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Contact us through the web site

LSTF 2

The Council with "It's all about the journey" bid has been awarded another £1 million from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This time the money is to be spent on "revenue." This means that it is much more about hearts and minds rather than infrastructure.

The bid has been split into 3 parts. The first is for Tourism. This is to maintain the work Visit Isle of Wight has been doing to encourage people to use alternative transport than the car. As part of this there are to be Travel Ambassadors who will talk with holidaymakers highlighting the opportunities there are not to use their vehicle.

The second tranche of money is to work with education, which is to motivate students and their parents to walk and ride to school. The

third part of the project is to be run by the Chamber of Commerce who will be working with local employers. In all cases there will be grants for schemes, which will encourage people to travel sustainably.

CycleWight has been engaged with all the three strands to

some degree. The Chamber of Commerce has appointed Ann Swift to run their part of the scheme. Of particular interest to CW members is they have some funds for raising awareness amongst road users for cyclist safety. This topic has been discussed regularly at committee meetings and the Cycle Forum. It is pleasing to see that there will be some funds available for this. We have been invited to be part of these discussions on how to proceed with this part of the LSTF. If you have any ideas on this or encouraging people to cycle to work, please do contact us.

Pedallers Cafe

This new café has opened on the Newport and Sandown track at Langbridge near Newchurch.

It only opened at Easter and has already proved to be very popular with locals and visitors alike. It offers refreshments, snacks and most importantly cake. There is cycle parking and a repair station too.



Sustainability Committee

CycleWight, along side other interested parties, were invited to



attend the Sustainability Committee in January. The main topic of discussion was how to improve the Rights of Way network. In some parts of the Island it needs to be better maintained and elsewhere there needs to be some additions to make the provision more comprehensive and link together better. At the end of the first meeting each representative was asked to highlight five parts of the network that they felt could be improved.

At the follow up meeting in March a list had been collated. Needless to say some kind of route out to the West Wight was top of the list. As government funding is so limited it was then discussed how best to be able to raise funds for any future large scale work to the Rights of Way network.

It would appear to us that the Council do have to be involved in any long-term project. If the present system of having to bid for any major funds continues post election, the committee feel that the Council has to look towards paying external consultants to bid for grants. Sadly there is not sufficient staff within the authority to do this. There is no guarantee of winning bids but you have to "speculate to accumulate."

LSTF 1 has been successful in many ways but it is apparent that many things can disrupt projects. It is important therefore that proposed improvements are 'shovel' ready to take advantage of any funding. Assisting the Council to do this is where groups like CycleWight and the Ramblers may be of assistance.

Cycle Forum – Feb Meeting

The Forum met in February. Once again it proved to be an excellent meeting with many topics discussed. It was good to see so many councillors and representatives from the various groups attending.

Much of the information disseminated at the meeting can be found elsewhere on the newssheet. One of the interesting points mentioned was how Island Roads collates information on problems on the road network. As with so many things it is always more difficult than you think!

The minutes can be found on the web site under the drop down menu, "Campaigning".

LSTF 1 - The End

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund 1 has now ended. As many of you know this project has led to a great deal of work being completed on the Island that has improved the cycling infrastructure and raised the awareness of cycling as part of the tourism offer. Some of the articles elsewhere in the newsletter link to some of the work carried out with the funds spent. The list of things done is very long but you can see some pictures of various the projects by looking on the CW web site and looking in the 'Galleries' section where there is one dedicated to LSTF 1.

Highlights must be the improvement to the paths from Shanklin to Wroxall and from Wootton to Ryde. It is pleasing many local companies took advantage of the grants. Some of the hire companies bought bikes more suited to long distance riding as well as panniers etc. There is much more cycle storage now at various holiday accommodation sites around the Island. The project has to be congratulated for assisting with the associated costs linked to planning permission, which would have discouraged many applicants. There are now several repair stations dotted around. There are the Coaster buses, which accommodate bikes. Wight Walks, have acquired a van to help them move their customers luggage around the Island (They do cycle tours too). And of course CW updated the Round the Island map, which has since been distributed to many tourist related sites.

There was a further release of money for grants at the beginning of January. These grants were for revenue projects only. They had to be matched funded by approximately £10,000. At the moment there are no details of any successful bids though it did appear to be a sum many groups, including CycleWight, found too difficult to find.

