

## **CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 2 September 2020**

**Zoom joiners:** Naomi Hyland (NH), Alex Lawson (AL), Val Lawson(VGL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), Matt Whitaker (MWh), George Wilks (GW).

**Apologies:** Tanja Rebel (TR), Will Ainslie (WA), Steve Archer (SA).

### **1. Cyclewight Strategy & Vision**

Cyclewight's Isle of Wight Cycling Vision needs to be considered and approved by members before being launched. It will form the basis of our strategy. NH suggested circulating members via SurveyMonkey. GW & TT said we could contact parish & town councils, maybe via the IWALC although a few are outside this. MWh said we had 350 responses to previous survey. Where do we have specific issues? He suggested questions based on the 3 headings and 3 sub-headings. Committee should each suggest 9 questions and we can chose from these. **\*\*\*\*All Committee to suggest questions to include in Survey Monkey \*\*\*\***

Discussing future strategy, it was noted that London traffic is now moving everywhere at 20 mph. On the IW we are still waiting for the pop-up cycle lanes. However MR noted the Ryde pedestrianisation has come into effect, and cyclists are using the route in both directions,

Covid measures and virtual meetings will continue for the rest of the year at least. TT said we need to carry on improving the website, and a video promoting Cyclewight & its results is needed. Who do we know who can prepare this ?

### **2. Emergency Active Travel Fund.**

At the time of the meeting the IWC press release has not appeared. TT has circulated a newsletter, including the list of schemes given in our briefing earlier in the week. However we have not been consulted on this list and TT has written to Cllr Ian Ward to express our dissatisfaction. (The draft letter was circulated to committee and GW gave help).

Discussing further action, we agreed to go public with our views and complaints. We need await the press release but the response can be prepared now. A new Cycle wight member has addressed questions to Clears Stewart & Ward and has entered a Freedom of Information request about policy.

### **3. Gear Change: A bold vision for Cycling & Walking – Our Approach**

[www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf)

[www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-1-20.pdf](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-1-20.pdf) The DfT has released these documents. The vision is for England to be a walking & cycling nation. The second document provides technical design guidance which local highway authorities should follow. While not mandatory, government grants will be dependent on compliance.

TT said the newsletter drawing attention to the above has been circulated to various councillors & key players. Reply from Stewart Chandler acknowledges things are changing.

TT said he had received a simple guide to the new rules and would circulate this,

### **4. Bells poster & postcards**

TT said Tanya picked up bells and Nick of Island Bikeworks is also distributing. Chris Gregory has asked if we keep info about recipients. MWa said he finds people are happy to talk about Cyclewight once they realise we are not actually selling the bells.

TT hopes to contact Bike Buddies. Near to factory premises is a place to distribute bells. The

GKN factory gates and Floating Bridge were suggested by MWh.

## **5. AGM**

We hope to hold on Friday 28 November and to involve as many as possible. The Newport Victoria Sports & Social Club has been suggested but would be too small for social distancing. MWh suggested a combination of online & pre-booked physical attendance. TT said he sends 10-15 newsletter by post. We will ask members if they have internet access. MR said Ryde council meeting goes out on YouTube.

## **6. Motor Bike Race in October 2021.**

Diamond Races (Isle of Wight) motor bike road race is on a 12 mile circuit along the military road, then inland through Chale Green, Kingston, Shorewell and Brighstone.

<https://onthewight.com/about/isle-of-wight-tt-the-diamond-races/>

It is said there has been a lack of lack of consultation, and TT has been contacted to ask CW to oppose the event.

NH has written to On the Wight to draw attention to the higher risk on the Isle of Man of being killed or seriously injured, despite road safety campaigns, and to say that Isle of Wight Council and Police will have a lot of work to do to avoid this here.

AL said that local residents have complained that bikers are already riding the route, often in groups and late at night. However other events such as Beer & Buses and even the Randonnee lead to great inconvenience to those not involved. We should not oppose but should call for a safety campaign asking for tolerance and respect between all road users – some cyclists can behave badly. We should promote the 20's Plenty campaign.

MWh said the Cyclewight Vision does not include an anti-bikerace policy, but does call for safe environment for cycling. It was agreed that our public policy should be to promote road safety measures. It was noted that there is a lot of extra traffic on the roads recently and a rise in accidents. See also <https://onthewight.com/road-safety-in-and-around-newport-has-been-ignored-for-too-long-say-councillors/>

## **7. AOB**

# MWh outlined the Google Drive facility which he has put in place for Cyclewight documents which can be shared with the committee.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uF9gxwdMOYVjXrB\\_5wAl5mCT-lpR1uGXLUmOmplgkwg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uF9gxwdMOYVjXrB_5wAl5mCT-lpR1uGXLUmOmplgkwg/edit?usp=sharing)

# NH said that Wightlink are promoting IW Biosphere by Bicycle. We should be a good fit so can we get involved in this? Perhaps grants are available. Contact AONB for more information.

# VGL said she had recently had terrible experiences from other cyclists whilst cycling herself. Can we put something out to promote considerate cycling ? TT said even experienced cyclists don't help themselves in the view of others. It is easy to acknowledge motorists by a wave when they wait to give room to a cyclist. NH suggested looking for guidance on Cycling UK website. GW noted the big increase in traffic on the island due to visitors.

Post-meeting: Newport Parish Councillors have raised the road safety issue.

<https://onthewight.com/road-safety-in-and-around-newport-has-been-ignored-for-too-long-say-councillors/>