

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 18 May 2016

Present: Tim Thorne (TT), Tom Ransom (TR), Mike Marlow (MM), Val Lawson (VGL), Alex Lawson (AL). Apologies: Colin Boon, Steve Archer, Martin Pay, Matt Whittaker,

1. IWC Planning matters

A planning application relates to section of highway east of Undercliff Gardens Nursery at Undercliffe Drive Ventnor Isle Of Wight PO38. The question has been raised if public access is to be allowed as gates and private access seem to be in plans. Follow-up action to raise with Ramblers (**Action TT**) & Local Access Forum (**Action AL**) as well as direct comment on the planning website (**anyone**). The reference is TCP/32614 & deadline by 20-5-16.

There is also a planning application at Cheverton Copse for a large holiday park extension, affecting the bridleway from the Newport-Sandown cycle track to Lake & Lower Hyde. Action to comment with regard to protecting and possibly upgrading bridleway. The reference is TCP/18303/K, P/00407/16 & deadline is 27/5/2016.

An IWC Consultation on Parking Policy is at: www.iwight.com/consultations/ It has been read by Steve Archer who suggests we do not need to contribute but points out that plans for 8000+ new homes strengthen the case for more multi-use tracks to provide alternative routes in accordance with IWC strategy e.g. at Fairlee Road and Havenstreet. OTOH Tom Ransom said we should question the unlimited provision of parking at town centres, and demand more cycle storage associated with new developments. **Action TR:** to investigate further and to report to the Cycle Forum (agenda below).

2. Facebook

An Independent Arts policy document regarding social media best practice has been circulated. Its guidance includes relevance to the organisation. TT is concerned that the Cyclewight Facebook page is used for general matters diluting our campaigning impact. There are about 150 followers on the Cyclewight Facebook page and many more on the IW Cycling page.

Action: TT to write in the preamble to the CW Facebook page clearly what submissions are acceptable.

3. Cycle Forum

The IW Cycle Forum was originally set up by the IW Council to feed into the Quality Transport Partnership along with other user groups such as the Bus Users Group. Secretarial support was subsequently withdrawn and Cyclewight took on the role to organise and continue the forum. Now the attendance of councillors at the Forum was not guaranteed and the QTP future itself was in question. Given the restructuring of council executive functions arising from financial cuts the role of the Forum is up for discussion. We are indebted to the IW Fire & Rescue HQ staff for making it possible to hold the Forum 3 times per year.

A Cycle Forum is to be held on 15 June 2016 at 1800 at the IWF&R HQ, Pyle Street, Newport. We will invite Councillor Paul Fuller & others. Note Mari-Louise White has left IWC Events but has referred us to Joel Bateman, AONB. Note also that Police have not attended the forum for some time, and it was suggested to invite the Police Commissioner.

The agenda will include :

Future of Cycle Forum (invite Councillor Paul Fuller to comment)

Improvements to Highway suggestions: Way Forward?

Parking Policy (Tom Ransom)

Visit IOW: Electric Bikes & Red Squirrel Trail

Cycle Festival (Peter Fellows)

4. Cycle Festival.

Should we contact Visit IOW (Dave Thornton)? Peter Fellows from East Wight Partnership is to talk about this at the Cycle Forum.

5. A cycling policy for the Island?

Should we have this as a Cyclewight policy document? Other groups have this. VGL suggested that we adopt CTC document. Consensus is yes. **Action TT:** to ask committee members to look at various ones from around the country including the CTC to glean the best ideas.

6. Quality Transport Partnership

VGL attended the QTP on 9 May 2016 for Cyclewight. It is attended by other user group representatives such as Bus users, Equestrians, Motorists, Ferry users. The future existence of the QTP is in doubt, partly as Chris Wells has taken redundancy. (Councillor Shirley Smart is responsible for the Transport portfolio, and Stuart Chandler is responsible for liaison for transport contracts.)

Agreed that Cyclewight should write to urge retention of the QTP, and that individually we should contact our councillors – **Action VGL:** to provide a draft.

7. Gunville Greenway

Gunville Greenway was raised by Councillor John Hobart at the last Local Access Forum 3-3-16. The plan is for a multi-use path to the eastern edge of Newport connecting with route 23 at the centre. There is now a safe pedestrian crossing of Gunville Road on Cllr Hobarts area. However the proposed route via Victoria Recreation ground has met with obstacles connected with local schools. TR said the way forward may be to promote safe route to schools. His current Sustrans role is working with schools on this project.

8. Improvements to Highway & Cycle Forum

Our 'Suggestions for Improvements to the Highways': included: contra flow cycle lane; advisory cycle lanes; joint use paths; signage; advance stop line; new track on verge (see committee minutes 16 March 2016). At Cycle Forum on 22 February it was suggested that we submit these to Anthony Cook at IWC. This got nowhere as did an approach to Island Roads. Cycle improvements are hitting a brick wall. **Action TT:** to meet Cllr Medland in the near future to discuss improvements in the West Wight.

9. Local Access Forum

The next LAF is on 2 June. Agenda includes Events team (Elaine Cesar); Gift to Nature (Matthew Chatfield); Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Chris Gregory); Sustainable Transport (Cllr Medland). Also user groups allocated 5 minutes each to report on problems or projects. **AL** will report for Cyclewight on Gunville Greenway situation and on Highway Improvements as above.

10. AOB

The completed Wootton Bridge / Kite Hill layout and marking for cycles lanes are poor.

Malcolm Ross has reported back. Island Roads are saying that as no one was responsible at the Council to oversee the work it did not get done to its full spec. One thought is does this mean that Island Roads need to pay some money back to the Council?