



[www.cyclewight.org.uk](http://www.cyclewight.org.uk)

Contact us through the web site

## Cycle Strategy

At the present time the committee has been working on a Cycle Strategy for the Island. Most local authorities do have one. We saw it as an essential document for us to put forward the case for most provisions for cycling. We are most grateful to Bob White, who is a transport planner, who has looked at our ideas and written them into the correct format. It includes general principles, which we would like to see adopted as well as maps of strategic routes that we feel are essential to encourage people to walk and cycle.

In the near future we will send it out to the membership for their views before submitting it to key groups in the community. Our eventual aim is to present it to the council as a means of clearly stating what is needed for the Island to truly become Bicycle Island.

The Government has printed its national cycling strategy this month. The committee has looked at it in some detail. It sets out a series of steps that it states will "make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys." It is encouraging local authorities to write a plan for walking and cycling if they have not done so already.

As part of the initiative it is offering a grant, to a limited number of local authorities, to provide consultants to help draw up plans for cycling and walking initiatives. It is pleasing to report that the Council has decided to apply for this additional support. It is a competitive process so there is no guarantee of success. CycleWight hopes very much to be part of the bidding process and that the work we have done over the last few months will be recognized.

Sadly the government's cycling strategy does not come with very much additional funding. Much of it has to be bid for so there is no guaranteed amount of money to come to the Island. It will be up to the Council and groups like us to set out the case to attract the funding.

## Cycle hubs

It was one of our first campaigns to have cycle parking at the Red Jet Terminal. And now it has happened. At the outset of this new development we were asked when we



had first proposed something at the terminal. In all honesty we had to say we did not exactly know because it was before we stored our records on computer!

The Hub is fully enclosed, incorporating dual-level storage for 72 bikes. For security, it has sensor controlled lighting and 24 hour CCTV and a universal repair stand, along with a range of tools for repairing punctures.

There is another in Newport at the River-



side Centre. This will accommodate 16 bikes, which can be left in secure storage. There will also be an opportunity for people to use a shower if they wish though this will only be on offer when the Riverside Centre is open.

Both hubs were supported by the Isle of Wight Council through its current Sustainable Travel Transition Year (STTY) programme from the Department for Transport.

## Traffic in Newport

The Council has announced that it has been awarded £9.5 million to improve the transport infrastructure of Newport. This is good news for the people of the Isle of Wight. We are concerned though that this will totally ignore the needs of cycling and walking.

We have seen some of the earlier proposals from 2010, which saw pavements being removed and roads being made wider to the detriment of all road users. As part of our work on our cycle strategy we have been looking at strategic paths across the Island and in particular making Newport more walking and cycling friendly. We have asked to be involved in the formation of the proposals.

It does seem to state the obvious but if people travelled more sustainably there would be no need to spend £9 million! Just think how much cycling infrastructure could be built for that and what a difference that would make.

## Cycling really is for everyone

25 people, who do not normally have access to bikes because of their disabilities, recently enjoyed an afternoon of cycling at Sandown athletics track. Isle Access (<http://www.isleaccess.co.uk/>) in conjunction with Wightlink, Hovertravel, Island Bikeworks, and IW Council's Sports Development Unit, brought a range of accessible bikes over from the Pedals project in the New Forest for people to try.

The event attracted children and adults



with a range of disabilities and every participant, plus many who couldn't attend, is asking for the bikes to return for another event.

Isle Access is currently arranging another session. If anyone is willing to assist with future sessions, please contact Jan on 07522 558 99

## Commuter Bike Ride

There will be an opportunity to get yourself a free bacon sandwich from the beginning of May to kick off your day. To celebrate the opening of the cycle hub in Newport CycleWight along with Community Action Isle of Wight are putting on a series of bike rides on Tuesday mornings : 2nd, 9th, 16th. It will be a led ride from Cowes at 07.15 and will return to Cowes at 08.15.

We hope to encourage as many people as possible to the ride especially those who do so infrequently. There will be Dr Bike at the centre for those who feel their steed may need a little tinkering.

## Access Fund

The Council have won a new round of funding for sustainable transport: The Access Fund. This time the grant is for three years and is worth over £1 million. This is the fourth time in succession that the Council has been awarded such grants; one of the few Councils in the country to have achieved this. The Council should be congratulated for having the initiative to apply and be willing to support the idea. A special mention must be to Chris Gregory of A-To-There Solutions, who has masterminded many of the later applications and helped to then coordinate much of the subsequent work.

As before the funding will be split into three strands: employment, education and tourism. The initiatives that will be carried out over the next three years will include; encouraging the 11-16 group to cycle, to encourage employers to use sustainable transport in their business and for holiday providers to be more aware of sustainable transport options. More details can be found on the Council web site.

CycleWight is to be represented on the Liaison Group.



## Cycle Parking

As part of the sustainable transport funding (SSTY) CycleWight were asked to carry out a survey of cycle parking on the Island. We completed this just over month ago and have found that there are nearly 800 racks of varying types around the Island that can be used. Some are great, check out Vernon Cottage and Ventnor Botanic Garden, and some are awful. We were also asked to identify places where there was a need for racks. We have done this through the committee and social media but if you have any ideas please contact us.

