

## CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 04 Feb 2021

Zoom joiners: Lee Matthews -IWC (part time), Alan Bennett (AB), Jess Garbett (JG), Naomi Hyland (NH), Alex Lawson (AL), Val Lawson (VGL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MWh), Mick Watt (MWha) George Wilks (GW),

### **1. Emergency Active Travel Fund**

Lee Matthews is responsible for the Emergency Active Travel Fund, whereby the DfT fund Local Authorities to provide for cycle lanes and routes. He is IWC Manager for Recreation & Public Open Spaces. Lee recognised that Phase 1 was pushed through quickly. He is glad that Cyclewight are being consulted on the scheme and had requested to join this meeting. He said normal procedures were not followed but lessons learned are being applied to Phase 2. Money will be allocated by DfT subject to a defined set of criteria, and performance will be strictly monitored.

The Phase 2 application includes the Fairlee Road proposals which is at the consulting stage with stakeholders including Parish Councils & Ramblers, as well as Cyclewight. Island Roads have been asked for a quotation for the proposals, which should come in early March. It remains to be seen what these costs will be, but he is confident that the DfT will roll out further funding. He has received positive feedback from Newport councillors on the proposals. He asked for questions & feedback.

MR said the path through Medina School grounds to the riverside is convenient but is muddy & not good for cycling. Can it be included? LM said there are a couple of spurs he hopes to include if budget allows.

TT asked how much is left over from the £64K allocated to Phase 1 ? LM about 1/3 is left, and it has been agreed that this can be rolled over. NH asked about the rough section connecting to Fairlee Road, which is a source of punctures and a deterrent to more people cycling. LM said the land is privately owned. He added that the long term scheme to be negotiated is to make the route right through to Wootton, and the current scheme should not be seen as replacing that.

JG asked how a re-instated railway would fit in with plans for a cycle route. LM said he sees a route into Newport as a very long term proposal, although the IWC does want to support the feasibility study. TT added that in the Local Transport Plan that a multi-use track would be provided alongside a new railway.

MWh asked how other schemes and upgrades could be funded. LM said the DfT funding was flexible. He had hoped to include improvements to the track from Newport past Blackwater. The current Island Roads contract does not cover this to a better standard, only to the current (poor) standard. MWh asked if we will be paying Island Roads twice. LM says Island Roads inherit a standard which they are required to meet. It depends who you talk to what that standard is.

LM said they did not expect Phase 1 to roll out in the way it did. TT said improvement in cycle track network is badly needed. MR asked if other funding is available such as section 106 money. LM said some is earmarked for Gunville & West Wight but not for Fairlee.

GW said the Mews Lane - Halberry Lane scheme only made sense if it reached Wootton.. He also asked if we know how many schoolchildren are bussed to Medina High School. LM said he did not know but Shift-it, Ross Edmunds, may have the numbers from the three year programme just finished.

TT asked if the Sea Street /Little London will be included in Phase 2. A traffic notice is in place. LM said he is seeking the view of Newport & Carisbrooke Parish Council and further talks with the owner of the Bargeman's Rest. MWh said Cyclewight should have a socially distanced meeting on site to consider the scheme.

Finally LM said the public consultation ends on 16 February and he expects the results to be made public. When Island Roads provide their estimate then the bid will go into the DfT. A decision from the DfT should come in the summer.

NH said the views on Widen my Path website are that the Fairlee scheme is not a priority. She takes that view and agrees with MWh. TT suggested the scheme is favoured as the land is owned by the IWC making it deliverable. There is a drainage issue. GW suggested that the scheme could be unsatisfactory and that Cyclewight could be implicated in a failure.

TT will produce a newsletter which will encourage members to submit comments.

## **2. Ryde Housing Developments**

Following our comments previously, plans for the West Acre Park development show they have tried to follow our LTN1/20 guidance. MWh said we need to show our support where cycling elements are included in infrastructure. TT said Dutch kerbs should be included to keep pavements on the same level. .

MR said the Pennyfeathers development has not included decent cycling provision. At the Smallbrook bridge there is nothing to connect into a cycling route. TT said we are preparing a submission to planning.

TT said there is a new Gunville development application to which TT will submit comments.

## **3. E Bike Survey**

Claire Franklin, a member, suggested that a much more accurate list of charging points for electric bikes was needed. This would include: parking arrangements, cost, refreshments etc. Claire agreed to take on the task. She wrote a covering letter and a survey form. TT sent several out to trial it, which proved satisfactory. It now needs to be rolled out across the Island. Claire will contact some of the umbrella organisations to assist in this. She is willing to collate the responses. TT has tried to contact Visit IW but no response. Furloughed presumably.

## **4. Cycling Vision**

TT said some text is needed to illuminate bullet points in the vision – he agreed to draft some ideas. This is to feed into the strategy document.

## **5. Website & Logo**

Kevan Arnell from Routefifty7 has been working on the web design, and AB has helped to upload onto the web domain. These ideas had been circulated to the committee and temporary links could be viewed during the meeting [www.cyclewight.org.uk/newcw/](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/newcw/)

Everyone agreed that the layout, colour, font & appearance is a big improvement. Agreed to go ahead with website update. Kevan has also proposed a new Cyclewight logo. This was liked by some but it was agreed the old logo had advantages and should be kept.

## **6. Island Roads / Cycle Paths**

A survey is needed of condition of cycle tracks. It was agreed to do this in the first week of April. This could be a Cyclewight day out, Covid regulations and vaccines permitting. MWa will do Newport – Sandown.

TT said the IWC is looking for funds to improve the Newport – Sandown track. JG said we need to hold the IWC to account. Previous work has had achieved little.

TT said there is good progress with West Wight Greenway. Natural Enterprise is talking to landowners and consulting Cyclewight, the Bridleways group & Ramblers. Cost of construction is under consideration and includes compensation. Future maintenance is part of this? IWC is including the expenditure in its plans. Housing development is underway in the Alvington Manor View area, where TT had a look yesterday. He has a concern that there is a gap in the projected

route to the west of Newport, and will make contact with the planners. He will keep in touch with Natural Enterprise. **Since the meeting TT has made contact with RoW and has been assured that there is a connection to any proposed route to the west through the various housing projects.**

## **7. AoB**

# TT brought up the portable cycle counter which the council have. Where would it best be deployed? GW suggested Halberry Lane to monitor use before and after the improvement. **This has now appeared on the lower part of the route.**

# MWa noted the current Feasibility Study into extending the railway system as raised earlier. Should we comment ? It was decided not to do so.

# MWa said there is to be a new cycle shop in Newport -in JP's old premises. TT said there will be an branch of Adrian's bike shop in Cowes.

# NH said there is an email from Cycling UK asking for missing links – Offroad routes you could use. Something to mention in the Cyclewight Newsletter. <https://www.cyclinguk.org/missinglinks>  
TT said IWC PROW has passed on a “Cycle route upgrade suggestion” for “a short stretch at Duxmore farm, that would enable a through route using existing bridle paths on either side to create a route from Ashe Cemetery to Downend.” This has been sent to PROW Island Roads, the Highways PFI team & Brock Dunscombe Rogers the IWC Active Travel Officer. AL will circulate to the committee. *Post-meeting note: JG says “Ironically the footpathed part is probably the best part of the route. ... I don't know all the bridle way from Ashe cemetery towards Steam Railway, but from Kempfill Moor Copse to Rowland's Lane I walk regularly - it's a field track, so would need a lot of work to create a cycling surface. From Rowland's to Duxmore is a good surface.”*