Finally it must be brought to your attention the work of Will Ainsley, the LSTF manager. Will's dynamism, sense of humour and willingness not to take no for an answer were all important in the success of the work. Most importantly his vision of how things could be have been an inspiration. Many of you have appreciated his enthusiasm and plain speaking. Will has now an appointment on the mainland but will continue to live on the Island. We wish him well and thank him for his efforts.

Committee – Is it for you?

In the last 2 years we have lost several members of the committee. It would be really good to have some new faces and to hear differing views. The amount of work you take on is up to you but it is always good for the work to be shared around. Please get in touch.

AGM

The AGM took place at the Eight Bells in December. As per usual it was a successful event with nearly 40 people attending. When we arrived the room was set up for 10!

Richard Bates, a CTC Council member, gave a talk about the work of the CTC. This was interesting as it gave a view of cycle campaigning elsewhere in the country.

Tim Thorne, the chair, gave an address about what had happened through the year as well as looking forward to the future. Will Ainsley, the LSTF manager, talked about his work and his hopes for the last few months of his post, which was to end in March. The officers of CycleWight were re-elected

Richard thoroughly enjoyed his time and promised to come back even though he had a puncture just 10 minutes after arriving! He forwarded to us a copy of the report he sent back the CTC, which was very positive about the work the group has done.

Signs on cycle tracks!

There has been some new code of conduct signs put up on many of the cycle tracks and joint use paths. They have replaced the older ones, which caused confusion and on occasions led to situations that meant cyclists were accused of behaving badly. We were approached by several people to see if something could be done about this. After some research CW contacted the Council and offered some suggestions. The results, which can be seen, have received good feedback and also no complaints - so they must be working.



Cycle Festival

The Isle of Wight Cycling Festival takes place this year from the 5-27 September includes over 60 rides with options for all levels, from Cycle the Wight to the Tiny Tots Cycle Adventure. So whether you are a regular cyclist or infrequent rider there is plenty to choose from! The full Cycling Festival programme will be available in June. You can request one a copy visiting www.isleofwightcyclingfestival.co.uk or calling (01983) 821000.



Medina Greenway.

The route runs from Seaclose Park to Island Harbour and was officially opened at the end of February. The path cost £600,000 and was paid for as part of the LSTF funding. It proved to be technically more difficult than first thought. This was not helped by part of the route falling into



the Medina after the heavy rains of last winter. Thanks to the donation of land by Solo, the Festival owners, this was overcome.

The track has had to be designed to take into consideration the number of trees along the route as they could not be removed. The surface that has been laid is designed to be long lasting and not be affected by tree roots as has been the case on parts of the Newport to Sandown.

The route opens up lots of possibilities. Cyclists can go up to the main road at Island Harbour and after just 100 meters join the old East Cowes Road for a quiet route to E. Cowes or



onto Wootton. This is not perfect but an improvement. The other great point is that you can now get to Sandown from Binfield all on quiet roads and tracks. At the present time cyclists cannot go on to the Folly as there is just a foot-path. Some work has been done on looking at the possibilities of upgrading the surface.

At the opening Tim Thorne met several residents of Island Harbour who already had abandoned their cars to do their shopping in Newport via the path. Park Run group have also been using it for their Saturday event.

There is a cafe/restaurant at Island Harbour called Breeze. They had already noticed that there was an increase in people walking to them from Newport town.

W. Wight Community Partnership

The last year has seen the West Wight Community Partnership raise money for Cycling



in the West Wight. They did this by putting on events once a month called Sunday @ 3. Taking place in a variety of venues they consisted of music and presentations. There were sufficient funds raised to have information boards made about cycling and walking. The first of these was unveiled at a ceremony at "Off the Rails" in Yarmouth. The board can be found just outside the cycle hire. The weather was absolutely perfect and the event was made even better by some music and morris dancing.

Davie and Esme Ballard should be congratulated for their hard efforts to make this happen. There will be more of the Sunday @ 3 events this year all taking place at the Baptist Church at Guyere Road in Freshwater. Monies raised this year will be going to Dimbola Lodge.

Pearl Izuma Road Race

As part of its remit to encourage people to cycle on the Island Visit Isle of Wight is using some of its LSTF money to help promote a round of the Pearl Izuma Road Race. It will take place on 14th May in Ryde around a circuit that includes the sea front and Union Street.

