

CycleWight Committee, 4 Nov 2022 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Pete Dyer (PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MWh), Mick Watts (MWa), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL).

This meeting convened to prepare for AGM.

Tim recorded that Claire Franklin is part of Together Mission Zero. This is a Cowes based volunteer group which is led by Will Ainslie and covers the areas of 1. Housing 2. Energy 3. Retrofitting 4. Transport – i.e. Active Travel & infrastructure. Claire is happy to contribute to sustainable transport improvement.

1. CYCLEWIGHT AGM 7.30pm Friday November 25 Carisbrooke Church Hall

Carisbrooke Church Hall is booked including kitchen facility. IWC Contracts Manager Stewart Chandler has agreed to speak. Agreed to invite Phil Jordan & ask him to speak. Matt Whittaker will talk about the People Powered Cargo Bike project.

Projector, screen & speaker kit will be provided by Matt & Malcolm Ross.

2. Raising the standard of cycle tracks: Island Roads

TT contacted Hounslow Cycle Campaign & received a reply which has been circulated to the committee. Hounslow has a cabinet member for Highways, Environment and Operational Performance who has oversight of Hounslow Highways. There is a planned maintenance schedule but issues like potholes can be fixed if certain criteria are met.

There has been flooding on the island which affected cycle tracks making them dangerous. PD has drafted a letter to Island Roads CEO raising broad issues to see what their general view is of the cycle tracks.

TT said that Island Roads have to realise they are an important part of the island tourist industry. The bridge at Alverstone will be closed for 10 weeks, and the diversion is on busy main roads. Can we identify where diversions are unsuitable, requiring special consideration? (Particularity so on the RTI) We are waiting for details of surface works planned during 2023. MWh said cycle tracks are poorly maintained in comparison with roads.

TT thanked those who had identified barriers on cycle tracks which need to be removed. Please continue to contribute suggestions. MWh said the cargo bike project could provide detailed cycle track surveys.

3. LCWIP

Claire Franklin participated in the Bembridge, Brading & St Helens LWIP meetings which consulted the public regarding improvements. People Powered CIC have now prepared a draft LWIP projecting over 10 years. They audited the current situation & evaluated suggestions which would improve the walking and cycling network. Schemes for both are outlined and costed. The report emphasises the need for integrated transport systems that support other local policies and plans. Claire welcomes the fact that there is now a network of LCWIPs round

the island.

Bob Seely MP blog & press reports that he has written asking the Levelling Up Minister to support the Isle of Wight Council's bid for an 'Island Green Link' through round two of the government's Levelling Up Fund. The bid seeks to link up sustainable transport networks across the Island, filling the existing gap in connectivity. <https://www.bobseely.org.uk/news/mp-asks-government-support-bid-improved-sustainable-transport-networks> MWh said the support by the MP is a good thing.

TT added that he has commented on the planning application for a development at Somerton Farm in Cowes. This needs to feed into the LCWIP in Cowes and round the island.

Mwh has said Cycling UK are asking members to lobby their MP to promote 'Gear Change' which was launched two years ago to promote walking & cycling with an increased budget. This has been miniscule and is now under threat. <https://action.cyclinguk.org/page/115055/action/1>

4. AOB

Tesco PD has corresponded with Tesco, who have provided sheltered parking for employees and will consider signage. He has replied to suggest 'Think Bike' signs - these are in the pipeline at East Cowes but bureaucratic delays are very frustrating. The Ryde LCWIP will include an improved route to Tesco. CF said that cycling there is hazardous due to vehicles at high speed on the roundabout.

BBC Panorama 2.11.22 Noted that this programme demonised people who use cycles.

Rookley A37 bridleway. It is thought that an approach for a meeting with the landowner would best come from RoW staff.

Cargo Bike company Official Launch. MWh said the County Press report had been positive and a lot of very favourable feedback has resulted. "New Isle of Wight cargo bike delivery business seeking to expand KEERT". <https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/23086917.new-isle-wight-cargo-bike-delivery-business-seeking-expand/>

Somerton Planing application (see above) <https://onthewight.com/major-housing-and-employment-development-planned-on-former-dairy-and-beef-farm/>

Next Meeting: November AGM 25.11.22