

CycleWight Committee, 5 Oct 2022 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Pete Dyer (PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MWh), Alex Lawson (AL).

Apologies: Mick Watts (MWa), George Wilks (GW),

1. CYCLEWIGHT AGM 730pm Friday November 25 Carisbrooke Church Hall

TT has booked & paid for Carisbrooke Church Hall including kitchen facility. It was agreed to provide a tea break and to run a raffle: volunteers & prizes needed. There will be opportunity to gather in Eight Bells at 6pm for a meal.

Matt Whittaker will talk about the People Powered Cargo Bike project. He will contact Beryl Bikes for them to provide a speaker. TT will contact Lewis Campbell, Road Safety Officer & Daniel Washington, Local Transport Planner to ask them.

2. Update over maintenance of paths

PD suggests Island Roads underperform with respect to road and cycle path maintenance and Councillor Phil Jordan is struggling to cope with this. It is difficult to know how to move forward with this without knowing the contract terms. We need to tackle this as there will be more people cycling and more pressure on the facilities.

CF proposed a freedom of information application to find out what is in the maintenance contract. TT said Stewart Chandler is contract manager for IWC and Steve Ashman is the director at Island Roads whom we have dealt with in the past. Hounslow council launched its PFI at the same time as IoW and it should be possible to find out what the agreement consists of. TT will investigate these sources to see what can be established.

3. Active Travel – Lee Matthews

TT received this from Lee Matthews *"I just wanted to update you and cyclewight on our latest Active Travel situation and the recent response from the Dft (now Active Travel England)*

The Local Authority submitted a self assessment to Active Travel England in late august. The self assessment asked each authority to score themselves on 3 key areas:

1. Local leadership and support 2. LCWIP development. 3. Schemes delivered

After our submission ATE confirmed that this is Level 1 (of 4 levels) and has granted us £50,000 to move forward on Capability and Ambition initiatives (some good news) -the not so good news is we will not be able to continue our behaviour change programme from October.

Regarding the use of the £50,000 – Martin, Stuart, Dave and I have met to discuss the best use of this grant and we have decided to focus the resource on.

1. The development of LCWIP in the Sandown Bay area. This area as a key Regeneration priority for the local authority and includes the areas of Sandown, lake, Shanklin. The authority is investing significant resource in the develop of Place Plans aligning a LCWIP is seen as key strategic link between Active Travel and area regeneration.

2. The Island has a Rights of Way Improvement Plan and a (now out of date) Cycle Strategy, as well as a series of LCWIPs. We aim to draw these plans together to create a clear, prioritised strategic vision for a cycling network linking main towns and villages.

3. To engage the public over key LCWIP routes and undertake feasibility work to allow us to move to capital bids and delivery.

4. To provide Active Travel training for senior officers and cabinet members, to improve understanding of the key issues and potential the active travel offers, particularly in the context of our revised LTP which will prioritise active travel much more heavily.

We are expecting some indication of now we bid for capital funding for Active Travel schemes later this year and I will provide a further update when I have news" End quote.

PD said it was encouraging that £50k has been granted to IWC and the Sandown Lake & Shanklin have been prioritised. MWh said that the LCWIP approach has been tied to regeneration which will make funding sources available. The vision in para 2 to link the main towns and villages together in a strategic network was welcomed. All agreed that Cyclewight must participate in planning future strategy. David Newton is regeneration project manager.

It was noted that West Wight has missed out in the previous LCWIP processes. One parish did not support these plans. However Totland, Freshwater & Yarmouth parishes were supportive, and it was agreed to contact Councillor John Medland to try move things forward.

Picking up on para 4. TT noted that every planning scheme has deficiencies in provisions for walking & cycling – this is something planning officers should be picking up.

Post-meeting: TT has prepared a response to Lee Matthews along these lines which he has circulated to the committee prior to sending to IWC.

4. Beryl Bikes

Beryl have launched the new scheme this week which makes bicycles available and fewer e-scooters. TT noted that on a recent visit to Lisbon where bikes and scooters are available that scooters are far more popular.

