



## Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Last year the Island's bid for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund was successful, and the effects are beginning to be seen. Some work has been carried out on the Shanklin to Wroxall route, which will be finished by the end of the year. Two buses able to carry bikes are due to enter service in the next couple of weeks on routes to the South of the Island. Negotiations are nearly complete and then work will begin on improving the bridle path from Fishbourne to Ryde, which will allow cyclists and walkers an easier and more pleasant journey than the current uneven and sometimes wet path. More details of the bid can be found via the CycleWight web site on the "Campaign" drop down menu. The full bid can be found on the council web site.

## Rachel Mills

Cycle Wight would like to acknowledge the work of Rachel Mills, who was the Integrated Transport Manager for the Council. Since she took on much of the responsibility linked to cycling the community has felt that she always listened to the concerns of cyclists and did her best to act upon them. Her ability to acquire funding for works has left the cycle network in an improved state: the resurfacing of the Cowes to Newport track, the remedial work from Alverstone to Sandown and the work which is currently being done under the LSTF are just some of the examples. Sadly Rachel has now left the Authority but the group would like to recognise all her good works.

## Roads

As many of you will know this is now PFI funded, and the company named Island Roads has contractual responsibility for maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle tracks. At this early stage it is difficult to say whether things have improved though there has been a good dialogue between ourselves and the team at their HQ.

## Shalfleet

Shalfleet traffic lights have been a major concern for cyclists in the last few years. The group have been contacted on several occasions about the fact it is impossible to travel through the one-way section without the lights turning green at the other end. Even several mamils (middle aged men in lycra) have failed so what help is there for the bloke in ordinary trousers and a pannier full of his lunch. CycleWight has contacted the Council and now Island Roads about this. The Council eventually admitted it was a problem but suggested it was difficult to solve. There is a sign at the western end warning drivers that there is the possibility of meeting oncoming cyclists. There is no sign at the eastern end even though this is the end at which there is more likely to be a collision. In Cycling, the CTC's magazine, it was highlighted that a motorist for whom the lights have changed to green has a duty to ensure that there are no vehicles still passing. The highway authority could also be criticised if it can be proved that phasing is incorrect. There is some shred of comfort there. Please do write to your own councillor raising your concerns and a copy to Councillor Hutchinson of Shalfleet who has been positive in his responses to this issue,

## Isle of Wight Council

Many people have expressed a hope that the new Council will be better than the last. At this early stage things do look more positive. The appointment of a sustainability committee is a good move in the hope that there will be actions that will minimise the impact on the environment. Councillor John Medland, the deputy Chair of Sustainability Committee, has indicated he will attend the Cycle Forum. The Chair and Secretary met him in County Hall to discuss the issues facing cycling on the Island as well as looking forward to the future. It was a very positive meeting.

## Toys Trust

A couple of Saturdays ago there were over 160 red lycra dressed people circumnavigating the Island on their bikes. They were raising money for the Toys Trust. This involved participants staying for two nights on the Island. This kind of event means a large sum of money being spent and so therefore contributing to economy of the Isle of Wight without taking up a lot of space and being pretty quiet. Let us celebrate these kinds of events and promote them when we hear complaints about cyclist holding up the traffic

## Facebook (Ahhhh)

There has now been created a Facebook page called 'Isle of Wight Cycling.' This is an attempt to make it easier to keep up to date with all the things that are happening in the cycling world on the Island: events, routes blocked, a specialist part needed – it lends itself to all these things and much more. It is open access so you do not to ask to be a friend; you just have to be a member of Facebook. If it is good enough for the Queen it is good enough for the rest of us. Please support this, as it could be a great way forward for cycling on the Island to have a voice.

## Cycling Festival 14 - 29 Sept.

Some of the highlights are:

Eco Island Carbon Cycle Concert - Saturday 14th September .

Hills Killer - Sunday 15th September .

Wightlink Wight Challenge - Saturday 21st .September

British Heart Foundation Cycle the Wight - Sunday 22nd September.

Wight Mountain Chevy Chase 6hr Enduro - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

West Wight Triathlon - Sunday 29th September

On Saturday 28th September there will be a treat for us all. As part of the festival there is a cycling cinema booked. Yes people have to cycle to generate the power to make the projector work. There will be a vote for the film to be shown and the organisers are literally hoping to have a world premiere too. More details in the festival programme.

## Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre

The centre is going from strength to strength. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June an 8-hour enduro event was held with over 80 participants.

The course has been extended and is now over 4 miles long. From the near future there will be bikes available to hire from the office. There is a day fee or annual subscription to use the track, with all the money being ploughed back into the infrastructure of the centre. The use of last year's subscriptions can already been seen with some more jumps and other features having been constructed over the winter.

For those of a more competitive spirit there will be another race on the Cheverton Downs course during the cycle festival. There is a web site for more info.

## On line petition

The CTC is organising an online petition which is calling for the government to take a more active approach towards cycling. They have made presentations to a committee in the House of Commons but they now want a discussion in the House. At the present they 66,000 signatures – they need 100,00. You can sign up on

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>



**When this happens in Newport High Street CycleWight will know they have won**

## 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. Please make all cheques payable to "CycleWight" and sent to: Mr D Jackson, Toad Hall, Church Rd, Havenstreet,