

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 30 May 2022 at Clatterford Rd

Present: 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. ROW Rookley - Our next move?

It was noted that RoW would have no objection to a survey being done and if it just involves an inspection then there is no problem with access (as it is a bridleway). We should ask RoW or Natural Enterprise see the landowner before this happens to show our continued interest in this project. Whoever is commissioned would need to be briefed on the requirement of different design options i.e. one surface suitable for all; segregated surface (one for cyclists and soft ground for horse riders); issues relating to the very wet ground/muddy conditions and the need for drainage at the cycle track end; a surface capable of withstanding farm vehicles. The spec and price would be for a very basic rural bridleway surface (gravel/planings). Obviously if the survey was looking to produce an all singing and dancing spec which meets modern design standards for shared used routes then the price will be significantly more - the landowners would have to agree to a change in approach.

IWC/ROW have talked about the spec boost for regular equestrian use. Additional funding would be required for this purpose, TT said he has contacted the Bridleways Group to ask their views, but awaits a reply. AL will contact the secretary. ****AL to contact TM****

TT said ROW may be able to suggest possible surveyors (two?). MR asked if Island Roads can supply the recycled planings. CF sought an explanation for the different surfaces. TT explained that cyclists prefer a harder surface that that favoured by horse riders – but there are compromise surfaces.

2. Response from Phil Jordan and IWC Client Manager. Where now?

PD heard from Cllr Phil Jordan who passed on the response from Stewart Chandler the IWC Highways Client Manager. The Newport - Sandown track is a mix of formal rights of way, permissive routes and some purpose built sections, while surfaces vary from tarmac to unsealed compacted surfaces. The Island Roads contract took on this existing situation with different maintenance standards applied to the different surfaces. The badly needed improvements require funding which is difficult to come by, partly as DfT prefer to target funding at new routes.

Cllr Jordan promises to bid for funding and look for improvements that can be made, and to ensure that contractual obligations with Island Roads are applied. The aspiration to increase and improve 'active travel' solutions does exist in the current IWC but CycleWight must keep pushing for more schemes to be funded.

MR said the IWC should bid for the next tranche of government money whenever available. TT noted that Chris Gregory who prepared previous bids for the council, has now left.

PD said we need to widen our scope, and enlist more support. He suggested contacting Bob Seely MP, the Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, and the new police superintendent who presumably would want cyclists on paths rather than roads. He added that when MW & he talked to the paths inspector he was not aware of the Gear Change document.

CF suggested that we also approach Cllr Joe Robertson, leader of the Conservative group on IWC, who is leading the St Helens /Brading /Bembridge LCWIP project (see 6. below).

3. Riverfest – Improvements ?

CycleWight members put on a display at Riverfest on 14 May. The event was very well attended and the presence of CycleWight was worthwhile. We have not staged these displays for some time & we need to think about possible improvements in our presentation.

4. Going Electric? County Show? Do we attend?

The Going Electric event is at Isle of Wight Technical College on July 31 from 10am till 4pm. Electric bikes, electric vehicles & chargers, drones etc. will be on display along with talks and demonstrations. MR asked which eBike shops will be there. MWh suggested we reach out to the eBike shops. He confirmed confirmed that People Powered will be present and he would be able to support CycleWight. TT will get back to the organisers & find out more. ****TT to contact Going Electric****

The Royal Isle of Wight County Show is a bigger and better two day event on 25 & 26 June. There is to be a new Natural Environment area to which the AONB are invited. CycleWight have been invited to participate too. However it is a big commitment & we will not take this up.

5. National Bike Week. Event ? 6-12 June

There is little time to organise an event. TT will publicise the National Bike Week on our website and social media. See: www.cyclinguk/bikeweek

6. LCWIP Bembridge Brading St Helens.

The public consultation has just been launched for this, with an interactive map until 26 June for **East Wight LCWIP** <https://app.placechangers.co.uk/campaign/255/overview>

People-Powered have facilitated the above, along with the video by Will Ainsley, which CF said is very good. She added that to reach Laundry Lane it is necessary to go via Carpenters Road where the pavement does run out. Although hazardous with children this is likely to remain the case in the short term, although there are long term hopes for an alternative.

See also public open evening dates & locations: <https://onthewight.com/help-shape-walking-and-cycling-infrastructure-plans-in-brading-bembridge-and-st-helens-area/>

7. AOB & Cycle Forum

West Wight Greenway: CF asked for news ? Since Graham Biss would be busy organising the County Show, TT said it is difficult to find out the latest.

Planning Applications & comments. There is a Godshill scheme involving 104 houses. BCM, the agents, had invited CW to view the scheme in its previous manifestation. We will look at the changes to the plan. The Gunville scheme now mentions opening up Taylor Road and CW have written to oppose this as it could be detrimental to the West Wight Greenway. The Pennyfeathers scheme is growing and the developers now want to delay one of the cycle tracks, which CW has objected to. The Wootton Quarry proposal is also a threat to the Round the Island cycle route and CW has written using Strava figures provided by MWh to object.

Signs on roundabouts in East Cowes: PD said Red Funnel have agreed in principal to sponsor these, and he now needs to facilitate an application to Island Roads.

TT noted that the road/cycle route at Newtown had been closed although this was not notified on the **Island Roads One Network app**. When TT contacted IR it seems the closure was for 2-3 days. Worryingly the closure information was not publicly accessible.

PD has a link to a video of **traffic calming neighbourhood schemes**, posted by Brian Deacon Active Travel. This is to be sent out the next briefing as well as forwarded to IWC Councillors

Isle of Wight Cycle Forum: having contacted MG to ask about Church on the Roundabout in June, AL had no reply & did not follow up (on holiday). Other venues discussed: Victoria Recreation Ground, St John's Church Hall, Cafe Isola upstairs. Dates could be later in year - before the Tour of Britain on Sunday September 11 would be good. ****AL & TT to liaise****

Next Meeting: MERSTONE Station, Last week June ?