

## **CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 29 August 2019**

Present: Martin Gibson (MG), Alex Lawson (AL), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), Matthew Whittaker(MWh), George Wilks (GW).

### **1. Meeting with IWC**

Tim Thorne & George Wilks met with Isle of Wight Council executive David Evans.

It is reported that the **St Mary's Roundabout** changes will commence in September/October, the proposals having been reviewed independently by Hampshire County Council. Little change has been made to initial proposals which are still very much car oriented. There will be four lanes off the roundabout towards B&Q & industrial estate. For pedestrians Puffin crossings for Forest Road and for Cowes Road to St Mary's are to be built. Concurrently with the construction, Forest Road will be subject to works for 3 months to install a new electric power cable.

The **Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan** LCWIP is at stage 6, awaiting agreement from councillors. Lee Matthews, Recreation & Open Spaces Manager is responsible for administration. In Newport & Ryde plans & routes are to be implemented drawing on proposals by Cyclewight & People Powered. It was noted that our suggestion for a route at St Mary's Roundabout may be precluded by the changes there.

**Transforming Cities** is a government grant scheme whereby up to 12 shortlisted cities can apply to the DfT for a grant of up to £1million.

The possibility of a new Ryde Pier tramway was discussed.

Cowes-Newport cycletrack 8 week closure: he listened to our complaints.

Work on Newport-Sandown track: this has already started but they are employing divers to do some work on bridges so that the track need not be closed for so long.

Signing of Undercliff Drive as alternative Round the Island route: this will go ahead before April. There will be a new 30mph speed limit from Niton all the way to the bit where vehicles cannot pass. It is sad that this cannot be made a 20mph limit instead.

Arising from the meeting the following was discussed. MG said we still do not know what maintenance standards apply to cycle tracks. There are sections between Newport & Wootton which are quagmires but had at one time been tarmac surface: should all the track be to a minimum level?

AL said on the Cowes-Newport Cycle track there is nothing to stop lads on motor bikes or even cars from driving along the track from the Cowes end as the metal gate is now standing open. If the gate was closed then there is no tarmac surface for cycles to pass round, so it would have to be re-opened for cycles. The Isle of Wight Council as Highways Authority should ensure that the track is re-instated as it was prior to work to install the gas pipeline. MG added that the whole track is substandard with debris strewn around. It was agreed to contact Councillor Lora Peacey-Wilcox for support and to raise at the Local Access Forum. **\*\*\*Action AL\*\*\***

MWh said Cyclewight should consider strategic ways to improve cycling & walking, and should use social media to campaign & recruit. Our next meeting should discuss the St Mary's Roundabout from this point of view. MG said that Member Mojo is software to manage membership and recruitment online which we could use: [www.membermojo.co.uk](http://www.membermojo.co.uk) .

## 2. Bike Day 31 August.

Merstone Station on the Newport Sandown track has been improved and upgraded by Natural Enterprise with an LSTF Awards for All grant. The Opening Day is on Saturday 31 August 830-3pm when there are organised rides of various grades, displays of electric bikes, kids bikes, etc. **Action MWa, MWh & GW will be there to promote Cyclewight. TT will sort out Cyclewight Newsletter.**

## 3. AGM

Carisbrooke Church Hall Friday 29 November, 1900 for 1930. Agreed to approach Mark Philpott to talk on his expertise of highway design. Possibly a full day visit will be organised including a meeting with David Evans. MG suggested to ask IWC to identify flagship infrastructure projects to tour in a Cycle Safari, eg. Cross-Newport route, Pan Meadows route. TT suggested that a pre-recorded video could be made of these routes. MG said that the elections should be better prepared & organised.

**\*\*\* Action TT book hall and contact Mark Philpott \*\*\***

## 4. Cyclewight Cycle Strategy & Vision for Cycling

A download link is on the Cyclewight home page. The document has been published for a year and needs to be updated and made more bold. We should aspire to a network of routes linking areas of local permeability. MG noted that Professor Ian Walker has suggested “protected car lanes” which give support to the concept that shared use of space is the norm.

The IWC has supported the government Vision for Cycling by submitting a Cycling Delivery Plan which draws on Cyclewight’s strategy.

*Post-meeting note: This link fails [www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/2015-2025\\_Cycling\\_Delivery\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk/files/2015-2025_Cycling_Delivery_Plan.pdf).*

## 5. Brading Station.

South Western Railways (SWR) have invited applicants for Customer & Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF). <https://southwesternrailway.com/ccif> .

A route east of Brading Station could be developed to connect the paths alongside the railway via land now owned by RSPB. Subject to approval from RSPB to permissive access to their land then benefits to SWR arise from there being alternatives to access via the station and 2 level crossings. Cyclewight has been in touch with Brading Town Council, East Wight Landscape Partnership/DttC (Peter Fellows) and PROW/LAF (Jennine Gardiner & Mark Earp), who are supportive. We hope that support from RSPB would be forthcoming – Brading Marshes Site Manager is Keith Brading.

We hope to register an interest with SWR.

## 6. AOB

# GW wrote to Bob Seely MP to advocate better provision for cycling, but was unimpressed by his response. His ambition is that by 2040 walking and cycling will be favourite for shorter journeys. By 2025 a target of 55% aged 5-10 should walk to school. Expenditure per head of £3.50 pa should double to £7pa in 4 years. The Governments Cycling & Walking Investment Strategy has a budget of £2 billion and Transforming Cities £2.5 billion, with further funding for Clean Air funds & for Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans. TT pointed out that these amounts sound impressive, but much of this funding goes on revenue schemes rather than on infrastructure improvements which would be permanent.

# AL said the Beacon August 2019 described the plans for major developments in eastern area of Newport Harbour, including a new bridge for pedestrians & cyclists over the River Medina

which would link Seaclose Park with destinations such as the IW College & St Mary's Hospital. The IWC seeks views, with a deadline of 30 August.

See [www.masterplanfornewportharbour.co.uk](http://www.masterplanfornewportharbour.co.uk).

# MWa said he has become for Wheels for All organiser. They are expecting delivery of bikes by early September. They currently have 6 bikes and were able to borrow another 6 for Wonderfest, where the bikes were very successful. The bikes cost up to £5000, which is strong enough for a wheelchair & passenger weighing 200kg. A storage location is badly needed, and the machines are kept in Jan Brookes garage at present.

#MG said strategic areas of importance to cyclists should be reviewed. We should monitor Facebook conversations amongst local cyclists. **Action Each committee member to chose a campaign before next meeting.**

# MWh said Digitalisation of Cyclewight is very important.

# Cycle Forum: MG confirmed dates available for Church on the Roundabout, and it was decided that Monday 14 October was the most suitable date. **Action AL to prepare invitations and agenda for circulation. MG to book in.**

# Cyclewight Committee should schedule next meeting. Agreed for 25 September 730pm.

## 7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Committee: Wednesday 25 September 730pm, 72 Clatterford Road.

Cycle Forum: Monday 14 October 6pm, Church on the Roundabout.

AGM: Friday 29 November 730pm, Carisbrooke Church Hall.