



www.cyclewight.org.uk

Contact us through the web site

Newsletter

The Committee decided that it is too expensive to publish a newsletter to all our members. The CycleWight web site contains all the things we are doing. We would still like to be able to keep in contact with you all hence we are asking for members to tell us their email address to keep our records up to date. This can be done through the "Contact Us" menu on the website (address above). We will continue to send the newsletter to those who do not have access to the web site. CycleWight has a Facebook page and Twitter account, which are also used keep people up to date. The CycleWight Facebook site has now over 180 people following it and nearly 90 on Twitter. The Isle of Wight Cycling Facebook site is nearing 500.

LSTF News

The work funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) is now becoming more visible. The most obvious is the Wroxall to Shanklin route being upgraded. Work has been done on improving the path from Quay Lane, Brading to the bridle path that leads to St Helens. The upgrading of the bridle path around Quarr has begun with further works in the near future. The section from Seaclose Park to Island Harbour has been delayed because of some of the riverbank keeps collapsing.

The funding has also paid for "Visit Isle of Wight's" new campaign "Bicycle Island". The central thrust of is to get cyclists to stay. Materials and adverts will concentrate on this, showing the many things you can do while cycling here. New maps will be launched as well as new themes for rides. There are many routes published already but more is to be made of them. There are to be way marked 'off road routes'. Another strand of the campaign will be the slogan, "Drive less, see more."



The Bicycle Island grants have been over subscribed. The decision on which bids have been successful will be announced sometime in May. Let us hope that there have been some exciting ideas proposed.

The Council has applied for LSTF 2. This is a revenue bid. It will concentrate on encouraging residents and tourists to leave the car behind or use it less. It is a competitive bid so hold your breath!

Space for Cycling

The CTC has launched a campaign called "Space for Cycling". This is calling the Government and Local Councils to make cycle friendly design when building or improving the infrastructure. They are also asking for more 20MPH zones in residential areas.

There is a link, which allows you to send a letter to your local councillor. This is a very good feature because the proforma finds your local councillor for you. It is easily modified to give a local flavour.

<http://www.ctc.org.uk/campaign/space-for-cycling>



Junior Cycling

It is hoped to re-launch the very successful Junior Cycling club. Some details have been confirmed. There are to be six sessions on Saturday mornings. Each session will be 10-12.30. These timings will be reviewed after two sessions. They will be at three different venues around the Island: Ryde Newport Sandown. **Dates are May 31 June 21/28 July 12/26 August 2.** At present it will be aimed at 10+. The Road Safety Team is to provide some bikes so as to allow as many young people to attend. Each session will be a mixture of road training and fun/sport activities. Please let people know. Can you volunteer to help? This will not be a long-term commitment but just for a couple of weeks to get it going. You do not have to have any particular skill - just a willingness to be there. If you can help please email alec.broome@iow.gov.uk.

West Wight Marketing Group

The West Wight Marketing Group has decided it can no longer operate in its present form. The phoenix has risen from the flames. The West Wight Community Partnership will continue to work for the people of West Wight by raising monies for groups who are working towards benefiting the community, The Sunday at 3 events will therefore carry on. Please do support these events as they are raising funds for CycleWight. The next two events are:

18 May Talk by Gareth Sprack: The Isle of Wight Rifles and other 20th-century regiments 15.00

15 June Catherine and Friends (music) 15.00
Venue Seely Hall, Brook PO30 4EJ

Bike Bus

Southern Vectis have converted four of their buses to be 'bike buses' so they can carry up to six bikes at a time. The scheme is being done using LSTF funding from the council.

On April 1, one of the buses was at Yaverland to launch the programme. Members of CycleWight were invited to go along and to try out the new facility. We did post the story on Facebook and Twitter and it got a great response from all over the country. It runs until the end of September on a route that goes round the Island.

"A local punter gives it a go!"



Membership

In the square by this item there is a box, which if ticked highlights that your membership is now due. £5.00 Per. Household. £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and sent to: Mr D Jackson, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton, PO33 4HR. **Please note change of address**

Make Cycling Safer

CycleWight has been contacted by a variety of concerned people about their safety on the roads. We are in discussion with various bodies on how this can be improved. Several people have written to the council as the Highway Authority. Please make sure you include your own Councillor in your letter/email. They are supposed to representing your views and concerns. The more people on the Council that know of your worries the more likely something is to happen. There is very little money for cycle infrastructure after the LSTF monies end.

One way forward is to use paint as means of slowing traffic or providing a cycle facility e.g. joint use path, permissive cycle route (on the road). Do you have some



suggestions? Joint use path? Quarr Hill springs to mind. Some of the advanced stop lines at traffic lights are suffering from wear and tear. Where are they? Are there any places where you think they could be added? Please do contact us to compile a list. There is information about vehicles overtaking cyclists in the Highway Code.

Cowes to Newport

The newish signs on the track have been very misleading. Cyclists and pedestrians have different interpretations of what these signs mean. This has led to much unhappiness amongst many users. Blue does mean advisory, which many people do not realise.

CycleWight has sent a series of alternative signs to the Council, which we feel would be more acceptable to all users. We have had a positive response back. Watch this (or that) space.

It may not say so in all of the articles but CycleWight has had an involvement in all of the items in the newsletter.