

CycleWight Committee, 4 Jan 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Pete Dyer (PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Helen Jones (HJ), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MWh), Mick Watts (MWa), George Wilks (GW), Val Lawson (VGL).
Apologies: A. Lawson.

Helen Jones expressed an interest in CW and was invited by TT

1. Response to Island Roads Contract

Letter from Island Roads states categorically that they are not responsible for upgrading cycle routes. IWC claims that the Island cycle network is being upgraded. Who is responsible? PD has drafted letter, to be discussed with TT. Address to IWC CEO/Phil Jordan? Easier to find funding for new paths than refurbish old.

PD was in contact with a Sustrans person for south of England – (Max Longley?) they cannot provide money. HJ said she had objected to Sustrans when they dropped RTI route. We believe Sandown route no longer suitable for all users. MWh said we should communicate with Sustrans so that they know this. TT said Sustrans were helpful over the years to Isle of Wight but have not be in touch of late. We will contact and ask for assistance and sources of funding.

TT/PD

2. Military Road Closing

A draft letter was discussed to send to Island Roads/IWC which will ask for a passage for cycling to be provided during the road closure so that the dangerous Middle Road alternative is avoided. CF said it is important to point out that Middle Road is dangerous. CF said the view over Military Road is what brings people to island. Agreed to send letter as proposed and to copy to Bob Seely MP.

3. Thirtieth Anniversary CycleWight & 20 years Cowes Sandown

A series of events along Newport - Sandown track on Saturday before Wayfarers Randonnee is proposed. TT has contacted Wayfarers to ensure they are happy if we do this. MWh said this is a great idea & we should push for it. Good weather will help. HJ said that as well as good weather we need to know that S. Water and IR are not going to carry out more work. TT will contact IWC Highways Dept to check – maybe they will get involved in the events. It was queried if Island Roads are sole bidder for IWC contracts. VGL thinks the PFI contract means that the IWC save costs by using Island Roads.

A meeting to finalise arrangements may be needed, but this depends on the response we receive from participants. CycleWight has public liability cover via Cycling UK. MWa has done a Risk Assessment. HJ asked if Active Travel budget (Pedal Aid) continues after April. TT thinks it comes to an end.

TT also proposed asking Beryl Bikes to participate. VGL proposed “Carnival couple” who arranged children’s events for Ramblers. VGL to find out more. Will we do food &

drinks? A food & drinks license is needed. Pedlars is on route. VGL bicycling coffee man & smoothies could be an option.

4. CYCLEWIGHT AGM review

MWh said we need Wi-Fi for the next AGM. TT said numbers are slowly getting less. Is this due to the speaker being less of a draw. Would the Riverside Centre be suitable? MR said we should get non-members and public to come. Just have the formal bit of the meeting for members at the end. Also an earlier date in October or September. Can other cycling groups suggest a speaker? Simon Calder or Chris Boardman as a speaker? Can we have someone from abroad online? Agreed to consider Riverside Centre for a date in September.

5. Active Transport Hub

Claire Franklin said they meet monthly. Beryl Bikes have given a presentation. Other members are Daniel Washington, Lee Matthews, Richard Tyldsley, Robb Soames, Ross Edmunds, Simon Chambers, Stuart Chandler, Rob Gillespie, Martin Gibson, Brock Rogers (Beryl).

All LCWIPs to be gathered together & adopted by County Council as part of the planning process. Target is spring 2023. St Helens approval is awaited for East Wight LCWIP. Claire involved in East Wight LCWIP. No LCWIP for Ventnor. Some items asked for in draft plan are included. The Bay LCWIP. Is it part of Bay regeneration? Ross Edmund's post? PD asked about funding for LCWIP for the Bay? **TT to ask**

6. Barriers

List of our barriers to be removed has been circulated to committee. TT will send out to membership soon. Hinton Road to be added.

7. AOB

Newport Cowes cycle track cutting back: Tigg has done some on his own initiative. He may not welcome assistance as insurance cover could be needed. PD & TT will draft a letter to IWC to suggest that Island Roads are not doing all the maintenance they might, although VGL suggested that it might be best for the council not to be aware. A litter pick was discussed. There is a lady who puts out & collects black litter bags – on foot!

Next Meeting: February

- Response to Island Roads re contract. See below.
- Military Road Closing. Letter to IR IWC Any thoughts/ amendments? See below*
- 30th anniversary/ 20 years Cowes to Sandown
- AGM review
- Active Transport Hub
- Barriers. Current list attached. Anymore?
- AoB