

CycleWight Committee, 9 Mar 2023 at Clatterford Rd & Zoom

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

1. West Wight Greenway update

We have been updated by Graham Biss of Natural England on progress being made although a landowner has pulled out. Another landowner wants to go ahead quickly in another area but planning permission for the path is required. It is also hoped the route in the Blackbridge Lane section can go ahead. The IWC allocated money covers 2023-24. TT said it would be helpful to talk to landowners directly rather than land agents as this does not seem to have happened.

2. April 29 event

It is planned to set up at Merstone Old Station on Saturday 29 April with a CycleWight display and membership drive. TT has secured agreement from Graham Biss (Natural Enterprise) to access the location, and the bollards will be moved so that toilets can be brought into the site. There is a catering concession in place (tea, coffee) but we could arrange a further source (street food). ****HJ**** Suggested time from 11am to 3pm.

Contact Isle-Access. Someone to walk through with Natural Enterprise the week before as TT away. A Press Release should be prepared - PD agreed to do this. Rides from Sandown & Cowes should be arranged. Gazebo needed, also publicity material, old photos etc.

3. Active Transport Hub

CF reported from recent meeting that it is hoped that the IWC will adopt the LCWIPs for Newport and Ryde in June and for the others including Cowes in September. Then LCWIPs become supplementary planning documents which is a good outcome in her view. Chairman Will Ainslie has produced active travel document which will be provided and circulated to the committee. The next step is to generate funding; substantial amounts will be needed and ideas from CycleWight members will be needed.

CF added that she wrote on behalf of the Active Travel hub to operational managers of Wightlink, Southern Vectis & others to gain support for active travel policies. She added a question about policies for carrying bikes on buses and also e-Bikes for those with disabilities. TT was in favour of this and MR said that Go North East Buses (same company as Southern Vectis) allow 2 bikes in the buggy area on certain routes.

4. Rookley Path

Following the meeting at Rookley with the landowners, the RoW manager Darrel Clark and the surveyor Ken Fry, notes were circulated which recommend a multi-use segregated path. Some excavation will be needed to build a suitable a surface to be the same level as adjacent soft ground, and the overall width & the type of surface is yet to be decided. Further discussion is needed with the IW Bridleways Group and with landowner to get final agreement. MWh & GW

thought a wider option was better and we should work with the bridleways group to find the best arrangement.

The path will remain a rural path so not funded by Active Travel sources, but there is section 106 funding from the housing developer amounting to £10k.

5. Meeting with local transport planner

TT, GW, PD and M Wa met with IWC planning officer Daniel Washington. The department is still waiting on HM Government guidance regarding carbon reduction measures which will have to be applied by local transport plans. In the meantime they welcome our suggestions for priority projects to be prepared for Active Travel applications. It was suggested that this should be added to the agenda for the Active Travel forum, which CF agreed to do. The next forum is in April although it could come up at a subsequent meeting.

6. AGM

TT has written to Chris Boardman, head of Active Travel England to invite to attend. TT is chasing a reply. GW has provisionally booked the Riverside Centre for Friday 29 September. We hope to raise profile of CycleWight & attract a wider audience in y having such a high profile person. TT also wants to make a list of the achievements by CycleWight over the years.

7. KEERT

KEERT CIC will stop trading at the end of March. MWh said they had been able to break even over most of the 9 months of trading, but the CIC was not eligible for grant funding, had lost an important client recently and so had lost money in January & February.

They hope to find a basis to restart in the future and are seeking volunteers to help. There will be a report on the operation and on proposals for the future.

8. Blackwater cycle track upgrade

TT & M Wa noted that Island Roads are engaged in upgrade work on the Newport - Sandown track on the section between Blackwater and Nature zones. However the very wet and muddy section after the garage is not being fixed at present. Sections on the both sides of the main road have been resurfaced although they were perfectly rideable as it was.

TT will follow up. Why was the unnecessary work carried out when other serious problems remain? Will the flooding be resolved? Will the Merstone area be remedied? ****TT****

9. Engaging with Councillors

GW has booked Quay Arts Seminar room for Friday 8 September afternoon. We should inform Stewart Chandler of our intention. We should prepare a list of councillors & officers to invite, and plan activities/ bike rides. Timescale to aim at is July. ****TT****

10. Pot Hole Special

Island Roads have released a Maintenance Factsheet which describes the nature of potholes and the repair procedure.

Link to report potholes and track repairs is Fix My Street <https://fms.islandroads.com>

See also <https://islandroads.com/current-works> and <https://one.network/custom/isleofwight/>

11. AOB

PD referred to the Island Roads contract issue (February minutes item1) & asked if the IWC have replied to our response? *Post-meeting note: A comprehensive reply from Alex Minns, assistant Director of Neighbourhoods has been now been received. The Fix My Street link given above is important as this records things formally with Island Roads and involves the District Steward.*

PD said that Sandown Council have discussed banning cycling on the revetment. He said we should push for the LCWIP to be taken to the public consultation stage to bring out views of the public. TT and PD said some individuals and some groups do ride at excessive speed along the revetment and this is bad for everyone. PD agreed to contact Cllr Debbie Andre.

AB mentioned a fly-tipping app which can facilitate reporting this nuisance. GW said it is also be possible to do this on the Fix My Street link.

Next Meeting : April