

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 10 Jan 2022 at Clatterford Rd

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

1. AGM review

Held on Saturday 27 November at Carisbrooke Village Hall and on zoom. Graham Biss described the West Wight Greenway. John Allen of Wight Cycle Hire announced the Newport Cycle Hub will reopen as a cycle hire centre in 2022. MWh updated on the People Powered cargo bike deliveries. TT gave his review of the year,

CF said the West Wight Greenway is wonderful and would like a similar scheme for East Wight. In summary the AGM went well, although we hope for more people to attend next year.

2. Carisbrooke Park Estates project.

GW said this aims to encourage people to cycle between the Carisbrooke Estates and town centre. A grant of £5000 has been provided from the IWC Regeneration Team & Newport Heritage fund. In March there will be led rides and promotions. How to ride in traffic videos of the routes will feature TT in Bikeability mode. A social media person is handling Facebook pages for Carisbrooke & for Gunville Greenway. MWh said we should consider other social media, ie Twitter & Instagram. ****TT & GW****

3. Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC)

This is an umbrella organisation to which most parish councils belong. Cyclewight contacted them regarding the LCWIP recently, and TT receives the monthly bulletin which is circulated. TT will forward to AL who will read & follow up.

Note The IWC Rights of Way department convenes the Local Access Forum which is attended by IWALC and various parish councillors as members or guests, and considers local issue concerning public rights of way. AL is a member. ROW advertises for new members from time to time. They are expected to consider the public interest while having knowledge of interest groups such as landowners and farmers, walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, public transport users, Isle Access etc. The upcoming meeting is to consider progress on the Isle of Wight Coast Path, and the Southern Water cycle track closure is on the agenda.

TT said the ROW team is small but very effective. The IWC/ROW website has links to agendas and minutes of meeting – which are a mine of information.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/Local-Access-Forum1>

4. Storage of CW materials

Cyclewight owns materials for display along with a display board and eye-catching cyclist cutouts. These have been stored for a considerable time by obliging members but the space is now needed. TT said his garage is already storing all he can, and asked for suggestions for a new location. Agreed that MR & TT visit the current storage location and stocktake.

5. IWC/Island Roads/Cyclewright meeting

The meetings were arranged by Stewart Chandler, Highways and Transport Client manager. Only one was held before Covid as the IWC has acted with caution to protect its staff. MR said we need to ensure these meetings do continue. AL asked if it was still the intention to include Ramblers & Bridleways group, which seems to be the case.

TT has circulated notes provided in lieu of recent meeting. These relate to the eel screen installation, to flooding and maintenance of existing cycle track, to new multi-use track (Mews Lane) and to on-road matters including Fairlee Road shared path pavement. Note that Island Roads asks that all issues are reported to info@islandroads.com or via the website. A Highways Safety & Improvements Register (HSIR) is kept to prioritise future bids for capital funding.

6. Rookley – Birchmore Lane & other schemes

An all-weather track upgrade to A37 bridleway has agreement in principal from the landowner following an approach from Graham Biss and ROW. The cost estimate comes out at £70k or so. TT has sent our proposal to Ramblers & Bridleways groups and is waiting for a response. CW could act to commission the construction. MWh asked if there is local support? TT said a local resident first contacted him then raised it with the parish council who gave support, as did Bob Seely MP.

There is a further upgrade proposal in Godshill. Note that planning applications for housing developments for both these areas are likely to yield S106 funding.

7. Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plans (LCWIP)

TT said three possible schemes are on the go.

Bembridge, Brading & St Helens parish councils. CF is a member of Bembridge Wheelers and has been involved. She said Cllr Joe Robertson has co-ordinated the three parishes to fund a consultant to prepare a draft plan & apply for matched funding. If this is accepted by IWC then £20,000 should be available for public consultations and detailed planning. MR added that he has been in touch with the town clerk and they are very enthusiastic.

Niton. TT said they were keen, then cooled off, but may now be re-considering.

Cowes. TT said Cowes town council have become willing to accommodate cycling and are now consulting on “cycling and walking street design improvements in Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard”. Public meetings will take place on 20th 22nd & 23rd January in Gurnard, Cowes & Northwood. For the consultation see <https://people-powered.uk/LCWIP/> where there is a link to an interactive map, or see <https://app.placechangers.co.uk/campaign/225/overview>

AL commented that 20mph limits will be fundamental to safer walking & cycling schemes in all areas of the island as many built up areas lack continuous pavements.

In relation to existing & new cycle tracks further discussion took place of the coverage in local press and online news including OntheWight, Island Echo & County Press. AB suggested that the former are more amenable to publishing information provided to them. The CP likes to have more editorial control.

8. IWC Local Transport Planner

TT met with Daniel Washington who has been recruited by IWC as officer for Transport Planning. He will report to Stewart Chandler who is Highways and Transport Client manager. Daniel has worked previously in London & North Herts. He is considering re-instating the Quality Transport Partnership which could consider passenger and freight links with Hampshire as well as co-ordination of transport links and providers on the island. We think this could be a challenge but could be valuable.

PD said he was keen to meet him & learn more – including who does what & who is accountable in the Council.

9. AOB

CF asked if Cyclewight will publicise the new Highway Code which will shortly apply. PD said this should be a story in the Cyclewight website & newsletter. MWh suggest Cycling UK as a source for material. TT confirmed that we are members of Cycling UK and receive weekly & monthly newsletters & magazines. CF agreed to follow this up, provided she had the help of someone already involved with Cyclewight -MWh agreed. *****CF + MWh +TT *****

ADD LINK www.cyclinguk.org work in progress. We are member 8001830.

Sandown Cycle Track. It is hoped that the track will open some time in February subject to weather conditions.

CF is a Bembridge Wheeler and praised the group of riders. The contact has changed, and she will give updated info to AB for the website. (Nigel Hasting is now contact).

PD said that when they met Cllr Phil Jordan he expressed the view that Island Roads were not acting in the spirit of the PFI agreement, and intended to follow this up. Did he do this & what was the result? ****TT****

MWh The Cyclewight online shop has earned about £17.50. On www.cyclewight.org.uk/ click on Cyclewight Clothing Shop.

Next Meeting: TBA