

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum Minutes

23 February 2015 @ 6pm

Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ, Newport.

Present:

Will Ainslie (WA)	IWC LSTF Project Manager
Dizz Dyer (DD)	Cyclist & IAM member
Jennine Gardiner (JG)	IWC Right of Way officer
Martin Gibson (MG)	Natural Enterprise officer
Louise Gray (LG)	IWC Health Promotion officer
Cllr John Hobart (JH)	IWC & parish Councillor
Alex Lawson (AL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
Val Lawson (VGL)	Cyclewight & Wayfarers
John Lee (JL)	Road cyclist
Cllr John Medland (JM)	IWC & Parish Councillor
Andy Newman (AN)	Wayfarers & CTC Right to Ride
Tom Ransom (TRa)	Visit Wight Project Manager
Tracy Ringer (TRi)	Island Roads
Tim Thorne (TT)	Cyclewight Chairman
Tracey Webb (TW)	IWF&R Road Safety officer
Mari-Louise White (MLW)	IWC Events
George Wilks (GW)	Cyclewight

1. Introduction

Apologies were received from Robin Lang, Steve Goodman, Dave & Margaret Young, Dave Kitching, & Alec Broome.

2. IWC Events

IoW Cycling Festival: Mari-Louise White said this would take place in September, from the 5-27th with a gap over the Bestival weekend. Details were provisional but it was planned to have the film at Seaclose on the 5th September, and there would be a Hills Killer ride organised by Wight Mountain as well as a West Wight Triathlon. Mari-Louise asked for leaders to volunteer to put on rides.

Pearl Izumi Tour Series event: will be held in Ryde on Thursday 14 May 2015. The course will be closed to traffic from 12 noon. The main race will start at 7pm. Scheduled between 12- 3 are events for children and between 4 - 6pm events for local clubs and riders. Hopefully local businesses will participate as well as Vectis Roads and women's races. The event is organised by British Cycling. The sponsors will erect the barriers and Island Roads will provide traffic management at their expense. Volunteers are needed to act as marshals during the day and in the evening. Please email mari-louise.white@iow.gov.uk or ring 01983 823070 for more information. TR said Island Roads staff are likely to come forward. MLW said marshals will be briefed on the task, and professional security will also be engaged.

Tom Ransom said Visit Isle of Wight /DMO will use a big chunk of their budget and sees the event as a major attractor of tourism to the Island. It will be his job to ensure that this takes place.

MLW added that some LSTF money is to go to the IWC Sports Unit and will be used for the event. The Chamber of Commerce had chosen not to be involved.

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3. Wayfarers Randonnée – Sunday 3rd May 2015

Andy Newman outlined plans for the Wayfarers Randonnée which is receiving much interest online and is expected to attract 2000 riders. Many more than that would be too many. Riders should pre-register online for the 100km or the 55km route. The clockwise route is to be used as this alleviates floating bridge congestion. Note scheduled maintenance for the floating bridge may not happen, but there is no final confirmation of its availability. Red Funnel will discount fares for cyclists.

There is a shortage of volunteer marshals and anyone able to help morning or afternoon please come forward. <http://cycleisland.co.uk/>

4. Island Roads

Tracey Ringer for Island Roads said they had had a winter pothole blitz. Currently lining & signing was in progress. A new surfacing programme was to start in March. Traffic regulations apply to the work. Traffic Light signals were being improved, as at Shalfleet where new overhead sensors were installed and a longer interval set between lights changing. An annual Customer Survey has been circulated (completion by 28 February). Their website is www.islandroads.com where press releases and road closure info can be found. Problems can be reported to 01983 822440.

VGL said there are diversion signs on the Cowes-Newport Road forming a pinch point which is a hazard for cyclists. They have been reported but remain in place. These are for the Palance Road work which will last for 12 weeks. TR said she would look into this.

WA asked if there was a precedent to change the surfacing schedule. TR said there was a 6 month schedule, which would be adapted if a sub-surface problem is found. The engineering consultants Atkins are reviewing the plans for the IWC, and would be responsive to a change in requirements. WA said he had made requests to improve the surface and the cycle lane marking of the Cowes Newport cycle route from Hurstake Road to the Bargemans. MG said he had reported this section as dangerous. TRi said vehicle traffic set the priority but she would look into this and see what could be done.

AN said the Wayfarers would be checking the Randonnée route prior to the event and may ask for remedial work to be carried out, eg at Brocks Copse Road.

TRi said that Island Roads have asset management logging systems known as Network Safety & Integrity Register. This can track if a junction is a hazard to cyclists for example, but the IWC is still the relevant Highways Authority. Cllr JH and Cllr JM said that anyone with a safety concern should contact their local councillor.

5. LSTF 1

Will Ainslie reported on work about to start: the Ashlake Copse link from Wootton to Fishbourne Lane and on to Quarr would be commenced on 9 March. East of Quarr more surfacing is about to proceed. Work at Shanklin Rail Station to widen the steps & make them cycle friendly is in hand. The designs have been carried out by an Island Roads engineer who is a cyclist.

At Ladies Walk the Ryde Golf Club lease is still in negotiation, as is the Wootton Bridge re-alignment, so these improvements will not materialise by the end of March. However it is expected that the funds will be authorised and carried over to enable the work to be done later.

