

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 20 May 2020

Zoom joiners: Will Ainslee (WA), Jess Garbett (JG), Martin Gibson (MG), Naomi Hyland (NH), Julie Jones-Evans (JJE), Val Lawson (VGL), Alex Lawson (AL), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whitaker (MW), Mick Watt (mw)

Apologies: Kayleigh Richter (KR), Tanja Rebel,(TR)

1. Cyclewight

A Cyclewight poster is to be produced for distribution on cycle track and elsewhere. TT has asked Mat & Cat to quote for the layout of a poster.

The web title **isleofwightcyclingfestival** has been duly purchased with 5 domains extensions. These are due to be renewed, at a total cost of £123. It was agreed only to renew *.co.uk and *.com at a cost of £47. MG agreed to arrange this.

For the Cyclewight AGM, TT will look into booking Carisbrooke Village Hall. The date could be 27 November.

Newsletter. TT wonders about improving . AL suggested Affinity Publisher. NH has a contact, who is a graphic designer who for a reasonable fee £25 per hour to look at our newsletter/web site to improve their appearance. Do we go ahead?

2. PENNYFEATHERS

The developers wish to delay construction of the cycle route until 100 houses have been sold/occupied (?) to cover the costs. They have asked for a variation on planning permission. MG has looked at the plans and said there may be a problem at the railway bridge which gives access to Smallbrook Lane. This is less important than the underpass which should be straightforward and is important as it form part of the LCWIP provision. A constructive compromise could be to delay the former while insisting on the latter. MW said the full compliance should be required as previous experience is that conditions are not delivered. JJE agreed, also based on past experience of things not done in the end. She added that the cycle route would be a positive marketing feature helping to sell the properties.

It was agreed that we should ask planning to hold the developers to the agreement.

Another point linked to the development was raised by MG. He has studied the 2017 legal agreement drawings relating to the highway junctions. There are cycle lanes which arrive at roundabouts then stop. We should raise this issue, and we should seek professional advice on cycle-safe layout. Discussion took place on where to seek advice.

TT will seek advice and will submit our views to the planning authorities

3. Sandown Pier

There is a proposed shared pedestrian and cyclist area near the pier. CW have commented on this development. We have been invited to comment at the planning committee. It was suggested to see if our comments are part of the officer's preconditions for development. 2nd June deadline

4. Walking & Cycling

Walking & Cycling TT wrote to Councillor Dave Stewart with regards the governments release of funds for social distancing for walking and cycling. There has been follow up with Cllr Hobart to discuss the issue, and provided him with a list of actions. Since then Lee Matthews has contacted TT to ask for our list of places where changes could be made to the walking and

cycling infrastructure. TT is concerned that only gestures are forthcoming. We do not see evidence that things are moving other local authorities have schemes up and running. Where do we go from here ? Should we go public to the press ?

MG said re-allocation of space from cars to cycles is the elephant in the room. The £2 billion which the government is offering to local authorities is for current projects during the Corona virus situation. We should push hard now for these short term improvements in towns. He added that improvements between towns are also important but secondary. JJE said the IWC Cabinet say they want a mode shift to cycling for journeys less than 5 miles.

TT said we have an invitation to submit another list. MG said we should ask them to tell us what their plan is, and we would help them to do that. NH said she had looked on the government website but could not find out how to apply for funding. We need to engage meaningfully with IWC. NH said we need to au fait with the government's thinking on this to hold IWC to account

WA said we are failing to get the IWC to do what we strongly think they should be doing. Having good cycling access is a Public Health issue. IWC departments do not work together, and other authorities do not work with the IWC. He has drafted but not sent a letter regarding the St Mary's Improvement Scheme, transport only seems to mean roads. In the Coronavirus situation how will those normally travelling by bus from St Mary's into Newport be accommodated ? Lots of different disciplines need to engage to provide an answer. He is of the view that Island Roads do not contribute when they are asked to do so.

AL said when we raise things nothing seems to happen, including with Island Roads . We should be pushing at an open door, given quotes from councillors. A news report today quoted Councillor Ian Ward, Cabinet member for transport and infrastructure, who said "the lockdown has inspired a new generation of cyclists on the Island", while Cllr John Hobart said "to assist with this, the Department for Transport has recently announced a new £2 billion package to create a new era for walking and cycling. "The announcement includes new statutory guidance which instructs councils to reallocate road space for significantly-increased numbers of cyclists and pedestrians. I also think it is a time to consider our connecting routes, such as The Gunville Greenway, aimed to run from Newport, through Gunville and on out to the West Wight, following the railway track as close as possible. "Routes like this, if designed correctly for multi users, would take cyclists, horse riders and walkers off our roads as well as making a great way to connect parts of the Island and work well with our tourism offer." JJE said we should write to David Pugh who is chair of the Conservative Association on the Island. JG however thinks he will not get involved.

TT will write to David Pugh. TT to do an interview on IW Radio next Wednesday.

5. LCWIP

The Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan has now been printed. It is mainly concerned with Newport and Ryde. TT asked if the our Cycling Strategy document needs updating. MG said we should update it even if not transformational. It needs to relate to the LCWIP and to the Permeability Studies carried out by People Powered and Cyclewight, as well as to new government guidance. NH volunteered to participate/ help TT.

Cyclewight IW Cycling Strategy to be updated

6. Membership

JJG said the Membership Mojo system is fully operational, and we wait to see if we are successful in respect of renewals and new members. MW said we have 186 members, about

178 active. There are quite a few new members, and renewal works satisfactorily. MG said there are an estimated 2800 commuting cyclists on the island, so many more new members must be possible. WA said vinyl banners with a clear message to join Cyclewight displayed on the cycle track would be good, but is prohibited by planners. He asked if the IW Cycling Facebook page would encourage people to join. For historical reasons that Facebook group is not well disposed to us. TT will go onto it as an individual. MG said social media posts with the mojo link are a good way to go. TT said we can make contact with commuting cyclists via offices, shops & factories.

MW said someone, not necessarily TT, should take responsibility for recruitment on social media. Someone should be responsible for current campaigns. Someone should monitor planning applications & write responses. Someone should deal with events. These tasks must not be left with Tim who cannot do everything. WA said he would take on tasks including letter writing, distributing bananas and accosting people on the cycle track while wearing a placard "Where's my cycle lane?"

Following discussion MW agreed to prepare a list of roles and submit to next meeting Further to recruitment issue and which companies to contact JJE said that Access Fund applications are a guide to which island companies have cycling sympathies. WA said Kayleigh Richter would have a good idea which local companies were on board. WA said Vestas and Gurit are prime contacts. JJE will follow this up with KR. TT added that Cycling UK had contacted him regarding a lady new to cycling who has taken up cycling to work to comply with social distancing but is unsure which route to take, the set up of her bike etc

7. AOB

NH quoted a news report saying that Hants & IW Police are campaigning to reduce vehicle speeds where cars have used empty roads to go faster. MG said that RTA figures for killed and seriously injured are still high despite a 40% reduction in traffic.

WA said he is a member of Living Streets, a campaign for pedestrians. It could be possible to have an Isle of Wight branch if others got involved. George Wilks has said he is willing to join.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

IW Cycle Forum normally February, June, October.

Committee: TBA

9. Links

<https://iwradio.co.uk/2020/05/20/on-your-bike-isle-of-wight-residents-cycle-more-since-lockdown/>

https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/news/article/410/new_cycle_route_opens_in_windsor Fundamentally describing the response of the Windsor and Maidenhead council to providing a cycle lane as per the governments ideas. If you look the area up on google earth you will see its quite a long stretch from the west down to the barracks.

<https://onthewight.com/slow-down-save-lives-campaign-highlights-the-devastating-impact-of-speeding/> Hampshire Constabulary is supporting the National Police Chiefs' Council's 'Slow Down, Save Lives' campaign that launched earlier this week.

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/> THE UK CHARITY FOR EVERYDAY WALKING

<https://affinity.serif.com/en-gb/publisher/> Currently £23.99 not £48, one-off non-subscription.