

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 14 Feb 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. CycleWight Website

A request to everyone to look at website and contact Tim or Alan if anything can be improved or brought up to date. <http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/>

2. People Powered Cargo Bike

Matt Whitaker described the project to demonstrate the potential to deliver cargo by e-bike. The service will be offered to any organization or business in the area of Cowes, Gurnard, Northwood and Newport. The free pilot project will run over March April & May this year, will have three bikes available, and will employ three members of staff. CF asked if any other areas will be included and suggested that a run to supply vegetables from somewhere like Blackwater would be a good use of the system. She does a regular run to Bembridge from Blackwater. MWh said unfortunately the area cannot be extended but they were hoping to do wholesale deliveries – one pickup, multiple drops.

To use the service first register an interest at website: <https://www.people-powered.uk/cargo>

3. Meeting with IWC/Island Roads

The meeting with Stewart Chandler scheduled before Christmas was postponed again. MWa confirmed it will take place soon with a revised agenda. TT said the path at Rookley could be discussed. He noted that Mick Watts is the lead for CycleWight in contact with the council linked to the IR contract and he was keen to keep to this.

4. IWALC and LCWIPs

The Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils Bulletin is released monthly, and the current issue has local reports regarding public consultations re Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) as well as applications to IWC for matched funding. Of particular cycling interest the IWALC met Bob Seely MP, who said there are 200 killed or seriously injured on the island compared to 85 on other roads in SE so a dedicated road policing unit should be located on the island. Cllr Mike Lyons suggested three things to improve safety & reduce traffic: cheap, regular and reliable public transport, improved cycling & walking network & connectivity and a levy on vehicles crossing the Solent to fund IWC measures. <http://iwalc.org/bulletin.html>

MWh said the Cowes Northwood & Gurnard LCWIP has completed its consultation phase and is auditing the routes identified,

In East Cowes a review is also underway. Consultations will take place in the town hall shortly. There are some positive contributions but proposals are not so comprehensive as in Cowes.

CF said the Bembridge, Brading & St. Helens Parish Councils LCWIP is co-ordinated by Cllr Joe Robertson. She is in touch and will keep us informed.

PD said he had been in touch with town clerks in the Bay area, and found they were not up to speed. There was a suggestion that councillors are pro-cycling but not aware of the need to push funding applications. He will try to chase for some action. TT said he will ask CycleWight

members in the Bay area to contact their councillors. TT added that matched funding can take account of contributions in kind, such as use of parish halls and officers time.

CF said her area parish councils had agreed how to split their contributions and was confident that the IWC would approve the application. It would be useful to have someone local with experience in funding bids for cycling & walking schemes. She asked if there were other examples on the Island which could provide examples. MR said the Ryde & Newport schemes were such examples. However, TT said they were very detailed, expensive and might be intimidating. Instead he would find as an example a bid relating to a village prepared by Richard Lewis (who spoke at at our AGM). This would be more on the Bembridge/Brading/StHelens scale. TT has since identified this LCWIP. It can be viewed at https://buckdenpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/NDP/2018_19-v017-Buckden-LCWIP-FINAL.pdf

We discussed mapping software for public consultation, such as Widenmypath. The website <https://www.widenmypath.com/> is provided by the Cycle Streets network. It allows people to pick a map location and add a comment or suggestion and to view suggestions made by others. We used this before and made a donation to them. TT said there might be a cost to parish councils to use the service but it would be of great benefit. TT added that there are consultants with knowledge who can assist local councils and whose fees are not excessive. Richard Lewis gave some support for an application for a LCWIP though eventually they chose not to proceed. He is now based in the New Forest.

5. Carisbrooke Park Estates project.

GW said the first ride will be on Saturday 25th February. Gather at the car park at Carisbrooke Retail Park, Carpet Right for a 2pm start. There will also be a Dr Bike session on the Friday, from 11am at the same venue. Also coming, a paper map of cycle routes, and video footage of the route in use. More on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/658254491844560>

6. Newport Harbour Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document

The draft documents are at www.iow.gov.uk/spd and the intention is to add this to the Island Plan Local Development Framework. Consultation runs until Monday 21 March. CycleWight have been invited to comment and as the documents run to many pages the CW committee should do some homework and give feedback to TT. Note we have commented at previous stages and TT will circulate the text.

7. Newport Builders Merchant planning application

This development behind Newport Football Ground means that footpath N9 must be diverted and necessitates a new entrance off Godric Road designed for articulated vehicles. This has a detrimental effect walking and cycling on this route to Pan Estate. However the diverted footpath could be upgraded to a 3m wide multi-use path which links to Home Meade and the Furlongs route into the centre of Newport. This option is proposed in the IWC PROW have comments which can be viewed on the planning website. Planning Reference 22/00032/FUL.

8. Langbridge Cycling Hub planning application

Tim has received a request from the owners of Pedallers Cafe on the cycle track at Langbridge to support a planning application for a Cycle Hub. It would involve a two story building, workshops, offices and car parking. www.islandecho.co.uk/new-cycle-hub-and-car-park-for-newchurch-to-enhance-access-to-cycle-path .

As the development would attract more cars to the area there was some discussion about the speed limits, It was noted that local residents have complained about speeding cars. This may be an area on which we may comment on the planning application. There was also discussion

about the additional car parking 20 spaces. It was noted that the Merstone station car park is often full of cars. TT will write to Newchurch Parish council to reflect our views.

9. AOB

CF & MWh have prepared an article to publicise the new Highway Code and to explain what the changes actually mean. CF noted that debate is raging but is polarised, with criticisms from those who obviously have not read the new code. Note the article draws on Cycling UK sources & we need to check that we can use material.

GW Randonnee/Undercliff Signs should be put up soon ????

MWh said there will be a Riverfest at the Quay on 14 May. GW & MWa will staff a CycleWight display. People-Powered will transport the display material there, <https://riverfest.org.uk/>

PD asked about the outcome of TT meeting Cllr John Medland to discuss IWC infrastructure with respect to roads. It seems Cllr Medland has discussed with Cllr Phil Jordan the PFI agreement between IWC and Island Roads but nothing came of it. We need to ensure this gets followed up. PD will prepare for CycleWight a statement of our views, which TT will consider and submit.

Liz has registered a complaint that the committee chose to meet on St Valentines Day.

Next Meeting: TBA