WA announced that the Newport to Island Harbour cycle track will be officially opened on 28 February, and invited all present to attend. Cabinet members and others have been invited and the press will be there.

Share the Path signs have been installed widely, with a few locations still to be done. Additional Round the Island signs have been procured. Some Red Squirrel Trail signs & waymarkers have gone up with more to come. Additional on-road signs will be installed to show the route from Seaview via Ryde, Quarr & Wootton to Newport.

Martin Gibson for Natural England is working on wildlife interpretation signs & maps which will improve on existing signs on Route 23 between Perowne Way and Cowes.

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TT noted that Will Ainslie is approaching the end of his contract as LSTF manager, and thanked him for his hard work carried out for cycling on the Island.

6. LSTF 2

TT has written to the Chamber of Commerce to invite them to the forum to discuss LSTF2, without a reply. Louise Gray said they are interviewing next week for a manager, which means they are not yet able to reply. The three elements for LSTF2 are: 1. Journeys to school. 2. Journeys to work. 3. Tourism. The Chamber of Commerce are to be responsible for promoting sustainable travel to the workplace.

LG said the Public Health Department will implement workplace health initiatives via employers to encourage staff to pursue physical activities.

TR said the Visit Wight budget will be £25k, which will include prime time TV adverts, and promotion video on ferries. It is hoped that the pump priming will bring benefits in this and future years. The spend benefit to the Island is estimated to be £350k. Recording the results is the challenge at the moment.

DD asked about the Road Safety element: who will deliver this and where? TT said there is £30k in the LSTF2 budget for this. DD said the police do not seem to be interested. Cameras may be the way forward. Campaigns aimed at motorists are necessary to make the roads safer for cyclists, and bus adverts may be one way to do this. The Advanced Drivers test is now £150 which is a deterrent from drivers taking this. AL said that Tanja Rebel had attended CTC Campaign Training which provided material about working with the police, local authorities and the judicial system. See www.ctc.org.uk/article/campaigns-guide/presentations-ctc-campaign-training-southwark-south-east

TW said there is a budget of £20k to run adult cycle training from 1 April 2015 through to 2016. IWF&R had considered:

Option 1: An outside agency providing adult training.

Option 2: Organise in house and advertise for trainers.

She said they had discussed 2: with Lee Matthews of the Sports Unit but staff procurement would be very difficult in the current situation. Hence option 1 is to be followed. An already existing company will be contracted, and trainees will be found by approaching businesses. It is hoped to deliver about 12 hours of training each to about 10 people per week for a total of 500.

WA asked if targets were to be built in to LSTF2 specifications. LG said each of the 3 elements has outcome targets built in.

7. Cycling / Walking Vision

Councillor John Medland has produced a paper Promotion of Sustainable Transport on the Isle of Wight, which was presented to the IWC Sustainability Forum. Cllr JM is also a member of the Local Access Forum where all interested parties are represented eg. ramblers, cyclists, equestrians. The LAF is organised by the IWC Public Rights of Way Department.

The ROW Improvement Plan, which runs from 2008 to 2016, embraces much of his paper, but he is also looking beyond this to future possible developments. Future priorities and suggestion are sought and there is an entry form for the purpose. He is keen to ensure opportunities for funding are taken up. The government Local Sustainable Transport Fund has made possible the current & new schemes as above. Parish councils can currently get £10k funding for a suitable project but take up is low.

VGL said the Cyclewight priority is for Route 22, from Ryde to Newport, to be extended to West Wight. Cllr JH said Gunville Greenway is the starter for this Route 22 extension. Developers and planners are on board with this, as building will not block the potential for a route and section 106 money will be attached to planning permission. TT confirmed that planners are aware of the plans as the GG group had met the planning department.

LG said that the Public Health have set up links with the Planning Department so that they can advise on green space for children and walking & cycling accessibility at an early stage of planning.

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WA asked if Public Rights of Way are consulted by the planners. JG said the Planning Department does inform them about developments although it was not a statutory requirement for PROW to monitor these.

LG noted that Chamber of Commerce are to hold a conference in November on Sustainable Transport.

VGL noted that a source of funding could be the European Union. There is a web site at http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/information/index_en.htm or <http://www.wsxenterprise.co.uk/europe-direct/europe-direct-fareham/>

8. AOB

#Cllr JH said Sandy Lane is a vital link from the cycle path at Blackwater to the west of the Island. It is a 60 mph limit at present but is totally unsuited to fast traffic and needs to be a green lane. There is a major housing development at Whitecroft so there should be section 106 money available; he does not know if this is the case. AL said Cyclewright was in agreement to push for green lane status. There was an explanation of section 106 operation in 2011-02-23_Cycle_Forum_Minutes. TT said this would now be out of date, so he will enquire who is now responsible and ask for an update. ****TT****

Cllr JH said there is an Island Small Business Forum which would be worth making contact with and inviting to the forum as their membership could include bike shop members and others who have cyclists as customers. Its chairman is Steve Smith who is area manager of McDonalds. ***AL***

9. Date of next meeting

..... June 2015, 1800, Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service HQ

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