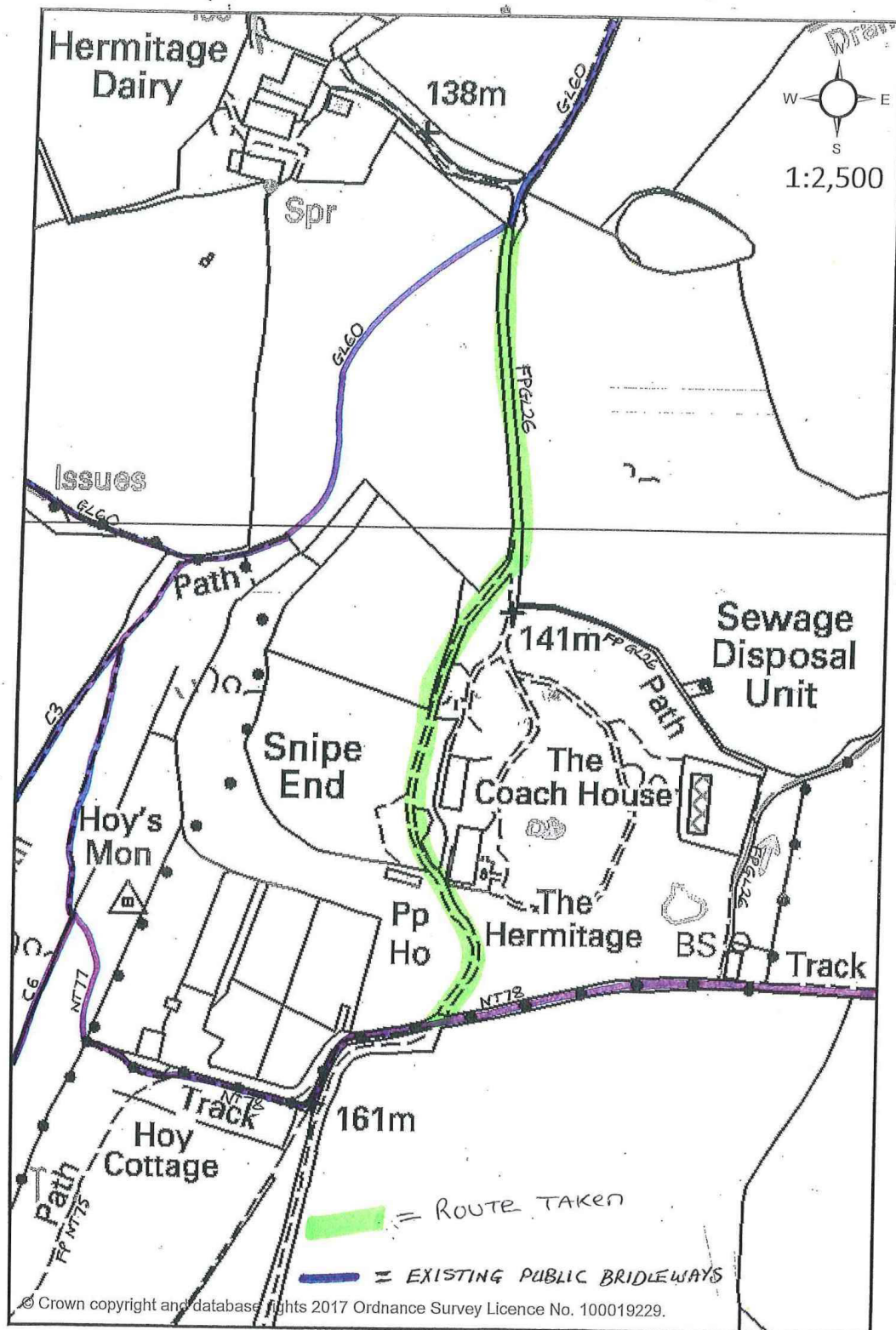
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TR said on 2 March there will be a Greener Planet March to County Hall, followed by a Rebellion Picnic. There will also be a showing at 4pm at the Riverside Centre of the film TAWAI, A voice from the forest, made by Bruce Parry and dealing with tribes in Borneo and the Amazon (www.tawai.earth).

Date of next meeting

June 2019



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