



www.cyclewight.org.uk
Contact us through the web site

AGM

The AGM was an excellent night with a wonderful atmosphere in the room. Over 60 people attended. It was fantastic that we gained 6 new members on the evening. It was topped off by a really interesting presentation by Tim Wiggins talking about his cycling adventures. Tim Thorne presented CycleWight's Cycling Strategy for the Isle of Wight to Councillor Hobart, who is the



Cabinet member for the environment. The committee were re-elected. If you would like to join the committee, please do contact us through the web site. Fresh ideas are always welcome.

Cycle Strategy.

The Cycle Strategy is now ready. It can be downloaded from the web site. It is hoped that this will become an important document in establishing proper provision for cycling across the Island. It sets out a series of principles that would make cycling better with a series of maps of strategic routes, which

would bring the Island together. It is hoped to update it in 2019 when we hope to be able to cost some of the work we are proposing.

The strategy can be accessed from the web site. Since its launch it has been downloaded over 200 times; over 100 the day after the CP mentioned it! Paper copies are available for a charge of £2 including postage.

The Quay update.

CW has now received an answer about why barriers on the Quay cannot have a gap in the middle to allow cyclists to pass through. We have learnt from officers of the council that Island Roads have told them that the bridge is so badly broken that this would not be possible. The bridge's construction means the footpaths either side are not affected. We



wrote back to ask when the bridge is to be re-opened. We have not been informed directly but we have discovered that it is hoped that work will begin in June.

We suggested that one side of the bridge should be for pedestrians and the other for cyclists. This is deemed as not possible because of the height of the railings and the narrowness of the path.

A big thank you.

CycleWight have received a donation from the Wayfarers for £1,000 to help us in our work. As you can see from this newsletter we are incredibly busy and having some extra funds to assist us in over the next few months will be fantastic, Truly appreciated.

Island Roads meeting.

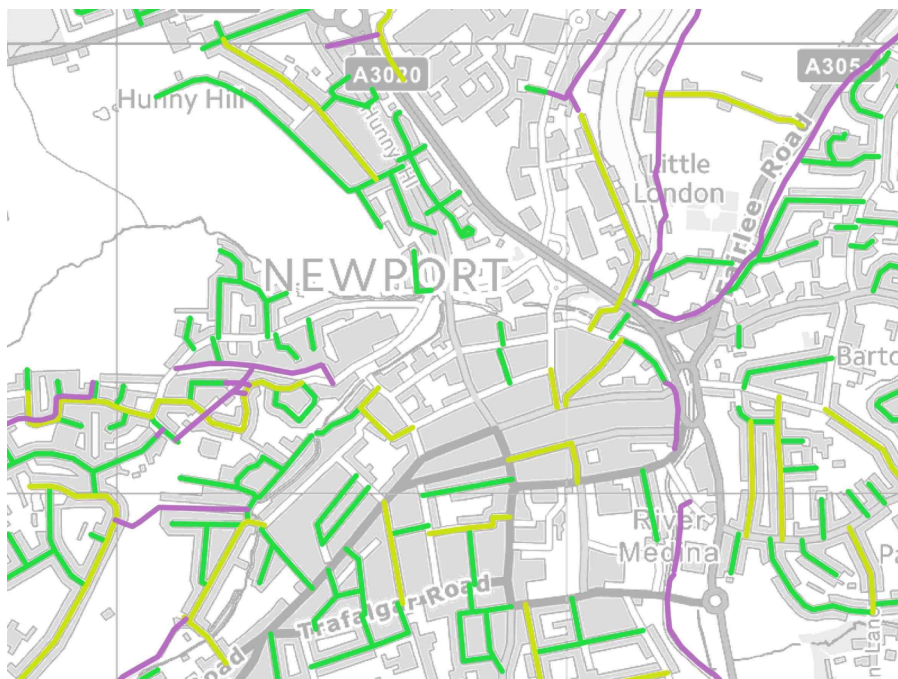
CycleWight and Visit Isle of Wight met with representatives of Island Roads over various issues of concern. Two of the issues raised were road and path closures and the use of barriers along the paths, which make cycling so difficult.

There was an acknowledgment that signage could be improved, as there are occasions where roads were closed to cars but pedestrians (and cyclists) could access routes. Cyclists would be expected to dismount where the work is taking place, as it is illegal for people to ride on pavements. IR and the Council have to be congratulated on the temporary bridges they have put up in various locations when mending bridges. IR agreed to liaise more with CW and Visit IoW on occasions where routes would have an impact on cyclists and walkers.

The barriers proved to be more of an issue. The barriers along the routes are there to slow people down, and to dissuade motorcyclists. This was raised by us as there was a barrier replaced on the Shide Path after it was taken down when the cross Newport route was instigated. The committee feels that there are too many, some of them are badly positioned and it can make it difficult for people with bike trailers, tagalongs mobility scooters, etc. In many cases it is felt a post in the centre of the track is all that is necessary.

We would like to remind people to contact the IR web site to report defects. There is a register and remedial works can take place if there is enough reporting of an issue. The Shalfleet traffic lights are an example.

Map from the study



Newport permeability study.

As many of you will know CycleWight have been awarded a grant from the Awards for All, part of the Lottery, to do a permeability study of Newport. This is a means of looking at ways to make Newport more walking and cycling friendly. CW will then work with IWC and Newport Parish Council to implement the recommendations. It is very much aimed at doing things that are simple and relatively easy to implement.

