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Annual General Meeting

Friday November 29th 19.30

Carisbrooke Village Hall

Carisbrooke High Street.

AGM 29th Nov – Please Support

The AGM of CycleWight is on 29th of November 19.30 at the Carisbrooke Village Hall. This is always a good evening with the formal part of the meeting kept to a minimum.

This year we are welcoming Richard Lewis to be our guest speaker. Richard is a well-known Transport Planner who helps groups and bodies deliver their transport needs, He is going to spend the day with us to look at some of the issues we have and hopefully offer some solutions. It should make for a very interesting evening.

As always it is an opportunity to find out what the group has been doing and to ask questions. We hope members will give us a guide on the direction of next year's campaigning.

Needless to say there will be a raffle (donations for prizes gratefully received) There is to be an innovation. Worth coming along just for that. AND interesting displays too.

LCWIP

A topic on the newsletter over the last year has been the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) The government wanted each local authority to draw up a plan for its area. There was some additional funding available to help Councils in this process, in which the IW Council was successful. The plan is more or less ready to be published and to become part of the Council's policy.

A decision was made that the plan was not to cover the whole of the Island but to concentrate on Ryde and Newport. We are led to believe that within the plan routes have been identified that will provide strategic access into and through both towns. The document will be used to look for funding.

CW provided much of the background information for the plan and we look forward to seeing it when published.

St Mary's junction

Work has begun. As reported in the last newsletter there has been some improvements for cyclists and pedestrians on the west side of the development though of course we have not seen the detailed drawings. The shared path is between 2.5 and 3 meters. On such a small path .5 of a meter will make a big difference. Let us hope that it is the maximum otherwise people's movement will be compromised.

We are still looking at ways of bringing the sustainable travel message to people. At this time we are working with the Active Travel Officer of the Council to see how we can best promote this message. We would welcome any ideas and suggestions from our members on how to get more people walking and cycling.

CycleWight have learnt a great deal from this process. It is hoped that the Council and Island Roads will change their priorities from this point forward.

The Undercliff.

It has been reported that the results for the public consultation on the reopening of the Undercliff has showed that 58% of people are in favour. It is now suggested to pay for an engineering feasibility study costing £200,000. The likely cost of the road is to be between £1/2 million if it gets the go ahead. CycleWight have been working for over a year for this to be declared a cycling leisure route. It has been discussed with various bodies including Island Roads and IWC. It has been slow progress though we understand the design of the signage has been approved by the Department of Transport.

The area is a wonderful opportunity to create a special space for walking, cycling and horse riding. This Island has been awarded biosphere status but Councillor Stewart wants to spend a large sum of money on a road of which there is no certainty of success. With the correct

support and funding it could become a wonderful eco resource for locals and visitors, indefinitely.



Newport to Cowes Track

In the last newsletter we highlighted the poor finishing to the cycle track near Cowes after the work done by SSEE to lay a new cable. As was suggested by us, and others, the track now has puddles where the work is as there is no run off. We will continue to pursue this.

Much better news has been at the Cowes entrance to the track, which was also left unfinished. Cllr Peacey - Wilcox listened to our views and complained about the fact that the re-surfacing work had not been done by the gate. It has now be re-instated.

Joining the CW committee

Mick Watts has been on the committee for a year. He was asked for his impressions.

"I knew of CycleWight and when the pop festival caused serious damage to the Medina Greenway surface, I contacted them. I learned that CycleWight are well regarded by the Council and soon Rights of Way were on the case.

I guess I would describe myself as a frustrated Isle of Wight cyclist. Frustrated in that the Island has so much potential to be a major cycling and tourist destination but nothing much seems to change. The Council claims their sustainable transport intentions and have great plans, but this rarely produces infrastructure. The West Wight route and even the Medina Greenway to East Cowes, a 'must have' link with the potential to reduce traffic on Coppins Bridge still waits.

Having joined the CycleWight committee, I was surprised at the level of involvement they have with the Council. When I joined them, the document 'A Cycling Strategy for the Isle of Wight', a venture financed solely by CycleWight, had just been issued and now forms part of the Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. There have also been studies carried out by the group over the last year or so investigating cycling permeability in Newport, and a review of Island footpaths and bridleways to identify those that have the potential for upgrading for cycling to form an integrated network. I had no idea all of this was going on in the background!

Our membership numbers are modest, so in a way, our views and aspirations could be seen as those of a niche group. What we really need is to increase our membership so we can show that our views represent those of all cycling Islanders. When I say cycling Islanders you can read walking and in some cases horse riding Islanders, as infrastructure upgraded for cycling is also improved for these groups too. If you cycle, or would just like to see better and safer infrastructure for walking, please join us and give us a stronger voice to campaign on all of our behalves."

