



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

25 yr celebration

As mentioned in a previous newsletter CycleWight have now been formed for 25 years. Bearing in mind part of our initial plan was to disband in 2000 having achieved all our objectives it might be fair to say we are a little behind schedule. To celebrate this we will be leading a ride from Arreton Barns as part of the Cycle Festival. This is where the Festival will have its village for the launch weekend. This seems particularly appropriate as it is close to the Newport to Sandown track, which must be one of our best achievements. There will be more details closer to date. Do come along to the launch of the Festival for a cycle chat as well as look at part of some of our original newsletters etc

Here is a list of some of the things we have done in those years.

- * Signing of the Round the Island route,
- * Supporting the Council to achieve over £5 million pounds of funding for sustainable transport.
- * Ensuring bikes can go Island Trains
- * Promoting the off road round the Island route, Chalk Edge Extreme,
- * Regular meetings with Island Roads and IWC
- * Writing a cycle strategy for the Island
- * Obtain funding for a cycle and walking permeability study of Newport
- * Meetings with the MP
- * Ensuring cycling and walking facilities are given due regard during the planning process.
- * Cyclists' Breakfasts
- * Initiated the Safe Routes to School programme in schools
- * Ensure Bikeability was offered to schools
- * Cyclewight raised money for survey of Newport to Sandown route
- * Secretariat for Cycle Forum
- * Supporting the Cycle Festival
- * Create the Round the Island Map
- * "Wider for the Rider Campaign"

Cycle Strategy.

Our Cycle Strategy has now been published for six months. Since its launch it has been downloaded over 500 times; over 100 the day after the CP mentioned it. It is hoped that this will become an important document in establishing proper provision for cycling across the Island. It contains principles that would make cycling better and 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.



We have distributed it to a wide range of people and institutions. It has been well received and we are particularly pleased the Council will be referring to it in the upcoming Island Plan, which goes out for public consultation in October. They also have it on their official web site.

It can still be downloaded from our web site. Paper copies are available for a charge of £2 including postage.

Medina Greenway

You may have heard that this week the path has been closed because of the damage done by the 'golf buggies' used by the Festival. The group has written to express our disappointment and the need for the repairs to be permanent.

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 at cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership.

SHIFT-IT'

This is the name for the Active Travel Schools



Programme on the Island. It is part of a government initiative from their Access Fund. 'Shift-It' has been in place for a year now and is busy delivering a range of activities across primary, secondary and 16-19 provision.

This year they will introduce the new "Shift It Schools Award", which recognises schools who promote active and sustainable travel within their community. There will be three levels of award. Successful schools will be able to display a plaque.

Student Power is a project that is supporting a group of students at Medina College who are acting as 'Shift-It' ambassadors for active travel and are meeting with parents and senior leaders of the school to try and push the agenda for upgrading their current bike and scooter storage.

A big development is delivering Bikeability in high schools with the aim that more children feel confident to ride their bikes to and from school. It is proposed to run some level 1 and 2 courses in the summer holidays this year for young people who do not have the opportunity to access the course elsewhere

'Shift-It' is being delivered by Wight Cycle Training. If you are interested in any of their programmes or know of a youth group who may benefit from their expertise contact Ross Edmunds at <ross@wightcycle.co.uk>

LCWIP

The government has launched an initiative that every local authority is to have a "Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan". The government also provided a scheme to allow local authorities to bid for additional help. The Isle of Wight Council was successful in this competitive bidding process and the consultant has been to the Island already. He has been sent all the relevant material by Officers to review including our Cycle Strategy and our Permeability Study of Newport.

There is a management board overseeing this work and we are pleased to say that CycleWight is a member. There are several other meetings scheduled in the next two months. This has extra importance, as the

new Island Plan is due out in October for public consultation so we hope that the recommendations from their report are included. This would hopefully lead to making it much more difficult to build developments without due consideration to all forms of sustainable transport including cycling.

Travel Innovation Grant

CycleWight have applied for the above grant. Our application entitled 'More Paths for All' builds on our work from the Permeability Study of Newport and the Cycle Strategy. The grant we hope will give us the funds to be able to identify paths on the Island which are strategically important for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. From this we hope to look at ways to be able to obtain funds to bring them into wider use.

Last year two recipients of the Travel Innovation Grant were awarded funds to promote holidays with electric bikes: Seaview Hotel and Freshwater Bay B&B. Seaview tell us that the first season is going well with over 50 holidays being booked with other guests taking advantage of the bikes to hire them for the day. There has been the odd incident where customers did not quite understand the principles and have had to have a new battery taken out to them as they had managed to run them flat! Another interesting point is the fact that the demographic of the customers is varied. CycleWight committee members created the routes for the hotel to Osborne and Shanklin by providing written instructions and digital downloads. The hotel kindly made a donation to CycleWight for our work.

Freshwater B&B have not had such a strong up take but for £125 you can have two nights in the West Wight with a day's electric bike hire. What is there not to like?



Seaview Hotel's launch event for their electric bike holiday breaks

Close Pass Mats.

This has been one of our campaigns to get the Hampshire Road Police Team and the Island's Road Safety Team to bring this to the Island.



Newport end of the track

Cycling UK bought every constabulary in the UK a mat, which shows the distance a car driver should take when overtaking a cyclist. This is to combat near misses, from which we have all suffered.

In Mid June there was a visit to the Island for two days. The first part of the programme was set up at the Newport end of the cycle track where they 'engaged' with 183 cyclists giving out freebies about 'Be Bright. Being Seen.' The next day the Police organized a Give Space Be Safe operation. A



Our own mat at the Riverfest as we had given up waiting.

member of the team went out on a road on a bike. A police car monitored how cars overtook the 'cyclist'. 8 drivers were educated

for passing too close.

It was great that they came though it would have been nice to know they were coming. The above feedback was from the Teams Twitter feed.

The Cycle ^{iw} Cycle Festival

This year's festival is to take place on 25th August – 2nd September. There will be a launch event based at Arreton Barns. There will be wide a range of activities taking place including a pump track, cyclo - cross race, various bikes to try out as well as a range of shops, stands etc. There are 35 events already registered over the 9 days. The organizers are keen to hear from anyone else who would be willing to lead a ride or some other cycling related event. You can do that through the Cycle Festival web site <http://www.iwcyclefest.com>

Island Roads

Members of the CycleWight committee have had a second meeting with Island Roads. The issues covered were linked to various issues. These included the signage of diversions, some poor design features that make easy riding more difficult, and clarity over the maintenance of the cycle tracks.

On the last point we were told that cycle tracks would be maintained with tarmac and cycle paths (Shide to Blackwater) would be kept free of ruts ridges and potholes. This we feel is disappointing and would like to see some of the paths improved to a better standard. We feel that this needs to be pursued by the Council.

We did highlight that we could help IR in letting people know what is happening and some of the issues they face. There is a misunderstanding for example over the maintenance of roads. Not all roads are part of the IR contract with the Council, such as part of the estate behind Sainsbury's in Newport.

A positive outcome of the meeting is we are to meet an IR representative soon. The track between Shide and Blackwater is to be closed in September to do repair work on the bridges. We have been invited to discuss the work and the diversion that will be needed. This is great. We look forward to more such meetings.

The Quay update No 2

We have been told by Island Roads that work is due to begin on a new bridge at the end of August. You heard it here first.

Sadly the temporary bridge for the festival is to be dismantled. I suspect local people will not be too disappointed due to the noise it emitted even when a cycle went across it.

Newport Traffic scheme.

CW have been led to believe that the scheme has been re-designed after the consultation earlier this year and now is with the Cabinet of the Council for a decision in early September. The new plans are being studied by a consultant who will be writing a report for the Cabinet. There does not appear to be any public consultation on the second set of plans. This is disappointing. One fears for the person who does not want to use a car.

One of the reasons for the re-design was poor provision for bus users. It is good that this was taken into account and changes made. Sadly another reason was the loss of some car parking places. It is always going to be difficult for sustainable transport to be taken seriously if there are times that car use is not given precedence.

We did make a six-page submission, which has now been downloaded over 200 times. Our two 'big' ideas were for there to be a multi user path on the eastern side of Medina Way, which would take people down to the town. The other suggestion was for the junction design where Forest Road meets Medina Way. It would make it simpler and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to get to the hospital from the town. As part of this we suggested that the bus stop on the Cowes side of the road should be an island design, which are becoming more common. This would prevent conflict between those waiting for the bus and those trying to cross the road to the hospital.

It is a shame that we do not know if our proposals are part of the re-design.

Permeability Study

Keen readers of the CycleWight newsletter will remember that we were awarded a grant from the Awards for All, part of the Lottery, to do a permeability study of Newport. Its intention is to make it easier to walk and cycle in the town as well as traverse

it if you are passing through. It has been downloaded over 200 times from our website. We have now done a presentation to the Newport Parish Council on the permeability study and are hoping that we can begin to put some of our proposals into action.

We have also done a presentation to Cowes Town Council. They are looking at accessibility issues too. Whippingham and Wootton have commissioned their own report after we had a meeting with a couple of their Councillors. Our message has spread even further as we briefed a member of The Bay Regeneration Team about our study. They were impressed on how it could make the Bay area a better place to visit by making cycling and walking easier.

The Undercliff.

There has been some recent articles about re-opening the Undercliff to motorised traffic. There is a need for a discussion to be held. Dave Stewart, the Leader of IWC and a Councillor for Niton is keen for it to re-open. From many cyclists (and others we suspect) point of view the Undercliff has become a joy to ride. The article highlights the loss of income to businesses along the route. Is there any thought of how much business it might generate because there is a lack of motorized traffic?

There is a Coffee Morning taking place on Saturday 28th July, 10.30am, at Niton Village Hall organised by the Green Party. A full range of potential functions and protections will be discussed. These include reinstating the road, keeping it as it is, or enhancing the route as a Quiet Road for the use of residents, visitors, cyclists, horse riders and walkers.

It would be great for as many of our members to attend as possible to put forward views that support sustainable transport.

New campsite

Recently opened is a brand new eco campsite specifically aimed at cyclists and walkers. It will be called Truffles Tiny Campsite and is on the N16 Bridlepath / Knights Lane off Briddlesford Road, not far from Briddlesford farm shop.

There is a discount to Cycle Wight cyclists to encourage them to stay. The launch price will be £4 per person per night £3 per person per night if booked 48 hours in advance. Please call on 07974 353148.