



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

£2 billion and

There has been much confusion over this and so here goes.

The government have announced a £2 billion fund for walking and cycling. The fund included a £250m “emergency active travel fund.” This is for.....

- Help to create pop-up cycle lanes, wider pavements, improved junctions and cycle and bus-only corridors in England “within weeks”
- Fast-tracked statutory guidance, effective immediately, telling councils to reallocate road space for “significantly increased numbers of cyclists and pedestrians”
- Vouchers to be issued for cycle repairs, “to encourage people to get their old bikes out of the shed”

There has been real frustration as there was no information on how to apply for this money until 29th May. There is a week to apply

Long-term, (£1.75 billion). There is to be an updated Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy launched by the prime minister this summer, with additional measures to “transform cycling and walking” and double uptake by 2025. According to the Department for Transport, this will include:

- The creation of a national cycling and walking commissioner and inspectorate.
- Higher standards for permanent infrastructure across England.

Creating a long-term budget for cycling and walking, in a similar vein to the road budget, is vital so councils can plan rather than bidding for small amounts of money. The higher standards are essential. At present they are only advisory and so can be ignored. (St Mary’s) If they became statutory it would be a game changer for obvious reasons.

A footnote to this is that government issued in March a report called “Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge” This should be good news for walking and cycling

Meanwhile, on the Island

As a group we have been very busy. We have been in contact with Dave Stewart, leader of the Council and John Hobart, who is the cabinet member of the environment. We have submitted two lists of ideas that we hope can be adopted to assist in the “emergency active travel fund” and the longer term plans, They can be found on our web site in a folder called Social Distancing. We welcome any more ideas from our members.

At present we feel it has been rather a one-way dialogue about our ideas but we do hope to hear from the council. We have been told that they have been forwarded to the ‘recovery team.’

It seems the Island has caught the cycling bug... since lockdown started in March, there has been a boom in the number of cyclists on the roads. On the 18th May OntheWight reported that the daily average cycle volumes recorded using counters at Ladies Walk, Ryde, Island Harbour and along the Newport to Sandown cycle track had doubled in April compared to previous years.^[L]^[SEP] One fantastic statistic reported was that on Saturday 9th May, the Red Squirrel Trail (Newport-Cowes section) saw its busiest day since data collection began in 2014 with 718 people recorded cycling there!

Not only is this great news but it would appear the Council acknowledge this. Ian Ward, Cabinet member for Transport and Infrastructure commented, “The council welcomes the recent government announcement on cycling and walking and is actively considering which additional measures to progress on the Island.” Councillor for the Environment, John Hobart said: “it is a time to consider our connecting routes, such as The Gunville Greenway, aimed to run from Newport, through to Gunville.....”

There is a belief by many that this will provide money for favoured routes such as out to the West Wight. It is our understanding that this will be about urban areas and utility cycling and walking.

Widen my Path

This web site, we feel, can play a very important part to help us work with the council on its social distancing work. It allows people to identify places on an interactive map where they think changes can be made to allow better movement for walkers and cyclists. It allows people to agree with other users. [Here](#)

It is run by a social enterprise company called Cycle Streets. Their web site says, "CycleStreets is a social enterprise working to get more people cycling, through the provision of a cycle journey planning giving really good, safe routes, and through tools for the cycling advocacy community." At this important time please at least have a look.

Access Fund

The Island is familiar with the Access Fund, which over the last few years has been encouraging people to take part in the Active Travel. It was due to start its final year in April but as with everything else it has been overtaken by circumstance. BUT quick on their feet the team came up with two ideas, which have proved to be extremely successful.



Connect2Work has been part of the fund, which has worked with companies to encourage their employees to be more sustainable in their travel. The Key Worker Cycle Scheme provides £50 vouchers for cycle repair and essential accessories and secondly loans bikes. 500 people have taken advantage of the cycle voucher scheme and over 60 bikes have been lent to make the lives of key workers easier

The Active Travel Innovation Grant has been part of the Access Fund for several years now. This year IWC are allocating £30,000 towards the scheme. The fund's purpose is to support organisations that seek to deliver their own projects that contribute to the continued growth of active and sustainable transport on the Isle of Wight. Organisations are invited to bid for a maximum of £3,000 per application, via 100% match funding, for projects which:

- Support businesses to accommodate an increase in active mode journeys for commuting and business travel;

- Normalise walking and cycling as the preferred transport mode for shorter journeys;
- Improve the health and well-being of the wider community through education, community engagement, access to equipment and technology.

CW were given a grant two years ago in our 'Paths for All' project. More info here: [here](#)

Active Travel Officer,

"My name is Brock Rogers and I am the council's new Active Travel Officer. I have previously been in a similar role in East Sussex for Sustrans for two years. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, developing and delivering the Active Steps programme, a 10-week intensive course which aimed to give employees and jobseekers the skills and confidence to start cycling to work and for short trips.

I am passionate about sustainable transport having always cycled, walked and used public transport to get around. At university my MSc thesis on the relationship between e-bikes and gender, examining to what extent e-bikes can encourage more utility cycling amongst women.

It has been a strange start to my new role. I started on 1 April working from home and have not actually met any of my colleagues face to face. I have been involved in the key workers cycle scheme since my arrival and it has been brilliant that it has been so successful.

I am looking forward to become more involved with the projects we have planned as well as cycling on the Island."

Web site addresses

The Isle of Wight Cycling Festival has not run for several years. We were very keen supporters of the event and all its various activities. It was brought to our attention that the various web addresses linked to the festival were coming up for renewal. Having been a victim once of having our name CycleWight hijacked by a commercial company we were concerned by what may happen to the web domains for the festival. The committee decided to buy them to be under our control.

