

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 25 Aug 2021 at Merstone Station

Present: Alex Lawson (AL), Val Lawson (VGL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MW), George Wilks (GW) Apologies: Matt and Jess

1. Meeting with IWC Officers & Island Roads

We are invited to this meeting on 17 August at Pedallers. This was attended by an IWC officer concerned with the PFI contract and an Island Roads representative, "IWC", "IR" respectively, and by MW, MR, GW, for Cyclewight.

"IWC" described the organisation tree for IWC. Colin Rowland is Director of Neighbourhood. Lee Matthews is responsible to him for PROW and for the Active Travel team. Jayne Dando is responsible Colin for Contracts.

"IR" described the IR structure but came to the conclusion that from a contact point of view, it was best to use official channels for reporting faults as they are logged in the system. He felt that his regular contact with CycleWight through Tim was worth continuing and all agreed.

Horringford Causeway: In conversation on surface types MW asked why the green surface grit was used on the Horringford causeway as it presented a skid hazard, and was washed away when water overtopped. "IR" didn't know so took an action to find out and feed back.

Fix My Street is the preferred method of reporting faults for Island Roads. The status of a report quickly goes to 'Closed' but this just means it has been initially reviewed and passed on to the relevant department. People have complained about this as it's confusing so enquiries are being made to see if a reason for closure can be added to the text. Action "IR"

"IR" also recommended that CycleWight use the following website as it shows roadworks for all utility companies. <https://one.network/uk/isleofwight>

"IR" explained that some reported faults of flooding and badger damage may appear to be delayed. Flooded areas need to be left to dry out before repair so that heavy plant doesn't cause more damage. This can mean the summer months. Badger damage needs a licence before it can be repaired, and there is a narrow window for the work around the badger's life cycle (ie breeding, raising young etc).

"IWC" was keen to restart 3 monthly meetings with all stakeholders (CycleWight, Ramblers, equestrians etc) so hopefully this will happen.

CycleWight stated that they were very keen to work with IWC and IR as they have many skills and much experience in the membership. In particular, CycleWight can give a cyclist's perspective of proposed works which would be practical and realistic, the aim being to get the most out the work done to everyone's benefit.

The above meeting was friendly, informal, and will hopefully be the start of a productive relationship between CycleWight, IW Council and Island Roads.

MR said he expected there to be a meeting in November, when Ramblers & Equestrians will be invited. It was noted that the IWC previously convened Quality Transport Partnership meetings.

MR also said that grant money often becomes available with an imminent deadline to apply, so there is a need to have deliverable schemes planned and ready to go.

****TT will follow up & will contact Cllr Phil Jordan ****

2. Car Free Day 22 September 2021

Wednesday September 22 is World Car Free Day. The Isle of Wight will have its own at St Thomas Square, Newport. Present will be # Beryl Bikes # People Powered CIC # Dr Bike # IW Heritage Zone # Cyclewight and others to be confirmed. Organisers include Brock Rogers. Cyclewight volunteers are needed.

VGL said we have found maps of local cycle routes to be popular, and they can be copied by peoples mobile phones. Cyclewight needs A2 map of Newport to be marked with routes and with electric bike charge points (Cafes?). We would also distribute the Cyclewight bells. We may also demonstrate puncture repair (although Dr Bike may do this).

GW will lead a ride round Newport. Route could take in St Mary's underpass, and out to Carisbrooke.

3. AGM Friday 26 November 2021

As last year, this will be held as an online meeting.

Consider speaker to be invited. There will be a new IWC Local Transport Officer in post in September who could be invited.

4. Island Planning Strategy

The draft Island Planning Strategy has been issued. This is a very important document as it determines the planning principles for the Island for the next 15 years. The consultation runs from **9am Friday 30 July 2021** and closes at **5pm on Friday 1 October 2021**.

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/The-Island-Plan-Review/Surveys-and-Consultations>

The committee will be reviewing the sections linked to transport and will offer some insight to members on what we feel are strengths and weaknesses of the proposals. It was noted that the LCWIP and the LTM120 are not mentioned.

5. Godshill Area routes

A planning application has been submitted for a housing development in Godshill. TT has been contacted by David Long in behalf of Captiva to ask for support in connection with upgrade to a bridleway which is involved. This is GL23 which runs north from Whitwell Road parallel to Newport Road. There are possible through connections which could be made. The greatest gain in the Godshill area would be to upgrade footpaths which connect east to bridleway GL46 which runs through Moor farm and which is also funded to be upgraded, .

6. AOB

VGL said that the Medham Link (footpath CS31 from Northwood to the cycle track) has recently become rutted and unrideable, although previously ok. The IWC pay rent to the landowners for cycle access to the route. ****AL & VGL to follow up with PROW.****

In previous minutes it was noted the section of footway alongside Fairlee Road from Mews Lane to the solar panels is dangerously narrow & overhung by branches. This has now been flailed back but the route is unsatisfactory as part of the Newport to Wootton cycle route. Fairlee & Whippingham Councillor Matthew Price has stated a priority to progress the Newport to Wootton cycle path on the old railway route. This in fact runs behind this section away from the highway. **** AI will contact Councillor Price.****

Next Meeting: 1st week October.