

CycleWight Committee, 29 June 2022 at Clatterford Rd

Present: Pete Dyer (PD), Julie Jones-Evans (JJE), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Mick Watts (MWa), George Wilks (GW), Alex Lawson (AL), Val Lawson (VGL).

Apologies: Matt Whittaker (MWh), Claire Franklin (CF)

1. CW letter regarding cycle track maintenance

We have responded to Councillor Phil Jordan regarding cycle track maintenance. PD prepared this letter & it was agreed by the committee. We expect it to take a little while for a further response.

2. Cycling Signs at East Cowes roundabout

Red Funnel have agreed in principal to sponsor road safety signs at roundabout at East Cowes. PD said he established that Island Roads have jurisdiction to permit highway signs, and has received from them an application form. It turns out that there is a requirement for insurance cover to be in place, which was a disincentive for Red Funnel to be applicant. Instead it may be that IWC should apply for permission to install the signs, in which case the council insurance cover would simply be extended.

PD wrote to Stewart Chandler the IWC Highways Client Manager to query these matters. Others copied into his email have responded, including the new Chief Constable of Police Jim Pegler who replied to give his support to the initiative and to undertake to discuss with the IWC CEO. In addition there have been responses from the new IWC Road Safety Officer Lewis Campbell and from the IW Tourism director Will Miles. In summary PD has made progress to achieve the signs and has involved more contacts in the interest of road safety.

3. Cycle Tracks maintenance contract

The off-road cycle tracks on the Island are maintained by Island Roads as part of the PFI highways contract. It is suggested that direct maintenance by the IWC would achieve better results and allow more responsiveness to needs.

It was noted that the PFI contract was funded upfront by a government grant. The contract with Island Roads was specifically for the Isle of Wight and has 17 years to run. It was noted that there was a level of complexity occurs level whenever dealing with highways issues; although this may be a consequence of actual legal constraints there has also on occasions been misinformation.

TT proposed to seek information from Cycling UK regarding the legal position of the contract. Also to write to Councillor Phil Jordan to propose direct maintenance by IWC. PD said we need to arrange to meet Cllr Jordan to talk about track maintenance going forwards.

VGL said she sees no advantage to the change from Island Roads to direct maintenance. Before the PFI was established we were never able to get maintenance carried out. It was a success for IWC officers to add the responsibility for cycle track maintenance into the highways PFI contract.

PD responded that funding money is available such as the LCWIP funding. The IWC is promoting cycling and electric bikes but the infrastructure is lacking. The cycle track is in poor condition & the process is failing. Do the IWC and Island Roads have the will to fix this?

JJE said that the IWC has pressure on its budget which will only get greater going forward. The highways budget was at one time £8M, so if we work out what percentage went into cycle tracks that may not be a lot of money. She said that Cllr Phil Jordan is conversant with the PFI contract. He is aware that CycleWight are not happy with the Blackwater section of the cycle track and he does care about this issue. JJE suggested that CycleWight should raise the issue at the IWC Scrutiny committee which meets on 7 July.

4. Local Transport Plan Stakeholder Workshop

The Local Transport Plan stakeholders meeting was attended by TT to represent CycleWight. The process is to prepare LTP4 for the future of transport on the Island building on previous version and drawing on public consultations.

Others contributing included rail providers, IW Bus & Rail User groups, Southern Vectis, Active Travel England, and IWC officers attended in an observing role. The main objectives were presented and resulted in good dialog & feedback. The S. Vectis person would like to meet CycleWight.

The presentation was circulated to CW committee and there will be future workshop which more can attend. The committee discussed the St Mary's Junction Improvement scheme in this context. Has it met these active travel objectives?

5. IWC levelling up funding bid

The council have bid for a further round of levelling up funding, to include:

- New cycling and walking infrastructure between Ryde and Yarmouth including better connection from Newport town centre to Gunville, and the long-planned West Wight Greenway
- Improvements to connectivity and facilities at transport interchanges along the route
- Improvements to highways and public areas in Newport, including the construction of the Taylor Road link (near to Argos), which will unlock the route for the Island Green Link through the town.

JJE confirmed the IWC bid was prepared and has gone in. An online public survey which was carried out – thank you to CycleWight for promoting this.

AL said that the footway alongside Fairlee Road is currently a dangerous bottleneck on the Newport to Ryde cycle route, which is shared by pedestrians and is also an interconnecting link for Ramblers using the footpath network.

6. Tour of Britain & Newport Market Days

Tour of Britain event. This is from Newport Market Days, "We are working with the Shaping Newport partnership to deliver an event on the 10th of September to coincide with Car Free day and the Tour of Britain Cycling leg which will take place on Sunday the 11th of September and would love to have your input. Market Days CIC is organising an Open Air in Square event in St Thomas Square, Newport focussed on promoting walking and cycling and sustainable travel as well as promotion of the Island as a destination for events and awareness of the Tour of Britain coming to Isle of Wight. This will be alongside

a market and will include music and other free family activities and entertainments.”

JJE added that St. Thomas Square will have a big screen displaying the Bournemouth leg of the tour as it happens. They are keen for CycleWight to attend on the Saturday and are planning various displays & events. VGL asked if the Cycling Cinema can be obtained & if the Veteran Cycle Club can come? TT said the pump track owner is on the Island and suggested that the Active Travel traffic calming video could be shown on the screen. JJE said they want to pick up where the IW Cycling Festivals have shown the way & will put forward suggestions. There is a meeting to organise on 20 July at 1530 at the Quay Arts.

Organisation of the Tour of Britain was discussed. Organising the road closures is contracted to a specialist company. VGL asked if volunteer marshals will be used as per previous events. JJE said she will find out.

7. LCWIP Bembridge Brading St Helens

TT confirmed this is going forward. CycleWight have been invited to attend the next meeting. Claire Franklin is leading.

8. AOB & items from 30.5.22

West Wight Greenway: ongoing.

Planning Applications & comments. TT has entered our view on the Godshill scheme including the suggested bridleway which is not that meaningful at the present time. There is a new proposal for 70 houses in the Shalfleet area which has cycling links. PD asked if cycling & walking provisions are obligatory or if they are guidelines. TT said they are supposed to be followed but are not strictly adhered to.

Ryde Interchange: MR said the Esplanade cycletrack is now under construction.

Red Funnel: VGL said bikes can now be transported on Redjet. Have we congratulated them? PD said Red Funnel have provided segregated areas for bikes at East Cowes & a Dutch-style roundabout. They are a cycle friendly company - he is in touch with managers who are planning more improvements. TT said cyclists are sent to front of queue when loading car ferries. PD also said some Island Road employees were very cooperative when recently some construction was underway.

Rookley to Birchmore A37 bridleway upgrade: ongoing – waiting to hear from RoW

Road Safety: Having contacted IW Bridleways Group about previous item it is pointed out that Island Roads organise many road diversions which utilise narrow country roads while not applying any speed limit or advising traffic to drive accordingly. Ppolice speed patrols on the island have been withdrawn. There has been an increase in accidents involving cyclists and horse riders which is attributable to these factors. To be followed up ***AL***

PD link to a video of **Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes**,

<https://youtu.be/5om1yL7Jxaw>

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum: Ongoing re. date & venue. ****AL & TT to liaise****

Next Meeting: Last week July