We will be willing to allow them to be used by any body that wishes to organise a future event that we feel will honour the spirit of the original event.

Membership

It is now three months that we have been running our new on-line membership scheme. It would appear to us that it is running well. Let us know if it is not.

It is much easier for people to join as we have had more new members in these few months than for several years. It is also very easy to direct mass mailings to certain groups of people, which is very helpful. We suspect there is more that we can do with the programme but small steps.....

You can access your member area if you wish. Go to the CycleWight web site and click on join. Put in your email address that you have given to us. After a confirmatory email go to Options -> My Details. You can "view or edit" and in the "Other Information" section add in skills or how you could help.

It is possible to download your membership card. This we hope in the near future will mean more than it has in the past. We have been approaching cycle related businesses (including cafés) to seek a discount for members. We will publish the list in due course. Good news is nobody has said no yet!

Secondly and even more importantly there is a section called "Other information" We would like members to enter any way in which they think they could help CW. Could you deliver flyers, willing to do some survey work, do graphic design, design an app? We look forward to an avalanche of offers.

Membership Note change of details

You can apply to (re)join CYCLEWight by going to the website. To pay online using BACS

Sort Code: 40-34-26 Account Number: 81855654

Please put YOUR NAME so we know who it's from!

Cheques should be made payable to CycleWight and posted to CycleWight, Rowborough Manor, Beaper Shute, BRADING PO36 OA2

Membership Secretary

Derek Jackson has been membership secretary for 16 years. He decided with the advent of the new system that he would step down. We offer a huge thanks to him for his skilful wielding of a mighty Excel file. He was also responsible for sending out newsletters, which was a complicated exercise. We look forward to seeing him whizzing around even more now!

LCWIP

The Isle of Wight Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan has been approved by the Department of Transport and has now become part of Council policy. The government wanted each local authority to draw up a walking and cycling plan for its area. We are led to believe that in comparison to other LCWIPs from around the country ours compares very favourably. CW provided much of the background information for the plan. A decision was made it was not to cover the whole of the Island but to concentrate on Ryde and Newport because of the way the task was set out by the government.

It comprises of a general plan and then several indexes covering walking and cycling routes in both towns. The document does not come with resources but is to be used as a tool to seek funding. This of course means that the Council is in a strong place to seek a share of the



£1.75 billion. [Link to LCWIP](#)

We wrote to the council to congratulate them. We have pointed out that when it is published there should be mention that the LCWIP's proposals are part of a strategic cycle network for the whole Island and any work carried out links to that network. Secondly that the LCWIP should be seen as a template for other parts of the Island to follow to ensure that the Island has a comprehensive walking and cycling plan.

Now it is published CW will update its own cycling strategy.

My e-bike

I discovered the joys of using an ebike over 10 years ago when various diagnoses meant that using an ordinary bike was no longer possible. At that time batteries would not last beyond about 10 miles (less with hills to climb). Since then I have had all kinds of different types and makes of ebikes including a Trek, a Kalkhoff, a nano Brompton, a Roodog, a Go Cycle, an Access bike and latterly a Volt Metro. All have had their advantages and disadvantages.

I am not an expert but do have some experience – and have now cycled round most of the IOW (on and off road) and so hope to provide some tips if you are new to the wonderful world of ebikes and considering purchasing one. Some issues to bear in mind:

1. What will you be using the bike for?
Leisure, commuting – or both?
2. Will most of your riding be on or off road?
3. Can you ride from your home or will you need to put your bike in a car to travel to a cycle path?
4. What distance do you intend to cycle?
5. If you have any kind of disability that affects your ability to ride, is this a temporary problem and you intend to use an ebike to increase your fitness or do you have the type of disability which means some days you will need more help from your ebike than others?

Last June we had a bad fire in our garden (travelled from our neighbour's property) which destroyed all three outbuildings, including our bike shed. I had to make a quick decision on which bikes to save – and I chose to save the two Volt Metros (the other belongs to my husband) which I got out before the shed went up. Not my wisest moment but I simply could not bear the thought of being without an ebike to ride. It also showed me which type of ebike I really enjoyed. The rest went up in smoke.

I like my Volt Metro because (a) on most terrain it is very comfortable and stable to ride despite having 20 inch wheels (b) if you purchase the bigger battery it will easily go for 35/40 miles – far more if you need less assistance from the motor (c) it has a simple system which allows me to just use a higher level of assistance on less good days. The Metro also folds up and can be put in the boot of most cars.

My Metro is very happy riding up hills with me on board (I'm no lightweight!) – including steep hills like Lime Kiln Shute. Most of my riding now takes place on roads (quiet ones preferred) and cycle paths and I love finding new routes. Volt now has a dealer on the IOW – TAV in Ryde. TAV have been brilliant in resolving issues, servicing, supplying parts etc., including during the lockdown. They also supply other makes of ebikes as well as 'ordinary' bikes.

Having an ebike during the lockdown has been really helpful as going out for exercise has been allowed so I have been able to cycle to Ryde to get some essentials while also getting some exercise.

Just before the lockdown I had started a review on behalf of CycleWight of the list of places (cafes, pubs etc.) on the IOW which,



are happy to offer charging facilities for ebikes. If anyone knows of other places that might be happy to provide a battery charge, please let Tim know and we can add it to the list. Happy cycling! Claire Franklin

Stop Press

The Island has been allocated £62,000 in the first tranche "emergency active travel fund." This is to create temporary measures to assist people to cycle rather than use public transport. There will be a further £248,000 for more permanent schemes.