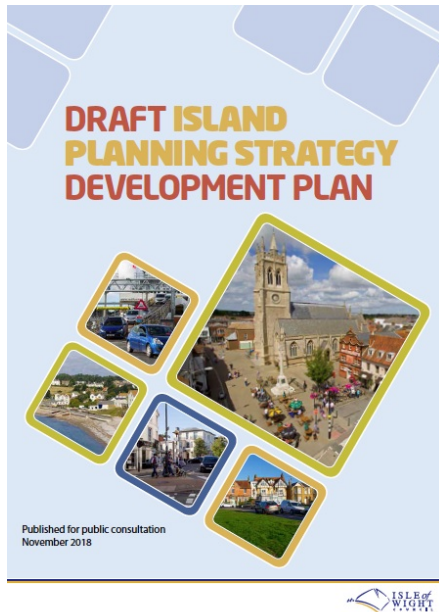




Contact us through the web site
www.cyclewight.org.uk

Draft Island Plan



The public consultation for the new planning strategy closed at the end of February. CycleWight submitted a seven page document, which covered a series of general issues as well as specific points.

We were very disappointed that appeared to be an acceptance in the increase of car use. It set no target to increase use of cycling or ways of limiting car use. In our submission we emphasised that high quality design standards are needed if we are to encourage people to cycle. In many places in Europe where the topography and weather are similar to the UK 15/20% of utility transport is done by bike.

The next step in the process is for the submissions to be reviewed and changes to the draft strategy made. It will then be submitted to government, where a planning inspector will examine it independently. If successful, the Island Plan will be adopted as a major planning document that all future Island development will be guided by.

Snippets

There will be a trial using electric cargo bikes later during the year. Keep an eye out for more news.

Cowes to Newport Track

As many now know the track is closed for 8 weeks, with it re-opening in June. When it became clear the extent of the work CW contacted SSE, the contractor, and Island Roads who are in charge of its upkeep.



One of the inadequate signs

The route is the busiest on the whole network on the Island; a busy commuter and leisure route with 9,000 recorded cycle movements in May 2018. We have let SSE and IR know that the provision for cyclists and walkers during the closure is wholly inadequate. The diversion is 3.5kms rather than the 1km of the normal route. A considerable distance if people are walking or cycling especially when the gradients are taken into consideration. The track is to be open during the half term period and weekends if possible. On this last point there does not seem to be a system to let people know if it is open or not.

CycleWight will bring this matter up at next month's Cycle Forum

The cost of the work, new electric cables, must be costing 10's of thousands of pounds. It is disappointing that a small fraction of that money could not be set aside to assist people to have a safe and pleasant journey

Randonnée

Once again the annual Randonnée has taken place bringing pleasure to thousands. A message from Wayfarer's Towers has said that just over 3,500 people officially took part – another increase in participation. This year the electronic registration was further enhanced with people being able to do the whole process by downloading their registration form and then being 'swiped' to show they were participating. There was also an app, which could be used instead of the usual card to tick off the checkpoints en route. The food was on an even more impressive scale than before.

As usual there were complaints from a small minority of people about some of the behaviour of participants and that they were slowed down by bunches of cyclists. There was also a cry of "What have the Romans done for us" going on. It only takes a few minutes by talking to people to realise that many of the participants have come for the weekend and are staying in B&B's, hotels, holiday homes etc. They will be spending money in restaurants and pubs. All the feed stations are run by local schools and no doubt raising much needed funds. At least one bike shop says it is always their most lucrative weekend of the year. And all the people coming across on the ferries are subsidising us who sit on a boat in December with 10 other passengers.

Innovation Grant - Update

Last July Island groups were invited by Isle of Wight Council to bid for grants of up to £10,000 for projects to boost 'sustainable transport'. Our application entitled 'More Paths for All' was successful. It built on our work from our Cycle Strategy and Cycling Permeability Study of Newport. The grant's aim was to identify paths on the Island, which are strategically important for walkers, cyclists and horse riders and have the potential to be upgraded to increase their use.

Our partnership with a Community Interest Company, called People Powered, has gone well. Ten members of CW volunteered to be surveyors and walk the 51 sections identified as having potential; 123 miles of paths. People Powered then collated the findings and have now passed them onto us in a final report.

We will use the report as evidence, in the future, to be able to bring the paths into wider use. In some cases it will be a relatively


simple change in legal status though in others it will mean obtaining funds to improve the quality of the path. We will be working with the Council's Rights of Way team, landowners as well as other local groups such the Ramblers and the Bridleways Group.

Isle Access

Isle Access co-hosted an event with The Island Riding Centre and Adventure Activities. As part of the day they launched the "Isle of Wight Wheels for All" project. Isle Access has won a grant from Island roads and other bodies to purchase specially adapted bikes, which will give people with disabilities the opportunity to ride.

Over 160 people attended the event and plans are underway for another event later in the year.

Pedal Aid App

The Bicycle Island App has had a big face-lift including its name. It is now called Pedal-Aid. The principle of recording journeys and giving information about the route is the same but it is much improved. It now covers the whole of the Red Squirrel route. It logs your journey and you can see where you rank amongst your fellow  travellers with regard distance travelled. There are prizes to be won for those who use the app. The other great feature is that there is a community target for each month and money is given to a good cause based on the distance covered by the app users.

The map now shows you where you are so if you stray off course you can see where you are lost! Obviously you living here may mitigate some of its features but great for visitors and fun for people of all ages to see their progress.

There is hope - Chale Cafe

Many people were disappointed to see Chale Store's café closed. There is at present an attempt by Chale Parish Council to buy the freehold with a government loan. As an important venue for cyclists we will be keeping everyone informed of the progress of this worthy project.

Membership £5.00 per household, £3.00 Unwaged. Cheques 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 Use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail at cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership