

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

21 June 2018 @ 6pm Wendes Hall (Scout Group), Newport, PO30 1AE

Present:

Steve Ashman (SA)	Island Roads
Jan Brookes (JB)	Isle Access
Kevin Burton (KB)	Island Roads
Cameron Gould (CG)	IOW MTB Centre
Chris Gregory (CG)	A-To-There
Sam Hodgson (SH)	IOW MTB Centre
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Nicky Metcalf (NM)	Wight Cycle Training
Philip Payne (PP)	GP Sport / IW Cycle Festival
Garaeth Shilton (GS)	GP Sport / IW Cycle Festival
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chair, Wayfarers
Matt Townsend (MT)	IOW MTB Centre
Dave Wright {DW}	Spy Velo / IW Cycle Festival

0. Introduction

Apologies were received from Martin Gibson, Sandie Norris, Alec Broom, Matt Whittaker, Ross Edmunds, Jennine Gardner, Cllr John Medland.

1. Access Fund

On behalf of the IWC Chris Gregory manages the IWC Access Fund which runs in three 1 year segments until 2020. The project works with Visit Isle of Wight, and addresses 1) Visitors to the IoW. 2) Employment on the Island. 3) Education & Schools.

Objectives to save car miles by funding 700 bus days have been successful and will continue next year. The results are subject to monitoring and the DfT is an interested party in the research report to follow. In conjunction with job centres loans are provided to purchase bikes and cycle training which promotes confidence. In conjunction with 20 local employers workplace travel plans are in place. In conjunction with Wight Cycle Training (Nicky Metcalf & Ross Edmunds) sustainable transport training is delivered into schools.

The Sustainable Transport Grant Innovation Grant Fund awards up to £10000 for schemes. Eighteen Applications for this year have been received and are under consideration.

2. Island Roads

Steve Ashman said Island Roads are engaged in a 7 year highways upgrade period which ends in 2019. After this they will run the PFI contract to maintain the highways over the remainder of the 25 years, with a contract which is somewhat complicated in terms of their exact responsibilities. He apologised for absence of a representative at some past meetings, and said Island Roads will do its best to work with Cyclewight.

Dave Wright asked what responsibility Island Roads have for cutting back along cycle tracks. Kevin Burton responded that they are responsible for the metalled track plus 1 metre either side. VGL asked if overhanging vegetation at the corner by Vestas at the foot of Stag Lane can be cut down to forestall an accident?

TT raised the issue of the Bridge at Quay, which is currently closed for vehicles but open for pedestrians. There have been complaints that cyclists do not dismount. A temporary vehicle bridge is in place for the duration of the Isle of Wight Pop Festival at Seaclose, but will be removed. KB said that work on a

FORUM CONTACTS:

A.Lawson (minutes) alec.lawson@virgin.net
T.Thorne (Cyclewight) cyclewight@gmail.com
A.Newman (Wayfarers) ANewman850@aol.com

permanent structure will be commenced in late August. This will allow passage for bikes.

AL said the Medina path between the Folly Inn and Island Harbour had been re-opened on 20 June by construction of a bridge structure by Island Roads. This was confirmed.

Newport Traffic scheme including St Mary's Roundabout was discussed. KB said that consultation replies were critical and there was no overall consensus, although most accepted something needed to be done. It was likely that an amended scheme will be published before implemented. There is to be a consultant's report to IWC on September 10, to which Island Roads have made a contribution.

JB suggested that the original designers did not consult with or take into account the views of local residents. In reply KB said there had been no applicants for a job advert for a design engineer, and that he had personally visited the owners of the house on the corner to seek their views.

SA affirmed the desire of Island Roads to share warnings of roadworks, particularly where cycling is affected. KB said work on Wellow Main Road would commence before the end of the month, which could lead to more traffic on Wellow Top Road which is used by cyclists. Also Arctic Road work is scheduled for 16 July for 3 days; this would affect cyclist coming from the Cowes Newport cycle track. There would also be work on Newport Road, Cowes, at the Racecourse roundabout and in Forest Road. These works would take place at night and in any case would affect cyclists less. All this information is available online.

DW asked about possible work on the Military Road. This could take place late in the year. SH said there is a very rough surface on the road at Moons Hill going toward the Highdown Inn.

There was discussion about the possible re-instatement of the Undercliff Road. This is closed to vehicles but provides a route attractive to walkers & cyclists. On the other hand press reports quote a university study which claims there is a high cost to local businesses due to the road being closed. SH said there are accidents at St Lawrence Shute caused by difficult access. KB confirmed that IR knew nothing of the proposals of the engineering solution to the construction of a new road.

3. IW Cycle Fest.

Philip Payne outlined plans for the IW Cycle Festival which will have 35 events across all disciplines. He said the website is now live: <http://www.iwcyclefest.com>. For the opening weekend on the 25-26 August a village & track will be set up in the field by Arreton Barns weekend. A Cycle Isle Trax Kids Cup will be held in two rounds over Saturday & Sunday. Coaching events will be held and a bike jumble on the Sunday. The programme will continue all week and the closing weekend will centre on Goddards Brewery at Barnsley Farm with a "Retro Ride". The "Hills Killer" event will be repeated having been successful last year. 80% of rides will be free. However Visit Isle of Wight were of little assistance last year and are not expected to be involved this year. Sponsorship is in place to help make the festival viable.

VGL said cyclists might have trouble finding the Arreton Barns location and getting there safely. TT said a temporary 30 mph limit could be sought for roads in the vicinity. PP said there would be a map on the website and the site would be family friendly and would remain open into the evening.

Nicky Metcalf & Sam Hodgson discussed cycle coaching which would be on hand for children. Balance bikes are available for learners. SH said that camps weeks are run in the USA for cycling, mountain biking and skateboarding which is a model to copy.

Jan Brooks said she was organising Mobility Bike days, one of which would be in the week of the festival, probably at Newport Quay. This involves bringing special bikes to the island from the owners in the New Forest. This is not cheap and she hopes to raise funds for Isle Access to purchase its own bikes. PP said fundraising for this purpose could take place during the Cycle Festival. NM said she and others have qualifications which cover training disabled cyclists.

David Wright of Spy Vélo based in Cowes will be one of the event sponsors. He said that promotion will be vital to ensure its success.

4. Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre.

The IW Mountain Bike Centre is at Cheverton Farm which has 900 acres of land giving scope for great rides. The centre was kicked off by the Island Games 2012 event, but is being revived by the three representatives present, Cameron, Sam & Matt who wish to obtain their level 1 training qualifications.

FORUM CONTACTS:

A.Lawson (minutes) alec.lawson@virgin.net
T.Thorne (Cyclewright) cyclewright@gmail.com
A.Newman (Wayfarers) ANewman850@aol.com

They have had groups of 10 visiting with their own bikes and have plenty of good feedback. Tourists are welcome, and advertising via social media seems to work, especially Instagram. More events are planned.

Day Pass and Season Pass tickets include insurance and can be purchased at the centre or at Wight Mountain in Newport. website <http://www.isleofwightmountainbikecentre.co.uk>

5. Isle Access.

Jan Brookes is organising Mobility Cycling days to give the opportunity for riders to try specially adapted bicycles when they would not otherwise be able to cycle. These cycles cost from £3000 upwards and as noted above fundraising is needed so that the island can obtain its own machines. The two days planned will cost £540 each for hire & transport from the mainland.

As noted above a Mobility Cycling event and fundraising will be held during the Cycle Festival.

6. Visit Isle of Wight Walking & Cycling maps.

Visit Isle of Wight have published a "Walking and Cycling on the Isle of Wight" Map. This shows a number of walks and cycleways along with bike shops, charging points and tourist information centres. The maps are available from the Red Squirrel E-bike Hire, which is at the Guild Hall, Newport. TT noted there was a large wall map version printed of the previous map produced by Cyclewight; these are popular with cycling businesses but were rather expensive.

There is a new manager for Visit Isle of Wight (our previous contact Zoe Stroud has left).

7. Cyclewight Cycle Strategy & Newport Permeability Study

TT said the Cyclewight Cycle Strategy for the Isle of Wight has now had more than 400 downloads from the website. Cyclewight has provided a copy for the Island Plan which is due out in October for public consultation. The IWC does not have its own cycle strategy, and the Cyclewight document provides a source for the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) for the Island. Cyclewight is a member of the committee considering this. CycleWight's Newport permeability study has also been submitted to both plans.

JB said it would be helpful if routes could be graded in order to guide less mobile riders.

TT said Whippingham & Wootton have paid for a permeability study to be carried out by Martin Gibson.

TT said Cyclewight hope to pursue upgrades of footpaths to bridleways/multi-use paths.

Also on agenda would be an upgrade at Cowes to provide a route from Birmingham Road into town centre. AL said that the Cowes Harbour Commission have published their Harbour Handbook 2018-2019 with a pull-out map showing walking and cycling routes. These include Birmingham Road & High Street as a cycle route, and an unsigned route from Arctic Road to Seaview Road cycletrack, rather than the signed cycle route via Smithards Lane, St Faiths Road & Love Lane.

TT said the Hants Police "Close-pass mats" demonstration took place this week. He hopes it will be in the County Press and that something will come of it. The visit took place over two days and a police cyclist was used to capture motorists passing too close and to deliver warnings to a few. AL said the IWF&R Twitter showed images of the demonstration (to cyclists not to motorists). PP asked if the demonstration trailer could be brought to the IW Cycle Festival. TT said he would ask the police.

8. Other reports .

IWC PROW Local Access Forum: AL said this will hear from Natural England about the Coastal Path. This may include the Medina River via Newport, rather than the Floating Bridge. If so there is an opportunity to link Island Harbour to East Cowes which could complete a multi-use route incorporating the cycle path on the west of the Medina and the Medina Greenway on the east. Note the Coastal Path as such is a footpath only; however the possibility of development at Kingston of marine industrial units will prove the need for sustainable commuting and give funding from planning gain.

There was a discussion about cyclists using roads when cycle paths were available. It was pointed out that they do not generally start or finish where one wants to go.

FORUM CONTACTS:

A.Lawson (minutes) alec.lawson@virgin.net
T.Thorne (Cyclewight) cyclewight@gmail.com
A.Newman (Wayfarers) ANewman850@aol.com

9. AOB

PP noted flyers for IW Cycle Fest would be printed soon

Nicky Metcalf said that smaller new-build schemes were getting built without being required to include cycle routes.

Cameron Gould raised concerns about road safety & school kids

Sam Hodgson said other countries have bike racks on schools buses; why can't we have them here?

Date of next meeting

10 October 2018, 1800. Venue IWF&R HQ

FORUM CONTACTS:

A.Lawson (minutes) alec.lawson@virgin.net
T.Thorne (Cyclewright) cyclewright@gmail.com
A.Newman (Wayfarers) ANewman850@aol.com