

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 27 Apr 2021

Zoom joiners: Alan Bennett (AB), Jess Garbett (JG), Alex Lawson (AL), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MWh), George Wilks (GW), Naomi Hyland (NH). Warren Payne (WP). Apologies: Mick Watt (MWa)

1. Wellow – West Wight Route

There is a planning application for 16 properties at Lee Farm at Wellow. There should be 106 money and planning gains relating to a multi-use West Wight route. Cyclewight will submit comments related to this aspect.

TT has discussed the application with PROW/IWC. The East-West access following the former railway trackbed had been available to the public as permissive bridleway under the Natural England Stewardship scheme which has now ended. The potential for a Newport - West Wight walking, cycling and horse riding route to West Wight is a long term aspiration of PROW/IWC, and their comments support reinstatement of access on a permanent basis. Also part of the former permissive bridleway was the S8 footpath, which also should be reinstated as a north-south link for cyclists & horse riders linking the track bed with Wellow Road and the Yarmouth road at Ningwood.

NH has looked at the application and confirmed that the access to the route would be made available. This might be seen as an alternative to social housing planning stipulations. NH said the quality and standing of the track were important. TT agreed with this.

TT said that PROW/IWC are considering a single planning application for an east-west route, which would be simpler than a series of individual detailed applications. The IWC officials concerned are due to walk the route to make further assessments. MR asked if we know of any issues on the possible onward route towards Yarmouth? TT said this is why walking the route was important. He added that planning conditions should include early development of the route in the programme of work to avoid a situation where the project runs out of money and fails to meet its obligation.

NH asked about the planning process and how conditions are applied. She said that advice from the Royal Town Planning Institute is available to community groups [here](#). MW said we could inform other consultees of our views. These bodies include Historic England, English Nature, Ramblers, equestrians, Island Roads. Island Roads are not objecting to highway access aspects. There have been objections from the Open Spaces Society. It was noted that the Ramblers have now agreed in principal with proposals in the area between Newport and Betty Haunt Lane (see CW20210330 section 6).

Our planning comments should point out the potential for a major leisure route making a significant contribution to the island economy, and should give support on this basis.

21/00684/FUL <https://publicaccess.iow.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

2. Bells &

MR & GW distributed bells at Appley on the Ryde seafront on Easter Monday – but were rather unsuccessful as there were few cyclists on the day. GW said we could do with signs for “FREE BIKE BELLS” so that cyclist would know what was going on and would stop.

We still have to distribute many bells and give an account of ourselves. Ideas include the new bike shop in Newport (formerly JP) and at Arctic Road in Cowes (Adrian’s Bike Shop), schools,

Yarmouth area shops & schools. AL said he & Val would distribute at Princes Green on Cowes seafront (where cyclists should slow down & have more regard for pedestrians).

3. Newport – Sandown: Southern Water track closure

Since previous CycleWight minutes PROW/IWC have arranged an off-road diversion, with co-operation from Hants & IW Wildlife Trust. This includes a footpath which will be surfaced to make it suitable. The cost will not be borne by the IWC. TT confirmed that he has been in regular contact with Southern Water and with PROW, who have been helpful - other bodies less so. He is unsure if Island Roads will provide signage for the diversion.

AL said his report to the Local Access Forum will congratulate PROW & Hants & IW Wildlife Trust for these arrangements made in a short timescale.

4. Newport – Sandown: State of the track

TT is awaiting contact from IWC contracts manager, to fix a date to discuss how the various bodies and officers within IWC/IR work. GW, MR, TT will attend. Anyone else?

Subject Inspection of the track condition is due. TT has asked to see the report. Still no reply. This should inform us on funding for repair - IWC/Island Roads.

5. Cycle track network: Rookley link possibility.

Warren Payne was welcomed to the meeting. There is a need for an improved link to the cycle track from Rookley where there are shops, businesses and a fair number of houses. 29 new houses are to be built. The bridleway A37 is very muddy in sections and especially in winter is difficult to ride. Warren has prepared a document with a proposal to improve and surface the route, and passed to the parish council who are favourably disposed. He has not established who owns the land. Cyclewight fully endorses the idea as any connection to the cycle track is important to commuting & leisure cycling.

Post meeting note. The office of Bob Seeley MP has contacted TT to ask our views. We were supportive. TT also took the opportunity to ask Mr Seely for a meeting,

6. Strava Metro and IoW counters for statistics

Matt Whittaker has further analysis of the Strava Metro app info. Looking at a section of cycle track to the west of Langbridge Shute, there have been over 40,000 rides by over 4,000 people using Strava already in 2021. Based on data obtained from the IWC cycle counters MW is confident that there are 10 real world rides for one Strava ride. This may not be precise, but it is meaningful data, and the trend is certainly meaningful. This suggests a huge increase from 2019 to 2020 during lockdown, and predicted during 2020 to 2021. Note that use breaks down by leisure and commuting but seems to default to the former.

MW is happy to make a presentation to whoever – and the IWC/Island Roads meeting (section 4 above) could be an opportunity.

****Action TT to contact Alec Broome, IWC Sports Unit, with a list of suggestions for possible siting of IWC's portable counter****

7. Big Bike Ride, May: Cycling UK

Bike week is 30 May 2021 to Saturday 5 June 2021. The consensus is that we set up a central location (e.g. Merstone, Bank Holiday Monday?) where we promote CycleWight & give out bells. We can hand out suggested routes for rides rather than lead a big organised rides.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek/7daysofcycling>

MW is keen to promote the use of Strava. WP said when he did a ride for Alzheimer's charity this got him to install & use Strava.

TT said a cancer charity has asked him to promote them

I <https://www.wessexcancer.org.uk/event/move-it-may-2021/>

Volunteers please for Bank Holiday Monday please.

8. Emergency Active Travel Fund

MW has prepared a paper on the Emergency Active Travel Fund timeline for the IoW, from April 2020 to present. For the amount to present of £299 000 very little has been delivered. In terms of new unprotected cycle lane -0m. The Mews Lane/Fairlee Road scheme is WIP. Funding for Tranche 2 has been allocated by DfT and unused tranche 1 funding will be carried forward. Cyclewight has provided suggestions & asked to be consulted more. (Lee Matthews attended previous CW zoom meeting).

Discussion took place about who to contact with these views: press, DfT etc. It was agreed that MW will build on the document & we will certainly copy to Cycling UK,

9. AoB

By the National Bike week in May/June the new council will have been determined and new councillors will be full of enthusiasm. We can send welcome letters/emails/newsletters/poems. GW suggested to hire a room in Quay Arts in June and invite councillors. MR pointed out that in the past we have organised a cycle ride for interested councillors.

AL said there is a consultation underway on extending rail lines to Ventnor and Newport. TT has circulated "*IWC Rail reopening study stakeholder consultation – IWBRUG response*". This suggests a dedicated west bound bus route parallel to Fairlee Road, running from the area where there are solar panels into Halberry Lane. The single track inbound guided busway would be on the old rail alignment, together with a parallel cycle track. Further dedicated routing via the Quay is suggested. The Ryde to Newport and East Cowes to Newport bus routes would benefit greatly. I believe Cyclewight should support the IWBRUG scheme. Further discussion at the next meeting.

Lee Matthews says the Fairlee Road survey results are available and are being acted upon.

**** TT to ask for more information.****

Will there be a Bikers breakfast ?

This was brought to our attention by a member. The Police are asking for cyclists views on road safety and cycling. <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90337572/c1ca748c9eaf> TT has circulated it to members

10. Next meeting

TBA.