Transforming Cities Fund

This is an initiative by central government to boost transport in large urban areas. Portsmouth is one of the cities selected to bid for part of the £1.2 billion and it is felt by those in the know that there is a good chance that this will be successful. It may be hard to believe but Ryde is part of the programme. If successful the money will be to update Ryde interchange: bus, train and hovercraft. We have been told that cycling is very much part of the plans. This would be a big boost to traversing the Island on a cycle friendly route Let us hope for good news,



Merstone station

It has been given a makeover. In the last few months there has been a new unmanned information centre put there as well as a barbecue, cycle racks, more benches and a general tidy up of the area. The information centre material is about the station as well other local features, for the modern traveller. Our opinion is that it is a really good job. An Autumn treat could be ride to see it if you have not passed that way lately.

IW Mountain Bike Centre

There has been a great deal of work at the centre over the last few years and it is beginning to reap big rewards. The centre is open from March to September. People can buy a season pass and it is a popular choice with over 150+ being issued this year. During the six months there were also 300+ day passes bought. It is apparent that it is a popular day out not just for locals but people from the mainland too.

Social media is an important way to raise the profile of the centre. It was hoped that that they would have a 1,000 followers on Instagram by the end of 2019. The figure stands at over 2,500 at present. Matt from the centre said, "We believe we are helping mountain biking becoming a more accessible sport on the Island and we are very excited to see where we can take it in the future."

One aim for the group is to have a 'kids club' starting in the not too distant future as well as offering coaching to all people. There is also a hope to do leadership rides around some of the Island's bridle ways. They are planning for there to be a 15km loop from the centre, which is planned to start at the beginning of February. This will open the centre up to a whole new side of the farm, where there is a massive amount of potential for great trails.

Islanders and visitors should be very grateful for the dedication of the team to create such a wonderful resource.

E Road bikes

There are many reasons for considering purchasing an E-bike and your choice will rely on your individual needs. Mine were that I could no longer keep up with my clubmates on 60 to 70 mile undulating rides after a year's treatment for prostate cancer. This left me very frustrated. So I needed something subtle and discreet, enter the Ribble Endurance SLE.

The model has the well proven, Spanish developed Ebikemotion rear hub motor, integrated into a high end carbon road bike frame. The 250 watt battery is completely concealed in the oversized down tube and has a charging/auxiliary battery port on top of the bottom bracket. The bike has standard 11 speed Shimano 105 gearing, with



compact (50/34) front chain rings and an 11-32 rear cassette. There are no complicated controls, just a single button on the top tube at the front, which cycles through from on/off and through the 3 ascending power assist modes. Blue for low, green for medium and red for high. The power assist is gentle and subtle and cuts in and out smoothly with no jerky movements. I have done an undulating 65 mile sportive recently and finished with 12% battery power remaining. But I must stress I am still reasonably fit and able and do not use high power that often. Recently I rode a hilly 33 miles into a lot of headwinds and finished with 35% battery remaining.

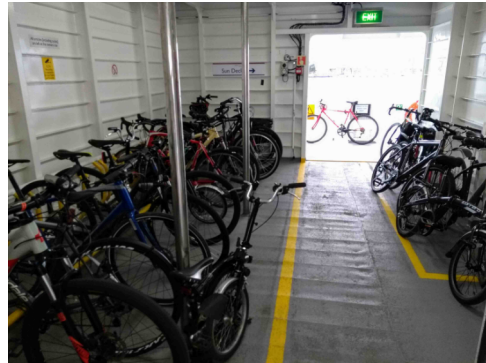
Is this type of E-Bike for you? Well as I said it will depend on what you want! I am still vain at 66 and wanted a "stealth" E-Bike so I had no stigma attached when out riding, whilst I am having treatment, but it is quite possible to ride this bike on no battery power and then it handles as a normal road bike. There is a great App for IOS and

Android that monitors the system and will even tell you when you only have enough battery to get you home.

Alan Bennett

View from the Saddle

Travelling back on the 16.15 Fast Cat twice in recent weeks it was pleasing to see that the cycle parking part of ferry was crammed. (Please note Red Jet) In fact some bikes were locked to the railings outside. Apart from being amazed it does go to show if you provide good quality provision people will use it.



St Mary's junction for all of its debatable need could have provided a wonderful opportunity for the Council and Island Roads to design something that put people first and set a standard which meant that walking and cycling were the first choice for people doing short journeys.

A contentious point is the scale of the new housing provision on the island as well as various regeneration projects. If we do not make people at the centre of these projects and make cycling and walking the first choice things will not get better. Please note Councillors, developers, engineers and planners. It should not be groups like CycleWight pointing out Active Travel possibilities but an inherent part of any plans for the future. They must be meaningful and not just a gesture.

In the last newsletter there was an item about an organization called Transport for New Homes. Its aim is for developments not to be built in isolation and not to be car dependent. They provided a checklist for people to use to see how the latest developments in their area match up. [Here](#). They will be soon announcing the winner of their award for this year. The award is for "housing developments, which have been located and designed so that residents do not need cars to live a full life." It would be good for all of us to study these case studies carefully.

Tim Thorne These views are my own and do not reflect those of the committee

Membership. Please note change of bank details

£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. HSBC Sort Code 40-34-26 account number: 81855654 Use your names as reference. Please inform us by e-mail at cyclewight@gmail.com Subject membership