

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 28 Mar 2022 at Clatterford Rd

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Pete Dyer (PD), Claire Franklin (CF), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), Matt Whittaker (MWh), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL).

1. IWC & Cycle Track update

MEETING with Stewart Chandler/ IWC & Island Roads regarding cycle network. No word about further meeting. A lot of improvements have been made in the last month, dealing with tree roots and badger holes on the network, but the deep mud section at Blackwater remains. The route at Wootton from Park Road to Station Road is more or less impassable. This has been submitted as a Fix My Streets item. MR said a crushed limestone edge would prevent the flooding problem.

Now that the St Mary's Junction Improvement scheme has been completed TT said ERRONEOUS SIGNAGE has appeared, including a direction to the main highway to Cowes instead of to the cycle track. GW said they should have consulted CycleWight before going ahead. TT said we are offering to give our advice.

It was noted that the MEDHAM LINK (from the Cowes - Newport track to Northwood) which was damaged by flooding, has been fixed and is rideable. Also the ROSEMARY LANE improvement SCHEME has been completed.

CF said we need to know how many people have to complain before problems are addressed, and what the priorities are. Who is in charge of Island Roads? TT said Steve Ashman is the top executive at Island Roads. PD said that he could not get to the bottom of who did what, ****TT to write to Phil Jordan to raise issues****

AL said we were previously successful in securing attendance at IW Cycle Forums of IWC officers and Island Roads personnel as well as councillors. We arranged the forums at the Church on the Roundabout which is a short distance from County Hall. TT suggested June as a good time to arrange this. *****AL to investigate venue & dates in June & circulate invitations*****

PATHS UPDATE: Also the Rookley Bridleway upgrade should now be surveyed and costed by suitable design consultants. It was agreed CycleWight funds could be used for this. **** TT to contact PROW for advice on the way forward*****

2. Carisbrooke Park Estate Cycle Routes.

GW said the project is in final stages and the report is due this week. The Dr Bike sessions were not so well attended but Route 1 via Carisbrooke College and Newport C of E Primary was successful & could be developed as part of Route 22 to Freshwater. The Facebook page has engaged people & we need to continue this contact via social media. We will ask Martin Gibson to see if we can publish the report on our web site.

3. Social Media, Highway Code etc.

Does CycleWight have a SOCIAL MEDIA person? If not can input be shared? TT, AB and MWh all contribute in various ways. MWh said that contributions to Twitter and Instagram by multiple

people are possible but are more difficult on Facebook where you are required to login. TT said his Twitter posts are followed and shared – such as the photos of hopscotch markings made by children using the new surface at Fairlee. TT added we have had professional advice regarding use of social media and he will re-engage with this.

<https://twitter.com/Cyclewight/status/1506566153250000898>

<https://twitter.com/mattdawhit>

Regarding the NEW HIGHWAY CODE, CF and MWh prepared a press release for the local media which included graphics and information from Cycling UK. This was circulated and On-the-Wight featured it. There were positive feedback comments.

<https://onthewight.com/highway-code-myths-and-misinformation-understand-the-new-changes-to-the-highway-code-as-a-driver-cyclist-or-pedestrian/>

4. Signs on roundabouts etc.

In Portsmouth there are signs at the entrance to roundabouts. PD said he has investigated the cost involved, which include a highway authority charge of £600-900 to process and a charge for the installation. Overall it is less than he expected if shared between local council and CycleWight. Possible sites could be where traffic leaves the Red Funnel ferry and at the Racecourse. PD has contacted an East Cowes councillor.

PD has been contacted by Red Funnel who say that their current plans for East Cowes are not final and could include suggestions about route, signs and racks. MWh said they need to talk to us and not make assumptions. **PD & MWh will liaise.**

5. Securing Bikes on Ferries

TT has been contacted by a cyclist regarding the Yarmouth - Lymington Wightlink ferry where there is no designated area to place cycles. Should there be improved facilities to make bike storage more secure? A discussion took place. CW could write to Wightlink to raise the concern. CF added that the Ryde Portsmouth FastCat was a free-for-all at peak times and could lead to damage on expensive bikes. She would be prepared to pay if she could book a bike and improve security.

It was noted that Island Line trains now only accommodate one bike per carriage – which is very poor !

6. Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plans (LCWIP)

In EAST COWES the LCWIP proposals have included suggestions from PD & MWh and have been enriched in consequence.

In EAST WIGHT two routes are now being considered; one via Culver Cliff and one via Laundry Lane. The former is favoured by the new councillor but the latter could be more achievable and is favoured by Bembridge Wheelers. CF added a consultant has been appointed.

In the BAY AREA PD said there is talk of a working group involving three parish councils. There seems to be little real progress or the will to seek out funding. A previous application was ineffective.

NITON & WHITWELL: There have been complaints from local residents for example about lack of crossings. TT has responded that they should take their complaints to their councillors who have been made aware of LCWIP funding possibilities.

COWES is progressing with its LCWIP project.

CF said the Buckland LCWIP application highlighted by Tim contained very good ideas and good presentation. Can we give support to assist preparation of applications for funding? IWC Cllr John Medland is Cabinet member who can advise about programmes & funding - ****TT will contact Cllr JM****

7. AOB

Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have invited CycleWight to send a representative to the presentation & conference in May at Yarmouth Yacht Haven, George Wilks will attend.

NEWPORT CARNIVAL TEAM are organising a procession to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and have asked CycleWight to participate. TT to follow up.

HURSTS: They are organising a charity ride for a heart charity. The ride in August, will visit all the Hursts ironmongery stores on the island – a serious ride. They have asked us for advice on routes, and support. MWh suggested we could pay for Island Bikeworks (Nick Blake, Dr Bike) to be available. TT will follow up with Hursts.

CYCLEWIGHT DISPLAYS: Our display stands and leaflets etc. have been collected from place of storage (thanks to Hugh & Margaret) and are now with MR.

RIVERFEST: This event will take place at Newport Quay on Saturday 14 May. We will attend. A Dr Bike session was discussed – GW said Nick Blake charges £60. MWh said the People Powered cargo bikes will be available to bring CycleWight display stuff.

WEST WIGHT GREENWAY: CF asked when the section near Yarmouth will commence? No update available – ****TT will contact Graham Biss.****

RYDE INTERCHANGE: MR said there will be a 3m wide pedestrian lane by the interchange instead of the proposed 6m wide cycle & pedestrian lane. There will be a 3m wide cycleway alongside the road towards the canoe lake. Asked if e-Bike rental will be available, MR said it was too soon to say.

#BIKES ON BUSES. MR said the bike adapted bus had been scrapped but standard coaches could be used to transport bikes in the cargo space on the Round Island route.

Next Meeting: April TBA