There will be an opportunity for young people and residents to have a go on the circuit before the real racing begins in the early evening. It is to be shown live on the television so if you attend make sure you wear your best lycra!

As this will be the first round of the season there will also be a time trial – an added bonus. Visit Isle of Wight, Ryde Council and Island Roads should be congratulated for such foresight. It will be a fantastic event for all who wish to spectate as well as a fantastic advert for the Island.

If you could help marshal please contact Mari Louise White at County Hall or email MariLouise.White@IOW.gov.uk

Island Roads

A topic for discussion! Island Roads are much maligned but it is good to report good actions that have been taken.

In the last newsletter we mentioned that Little London, which is part of NCN 23, is in a very poor state of repair. The work is scheduled to be done this year but several people pointed out it is a busy commuter/tourist route. We are led to believe that the schedule has been changed so this piece of road is to be done earlier in the year because of its importance.

Many people, including CycleWight, have raised the problems at Shalfleet traffic lights where it was impossible for a cyclist to get through the one-way system without facing cars coming from the other direction. The whole set up has now been renewed. There are now microwave sensors, which identify movement rather than plates that pick up metal. It is good to note that even though all traffic lights on the Island are to be renewed that these were amongst the first as there had been so many comments to Island Roads.

Cycling in Majorca Alan Bennett

After three years spending my annual cycling holiday in the French Alps I decided I needed a change and some friends suggested Mallorca. I nervously booked a "training camp" based in Pollenca, a seaside town in the North-East corner of the Island. It was a planned, supported week, running from Sunday to Friday, as the flights landed on Saturday and departed the following Saturday. Saying that, it was only 2hrs 5 mins flying time, so as I booked an early flight out. I got a warm up ride early Saturday afternoon and with a return flight late the following Saturday, a relaxing farewell ride too.

I chose Mallorca Cycling Tours, who have been trading since 2000 after seeing their web-site advert. I was not disappointed. We stayed in the 4 star Hotel Duva in Puerto Pollensa, a short walk from the coast. A fabulous hotel; good accommodation, food, indoor and outside pool and a gym (if you have any excess energy)! They have very large secure underground parking for a few hundred bikes. You can bring your own bike or pre-book a hire bike from one of the many local hire companies, who will deliver and collect your chosen steed to the hotel. I thought the 2015 cost of £595 was reasonable for a half board 4 star supported holiday. There were three groups on each training day, tailored to speed and experience. Needless to say I joined group 3, which is more suited to regular, competent riders, able to cycle 30 to 50 miles at touring pace each day. There was always at least two coffee and cake stops! Wednesday was an optional day off. There is an option to chop and change between groups. A broom wagon follows the groups round. The

three groups meet at one of the coffee stops, where much bragging and complaining of sore bottoms takes place.

I had a brilliant time and will be going back next year. To be fair, the training camp is not for the occasional cyclist, to put it in terms of reference, Tints and Wayfarers would love it.

Sunday Social

You may well remember in the last newsletter a new group has set up called The 'Sunday Social'. Gareth updates us on how things are going. "We conduct guided off road mountain bike rides every Sunday and Thursday evenings. The Sunday Morning Ride is from Merstone Station leaving at 09.30 each week. The Thursday night ride leaving (for the present) from the same place at 18.30. Trail lights essential. We do require a helmet & suitable riding clothes for the conditions, if anyone requires advice I would be happy to help."

"Our first ever easy ride went well. We had 3 family groups. We advertised it at short notice but is definitely one we are planning to repeat, along with our 'Ladies only ride' - hopefully once / twice a month." For further information please Contact Gareth Shilton 077333 63035 or look on the Facebook page

Social Media

CycleWight as you will know does have its own web site, Facebook page and Twitter feed. These have all proved to be very popular with the number of people following us continuing to rise. We posted a picture of the new track at Quarr – it was viewed by over 900 people!

It is interesting how it can be used in a positive way. For example someone wrote to our Facebook page to explain how she had fallen off her bike after an incident with a horse. This led to a discussion by a wide range of people with comments on the actual incident and also how best to deal with horses.

Newsletter – Please read.

Last year it was decided to email the newsletter to as many people as possible to save on costs. If you are willing do this please could you inform us through the 'Contact' Section on the web site. If you are renewing your membership you can put your email address on the back of your cheque.

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**