

CYCLEWIGHT Committee, 31 March 2015

Present Tim Thorne (TT), Vic Mann (VM), Mike Marlow(MM), Dizz Disley (DD)

Apologies: Val and Alec Lawson, Tanja Rebel, Steve Goodman

1. Road Safety

As part of LSTF 2 there is a sum of £10,000 to be spent on a campaign 'Share the Road'. This is to be administered by the Chamber of Commerce. TT has been to see Ann Swift, who has been appointed to deliver the whole of the Chamber programme. She is willing to listen to ideas that groups/ individuals come up with.

There was a discussion about what would be the objective of such a campaign. It was felt that education of drivers and cyclists was the best way forward. If there was an opportunity to highlight inappropriate behaviour by drivers it may be something that could be used to cyclists advantage.

Ideas for a campaign could include; posters, a bike on a trailer showing the distance necessary when overtaking, messages on a bus, t shirts, cycle champion. Various motor related groups could be approached: taxi drivers, lorry drivers, Island Roads, George Jenkins, Southern Vectis. DD has found a scheme for HGV drivers linked to vulnerable road users.

TT raised the issue of whether the accident figures for cycling on the Island should be generally made known to the public. They do show that on the Island cyclists are safer than the national average. It was discussed but no real consensus was reached. -All-

DD had reported an incident of two cars driving too close to him to the Police and they declined to become involved even though he had video evidence.

2 Chamber of Commerce

At the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce much of the time was spent on how they were going to deliver their part of LSTF2. We discussed how CW could help. I did mention that we were already thinking of doing a traffic count at where NCN22/23 intersect. Ann wondered if we may be willing to host a Facebook page that was linked to commuting in its various forms. The reason they cannot host it themselves was mentioned and Ann thought that a group such as CW could be seen to be more part of the community as well as be more responsive than a body such as the Chamber. There was a general consensus that we were not quite sure what we could put on such a site but it may well be of use.

Ann would be looking for cycle champions as well as cycling buddies to accompany people on rides for leisure or commuting.

3.Stewardship

There are a number of rights of way on the Island which are being given money (stewardship) from the government to allow the public to access paths on their land. The landowners are under no obligation to sign the route which has been created. For example a stretch of bridle path has been created across Lee Farm in Thorley on the old railway line. These paths are time limited and this scheme will eventually end in 2020 as HMG will no longer fund the scheme. It was discussed whether this information should be put on the CW web site. It could be seen to be drawing attention to these paths and in the long run it may alienate landowners and so may harm our long term plans at creating some more routes. It was felt that we should make the various paths known.

4. Sustainability Committee

TT reported back on the meeting that he and Alec attended. The outcome of the meetings so far is that some rights of way have been recognised as being a priority. This list is to be published. The major issue is that there is a need for these projects to be 'shovel ready' to take advantage of any funding that may arise. There is no money or officer time within the Council to do any initial plans. At the meeting there was a feeling that the Council does need to be willing to 'gamble' their small amount of funds they do have on the plans so as to be ready for any future funding streams. Will Ainsley's work in LSTF 1 show how many problems arise when doing projects. CW could take on some of the initial work to investigate any future schemes something similar to George Wilks talking to the two landowners between Gunville and Betty Haunt Lane. We need to identify possible routes and plans of action. **Post meeting.** TT will contact the Estuaries Officer as she does hold an initial survey for Island Harbour to the Folly. The question will be how close is it to being 'shovel ready'

5 Cycling Festival 5 -27 September

The Festival is on again this year. If people are considering organising a ride they need to contact Mari Louise asap. The general consensus is that we should do the Cyclists' Breakfast again. Suggested date 9 or 16 September? Any preference? **-All**

6. West Wight Community Partnership

They would be interested in offering a bike ride on the 16th August as part of their [Sunday@3](#) programme. They would like CW to lead/organise the ride. Anyone interested being part of this? **-All-**

7. Cowes High Street

TT has contacted the Cowes Town Council to see what progress has been made. None! TT wrote back to ask to whom he should write on this lack of progress.

8. Riverfest

We have been invited to attend the Riverfest which is on Sat 16th May. Alec has said the Local Access Forum would like to attend so we decided that CW and the LAF could do a joint stall. **Anyone wishing to help please contact TT or AL.** The organisation has to make a donation. £20?