5. Meeting with Lewis Campbell, Road Safety Officer & Daniel Washington, Local Transport Planner

This is to take place at the Quay Arts Centre at 11am on Monday 10 October. Committee members are invited to attend. Planning applications are reviewed by the IWC planning department and by Island Roads in respect of highways issues. TT added that a new person at Island Roads is picking up rather more.

6. Brading Path & Rookley Path

The Bembridge, St Helen's and Brading LCWIP envisages improved cycling & walking in those areas. TT has been on touch with Linda Allen of Brading Parish Council who have submitted an application to South Western Railway Community Fund to upgrade the section from Quay Lane to Brading Station. This would link the parishes of Brading & St Helens with a safe cycling and walking route. CycleWight has proposed an upgrade to the right of way from Brading Station to

Yarbridge which would complete the connection to the Round the Island cycle route. An application has been submitted by TT to the SWR Community Fund for £4k to carry out a feasibility study into this upgrade.

Claire Franklin said cyclists in St Helens and Bembridge would benefit greatly from a cycling route to Brading Station and to Yarbridge. She asked how soon do we hear if grants are agreed?

TT noted that platform 2 at Brading Station is now used by SWR, with the bridge now being strengthened. Connecting this platform could make it possible to avoid one level crossing with the housing estate diversion and easier for a path to go the whole way from Quay Lane to Yarbridge. This also offers a safety gain to SWR.

The Rookley to Birchmore A37 bridleway upgrade. Darrel Clark has now spoken to the landowners who are in agreement in principal. We considered funding sources for the construction and survey, which could include the developer of the Rookley houses. It was agreed that TT give authorisation to meet with the surveyor and landowners to agree a next step.

7. 2023 30 years of Cyclewright

We discussed how to celebrate this. A Champaign Bikers' Breakfast ? Or a champagne event? MWh suggested a grand cycle ride with lots of cyclists, invitations issued to councillors and fundraising events. The best chance of good weather is in the summer, and the Wayfarers' Randonnee weekend could work as there would be many cyclists on the island.

It was agreed that a 30 Year Celebration sub-committee should be formed to organise this, and TT will add to a newsletter.

8. AOB & items from 8.8.22

Local Access Forum. Chairman Councillor Paul Fuller. The meeting due 5.10.22 is postponed as the English Coastal Path update depends on the Natural England managers who are unable to attend. AL submits the following for consideration by Cyclewright.

Ramblers are discontent with some decisions on English Coastal Path route. However English Heritage are moving to permit coastal access at the Osborne estate.

Equestrians: British Horse Society are concerned about road safety of horse riders, and have been talking to IWC Road Safety officer. We have a common cause here.

Ryde to Yarmouth cycling corridor: Bus & Rail Users Group proposal to use the old railway alignment at Fairlee to improve bus services, walking & cycling is now on the LAF agenda. This route follows on from the LCWIP section at Halberry Lane. See <https://e-voice.org.uk/iwbusrailusers/restoring-your-railways-subm/> .

West Wight Greenway: ongoing.

Ryde: MR said a section of bridleway at Play Lane has been given a much improved surface. He added that Fix My Street for the Ryde, Seaview, Brading area seems to have abandoned cars as impediments to cycling rather than potholes.

Cyclewight Website: **AB** as webmaster said he receives warnings from Google that code generated is non-compliant with their current standards and GDPR provisions. In order to update the programme an amount of £144 would need to be handed over. It was decided the warnings are not relevant to our useage.

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum: Ongoing re. date & venue. ****AL & TT to liaise****

Think Bike signs: PD reported from Lewis Campbell that these signs are scheduled in the programme. The CycleWight logo artwork will be required.

STRAVA Heat Maps: AB asked if the increased use during lockdown has been sustained now that the pandemic is supposed to be over. CF said the pandemic is far from over ! MWh agreed to go back to the Strava metrics and update & report back.

Barriers on Cycle Tracks: PD suggested that we should compile a list of barriers and seek input from members. TT commented that there are particular barriers at Blackhouse Quay and at Shide.

Pig Lane level crossing: has been rebuilt by the railway company.

Next Meeting: November, then AGM 27.11.22