Linked to cycle parking the Council now has planning guidance on parking. This means developers now have to make sure they give due regard to cycle parking when proposing a new development. We have already used this to point out that a block of flats in Ryde had no provision for cycle parking even though it will be less than 200 meters from the National Cycle Network!



Cycle Parking at Ventnor Botanic Gardens

## Bicycle Island App

Some of you may have not heard but there is now a Bicycle Island app. This is an exciting development, which is the first 'smart cycling corridor' in the country. It is based on the Cowes to Newport cycle track. You can sign up by using a smart phone - just look on the app store for Bicycle Island.

It has two purposes. Firstly it is meant to encourage people to cycle. It records journeys along the track. The app sets regular distance challenges for the community to aim at. Every user's journey along the cycle route contributes to the overall target. If the target is reached a **local Isle of Wight charity** gets a donation. Secondly visitors

to the Island can use the app to find out about their journey along the track with interesting information. This has been launched in the last few weeks. Its official launch is at the Riverfest on May 13 on Newport Quay. There are also offers from local retailers to incentivise people even more!

If this is successful it could be something that could be used across the Island.

## Planning Applications

This has been a busy time for CycleWight. There have been several planning applications on which we have commented: Carisbrooke College, Ryde House, Christ the King College, a housing development at Rookley and the cycling hubs at Cowes and Newport.

The decision on some of these are still pending but it is good to report that our objections to the paltry provision for bike storage at the new Carisbrooke College was improved following our comments. We also made mention of the fact that the school's travel plan was to be written after the new college was opened. A case of closing the door after the horse had bolted. As part of the adoption of the application the school's travel plan has to be written before the school opens. Let us hope we will be just as successful with some of the others.

You may well be aware that some planning applications have to pay a sum of money to mitigate their impact on the environment. This is popularly known as S106 money. For example the Cross Newport Route gained some of its funding from the Currys development. By the Council's own admission they have not always taken advantage of this opportunity as often as they should.

CycleWight believe that the Council should investigate the Community Infrastructure Levy. (CIL) This is similar to S106 but more far reaching in that all developments must contribute rather than relying on an individual to seek the 106 fees. Any new development has an impact on the environment and so it seems only fair that they make a contribution. It is our understanding that CIL is difficult to introduce but once the preparatory work has been done it would appear that it may have a long term benefit to the Council in these hard pressed times. It is surely worth a look!

## Cycle Coach

The Council's Sports Unit are hoping to organise a Level 2 Cycle coaching course with an aim to help coaches set up a community club. Funding is available to reduce the cost of the course from £480 to just £100 per person.

The qualification enables coaches to independently create, deliver and evaluate a series of cycling coaching sessions to groups of beginner and intermediate level riders. A large portion of the course is made up of practical activities, ensuring prospective coaches have an opportunity to experience delivering and participating within coaching sessions. If you require further information, please look at the British Cycling web site.

If you are interested please contact Alec Broom : [alec.broome@iow.gov.uk](mailto:alec.broome@iow.gov.uk)

## Elephant bike

Just arrived and loose on the Cowes to Newport Route. It is not quite as scary as it sounds. Or as big. An enterprising charity,



The Krizevac Project, has come up with the idea of buying up the old Post Office bikes and refurbishing them.

Not is it only a great piece of re-cycling it's even better than that. For every bike bought in the UK another is sent out to Malawi. The charity works by helping local people in Malawi to set up their own business. The bikes when they arrive are refurbished by eight local people whom the charity employs. When back to full working order they are sold to people who can travel to work, transport goods to market and travel miles to school or college. The bikes can be life transforming and often mean an income for individuals and families.

Why elephant bikes? The first bikes were used by wildlife rangers and the elephants did not like the bright red but when repainted to green – problem solved.

The owner of the bike said that though she had only ridden the bike a few times it

was far better than she had expected and she would be using it more than she first thought. She does a commute from Cowes to Newport and has to often carry quite large amounts.

The boxes that accompanied the bikes in their PO days can be purchased too. And just to ensure that it appeals to the 'hipster' types it is possible to buy a wicker front basket. To be quite honest the wicker basket looked really good and according to the owner it did work really well and was not just a bit of a showpiece.

## Cycling on the Island

We have become very familiar with the success of cycling on the Island. The Randonnee led the way and is becomes ever more popular. We are familiar with the "Bicycle Island" brand which was launched by Visit Isle of Wight. This has been ably supported by the various government initiatives over the last few years. The Isle of Wight Mountain Bike Centre at Shorwell continues to develop. All of this shows in the growth of cycling businesses on the Island. For example there are 11 different shops/ bike repair providers and 9 places doing bike hire. The fact that the number is going up year on year is brilliant.

The amount of money it brings to the Island economy is at the moment not very accurately measured. It is estimated to be £5.6 million. CycleWight, along with others, have pointed this out to the powers that be. We hope to have some more accurate figures later this year. Why is this important? The present government wants data before much of the funding is released. If we can have more accurate information it will allow groups like us to show the value of cycling to the Island and hopefully mean the infrastructure can be developed more.

We have some great plans, as you will see when we release our cycling strategy, but they will be for nothing unless we can attract funding.

### Membership

In the square by this item there is a box  - if ticked it highlights your membership is due. £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Make cheques payable to "CycleWight" and send to: Mr D Jackson, Riffles, Sloop Lane, Wootton, 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](mailto:cyclewight@gmail.com) Subject membership