The report should be ready for publication by early February. A presentation was made at the "Newport Travel Forum" on Saturday 20th Jan, on some of the findings from the study and suggestions to improve movement around the town. The map below shows the routes at present in Newport that can be deemed as cycle friendly. The issue is to join them up so people can walk and cycle seamlessly across the town.

Some of the ideas suggested would be contra flow cycle lanes in Crocker Street and Trafalgar Road, raised platforms at junctions so as to slow cars, 20mph zones in all residential areas and to create a joint use path alongside Medina Way.

Newport Parish Council has commissioned a pedestrian audit in the last few months. It sets out a series of actions that could be taken to make it easier to walk around Newport as well as it make it look more pleasing. This in tandem with our report should provide a powerful set of documents to set out plans for a better Newport.

Far too often the cry is heard, "It can't be done" It could be, as one only has to go and

visit places elsewhere. At the Travel Forum there were several examples shown.

We will ensure that some of the suggestions and ideas made will be shared with other Island towns.

Newport Traffic scheme.

The first plans for the £9 million re-structuring of Newport's road systems have been announced. In the next few days the committee will study them to come up with a response. People's views are being encouraged. You can send them to <mailto:highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk> Closing date for comments is 21st Feb. CW do feel that this is a little late in the process as dates are already planned for work to commence!

There is to be a joint use path from Hunny Hill to the hospital and a toucan crossing to assist pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road. The detail on the plan issued to the public poses many questions such as the increase in speed and its impacts on other parts of the town.

The plan itself is within a document that can be downloaded from the Council's web site under the title, "Highway improvement schemes 2018" or from our web site under the heading "Campaigning" drop down menu.

Cycling and Walking Paper.

Just before Christmas Bob Seely asked for a paper to be written on improving cycling and walking on the Island. Natural Enterprise led the work with assistance from other groups, including CycleWight. It was delivered within a two weeks timeframe. Mr Seely passed it on Jesse Norman, the minister responsible for Roads and Local Transport. Lets us hope that at some future date that this will help attract additional funds for cycling and walking. What could have been achieved with £9 million?

Believe it or not?

This year will see CycleWight being formed for 25 years. It began in September with a "Fun Run" along the Cowes to Newport track, with 50 people attending in pouring rain! The following month we organised a meeting in the Quay Arts Centre in October. Speakers were the Council's Principle Road Engineer, Right of Way Manager and Sustrans. For those who attended it is still remembered as a lively event! Any ideas on how to celebrate this important moment please do get in contact. A small note. CW were obviously ahead of the times. We should have put a copyright on the term fun run. We could have owned half of the Isle of Wight by now!

Bike Shelters.

These items are becoming more common in places across the UK. They are ideal for areas where the housing does not have an easy place to keep a bike eg flats, terraced houses, houses with little storage. There are plenty of places on the Island where this is true, mainly in the older parts of the various towns. These shelters could allow people who are put off having a bike somewhere to keep them. They take up approximately one car parking space and so the gain for the community is immense. Can you think of an ideal location or maybe already know of a group of people who may be interested in such a feature? Please contact the group as we are keen to see this get off the ground (well on a street)



Bikes4All.

The Bikes4All scheme is being run by Wight Cycle Training as part of the Shift IT active travel project. The Shift It project is funded by the IW Councils Access Fund. Its aim to get as many young people travelling sustainably and actively as possible. One of the obvious barriers to cycling is **NOT** having a bike. We want to help to change this. Bikes will soon be available to view on the new Wight Cycle Training website which is under construction at the moment.

Membership

Membership is £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and send to: Mr D Jackson, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton Bridge, PO33 4HR. Or pay by BACS. Lloyds Sort Code 30-95-99 account number: 01247732 Please use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership.

Newport Traffic Scheme

The following points the committee think could be commented on. Please use as many points as you wish. Please do try not to copy and paste so each submission has its own identity. Please do get back to us with your ideas and views.

- * The joint use path on Hunny Hill, Parkhurst Road, Medina Way is welcome. There is a need for there to be very careful planning and design on how cyclists are to access the route in Hunny Hill. The path should be at least three meters wide to allow space for all users.
- * There needs to be a joint use path on the eastern side of Medina Way, from the hospital exit. There is room for this development. It should go to the 'B&Q' roundabout. This will take cyclists off the busiest part of the upcoming junction. It will give them easier approach to the factory estate. It would also allow them access to the college and the underpass, which is already joint use. This could also lead to further development of the path along side the eastern side of Medina Way in the Coppins Bridge direction running parallel to the college grounds .
- * The turning of Medina Way into Hunny Hill and the top end of Hunny Hill need to be narrowed to slow down the speed of traffic so as to make it as safe as possible for cyclists and pedestrians.
- * At the bus stop in Parkhurst Road a bike lane needs to go around the rear of the bus stop so cyclists do not conflict with people waiting for buses.
- * Whitesmith Road and Dodnor Lane need to have continuous footways to allow easy use of the paths to the bus stops.
- * The Island in the middle of Medina Way, opposite the hospital, should be enlarged and the design should be that users can walk/ride in a straight line.
- * The path to the Underpass in Hunny Hill should be made wider to make the approach easier. The barriers should be removed or at the very least the distance be increased between them to allow ease of access.

<mailto:highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk>