

The AGM

At the last committee meeting we decided that we would try to have an AGM on Friday 4th December at 19.30. It will have to be online but we felt that it would be a good opportunity for us to come together even though it will not be the same, especially as there will not be a raffle.

It will have to be done by zoom or some other online programme. We will be in contact with the membership nearer the day. As we know at the present time nothing is certain but you guarantee the committee will try to do its best.

Ring the Changes

You will remember from the last newsletter CycleWight applied for an Innovation Travel Grant, which allowed us to apply for the opportunity to buy some bells as means to engage with the many people who have taken up cycling this year.



We have continued to hand out bells as and when the global pandemic and the diabolical weather has allowed. One of the positive outcomes has been the dialogue with visitors who come with a 'fresh' eye. This is something we feel could be used to help in our campaigning.

We have also given some to the "Shift it" project to hand out to the schools they visit. This will hopefully mean we should hear lots of ringing sounds from young people as they cycle along

Access Fund

This is the scheme run by the Council to promote Active Travel with a grant from central government. With all the events of the last 6 months it is easy to overlook all their good work. You may remember they acted very quickly when the pandemic began and arranged for key workers access to bikes to get to work. They have not stood still and are involved in the following:

1. Finalising a report covering the Key Worker Cycle Scheme, which was available between April and July.
2. Preparing the evaluation report for the Access Fund 2017-2020.
3. Funding a Cycle Friendly Employer audit for the hospital site <https://www.cyclinguk.org/cycle-friendly-employer>
4. Using Strava Metro <https://metro.strava.com/> to aid in their work. See other article.

The Access Fund has supported CycleWight very well over the last few years and we wish them well as they continue to deliver various parts of their programme,

Stop Press: Key Worker Cycle Scheme re-launched.

Track Maintenance

After a member made a freedom of information request we have gained a better understanding of how the contract works between IWC and Island Roads with regards the maintenance of the cycle tracks. Like many



of you we have become very concerned at the state of the tracks, as they are not only used by a large number of residents but visitors too. In October the Red Squirrel Trail was featured in the Guardian as one of the 10 Best Cycle Trails in Britain. Thinking of the state of the track at Merstone it would be like inviting your friend round to your house and the first thing they saw

were lots of holes in the carpet which had the potential to trip them up.

In our view there are three issues.

1. The inspection process, results and how they are acted upon by Island Roads.
2. The difference in approach to sealed and unsealed surfaces.
3. The issue that funding appears to be needed by IWC to repair the shortcomings in the surface.

Maintenance standards are based on an aggregate score for a whole area so sections in poor condition are not necessarily repaired as overall the area meets the 'score' of the contract. From our correspondence the Council is seeking funding to bring the poor sections up to an acceptable standard. We are seeking further clarification at the time of the writing of the newsletter. We have asked, as before, to accompany an inspection to better understand the criteria as none of the sections failed.

CW Cycle Forum

We have established a Forum at www.cyclewight.org.uk/forum. At the moment there is what is called 'anonymous' access, this is where you can view all of the topics published but you will not be able to comment on them until you have registered.

For those not familiar with forums, this is where the committee of CycleWight will publish topics for discussion. Once you have registered on the forum as a member, you will be able to have your say, or ask questions on the topics that are published. The committee will then be able to see your questions, or points and give you an answer as appropriate.

Forums are popular, as often lively and informative discussions take place and useful ideas or proposals can evolve. Old topics can be archived and supply a useful record of information.

Isle Access ADAPTED CYCLING RETURNS

Adapted Cycling sessions have recently returned after a long break because of coronavirus. At the sessions we offer people with disabilities the opportunity to cycle on specially adapted cycles that are designed to meet their needs. We currently have 13 cycles and can accommodate anyone from 2 years old to adult. Our cycles comprise a range of traditional trikes with adaptations and other aids, a recumbent child's kart trike, recumbent adult trikes, hand cycles, and a wheelchair carrier. We have plans to purchase an inline tandem trike in the near future that has the rear person steering.

We are operating at the West Wight Sports and Community Centre in Freshwater where we are now based. Our first session was in mid-September and we are running monthly sessions on the second Saturday of every month in the sports hall. This is of course subject to any changes in Government control measures.

We have a Covid-19 risk assessment, an online booking and payment system, social distancing, and all the other coronavirus measures you would expect to find. We have also made a significant investment in additional helmets to enable them to be single use at the session.

Our sessions are always well received and provide a fun exercise activity for our clients. Many would not normally have the opportunity to feel the enjoyment and freedom cycling provides and our



wheelchair carrier is particularly popular for providing this. Two person cycles like this, and the new tandem, give both participants and carers the opportunity to enjoy a fun activity together and share the experience, which is doubly rewarding for all of us.

Many children and adults come to a session having never ridden a cycle or propelled themselves in any way before. They often face it with trepidation, but with the adapted cycles, and the skilled and sensitive volunteers we have, they are soon away and the beams of satisfaction and achievement they show is the reason we all do it!

If you know of anyone who would like to take part and ride the cycles at our sessions, please contact us on: Volunteer@isleaccess.co.uk For more information on Isle Access or the Adapted Cycling sessions: info@isleaccess.co.uk

Mick Watts

This article was written before lockdown 2

Reflection

A topic for the new Cycle Forum?

"Many years ago, my wife and I were cub scout leaders. The ethos of Scouting is to make a better society. The Cub Scout Law includes the phrase 'thinks of others before themselves' and this was certainly demonstrated by many during the lockdown.

This all came to mind whilst giving out the free bells on the Newport/Cowes shared path. The conversation so often turned to a certain group of cyclists who don't ride sensibly on shared paths and will often pass pedestrians and slower cyclists too fast, too close, and with no warning.

To them I say, you might be climbing Mont Ventoux next to Chris Froome in your mind, or going for that Strava PB, but how about 'thinking of others before yourself' on the Shared Paths because, well, the clue's in the name! "

Highway Code Consultation

In one of our bulletins we highlighted that the government is proposing changes to the Highway Code. We hope that you took the opportunity to make some comments as it is suggesting some major alterations, which would benefit cyclists and pedestrians. You can access our submission by going to the web site. Thanks to Naomi on the committee who took on the task.

Newport High Street

The High Street Heritage Action Zone has been established to help regenerate the town centre and improve, enhance and protect the town's amazing heritage. As part of the project we have funding to improve the public realm and pedestrian experience in St James Square and the High Street between St James Square and the Guildhall. We're asking for people to tell us what they want to see in this area. What do you like? What do you hate? What could be improved? This will help develop our plans for the area, and there will be more opportunities to input as the plans develop. It is easy to contribute your views at, <https://communities.createstreets.com/Newport> where you'll find a map of the area, which you can add your comments to. While the focus of the project is on pedestrian improvements, we'd also welcome input on how cycling could be made safer, easier and more pleasant in the area.

Can you help?

As group we are busy with all manner of issues. The world of communication is constantly changing. Do you have any knowledge on design of web sites and keeping them up to date? Could you assist with the writing and publication of the newsletter?

We do have some money to help in re-styling our publications but are looking among the membership first, partly to engage more with our supporters. We feel this is one way to make the group more effective. If you are interested please contact us through the web site.

Strava Metro

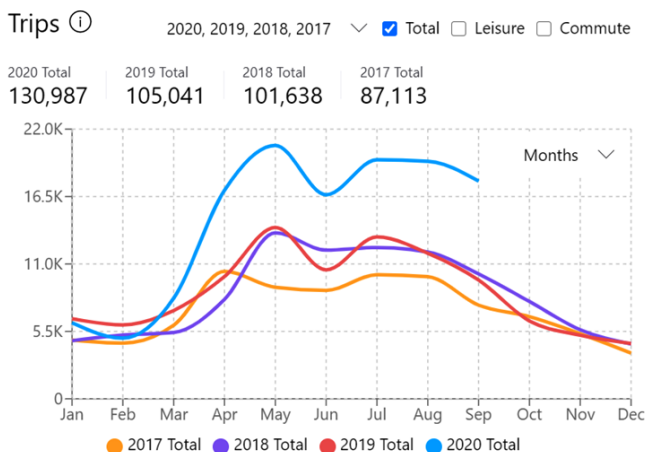
Brock Rogers: Active Travel Officer

“What is it?” The Strava Metro dataset is the largest collection of human-powered transport information in the world. Until now, Strava has charged a fee to gain access to this data. However, they are now providing free access to Local Authorities and to voluntary groups, to help make our cities, towns and rural areas better for anyone on foot or on a bike. CW have registered to use the data as well as IWC.

How it works: Millions of people worldwide track their rides, runs and walks to Strava every week with their phone or GPS device. Strava Metro anonymises this data and aggregates it, leaving a vast source of trends and insights. This is useful for IWC because it provides free, quick and easy access to Strava’s data which can enable the ability to do the following:

1. Understand patterns: See which paths people avoid or favour, where traffic occurs, and common origins and destinations.
2. Improve safety: Identify high-risk corridors, uncover the factors that contribute to increased rider or pedestrian danger.
3. Evaluate projects: Get data-driven justification for urban investments and compare before and after to understand what’s really working.

Isle of Wight data: Strava Metro shows interesting local active travel patterns for 2020 compared to previous years, probably as a result of the pandemic. The graph below shows a significant increase for Isle of Wight Strava cycling trips in 2020 compared to previous years.”



The CW committee believes this is a very powerful tool in demonstrating the demand for cycling and will actively support this and other measures to make the case for more cycle provision.

Electric Scooters

A topic for the new Cycle Forum? We would love to hear your views

Electric scooters could soon become a familiar sight on the Isle of Wight, Solent Transport — a body representing a number of local authorities in the region, including IWC — is awaiting government approval of a 12-month trial of rental ‘e-scooters’. If successful, up to 75 e-scooters will initially be available to hire from as early as next month.

E-scooters cannot currently be used legally except on private land, but confirmation of the trial by the Department for Transport (DfT) would trigger legislation meaning e-scooters hired from the approved operator could be used in the designated trial area only.

In anticipation of the trial being approved, the IWC is working in partnership with British micro mobility provider, Beryl, and Solent Transport on the scheme, which, it is hoped, will encourage people to switch to a greener transport for shorter journeys.

Beryl currently operates an e-scooter scheme in Norwich under another DfT pilot as well as bike share initiatives across Norwich, Hereford and London.

Philip Ellis, Beryl chief executive, said: “The Island is a fantastic place to host these e-scooter trials and Beryl is excited to play a leading role in transforming how the UK travels in a greener and safer way post Covid-19. He went on to say” We look forward to working with the Council and Solent Transport, as well as other key organisations from the police to local disability groups to ensure all residents and visitors are positively impacted by this trial.”

Membership

We have written about this before in newsletters but it is now 10 months since we switched our membership management from a ‘paper based’ system to using an online tool called Membermojo. This switch made it a lot easier for CW to receive membership payment online. It has reduced the handling of paper forms, and meant that membership renewal reminders are sent automatically. This has led to a slightly better renewal rate than the old system, but even better news is that we have seen many more new members join up; more than in any other year. Welcome to those of you new to CycleWight. And as the Treasurer has said it has made her life much easier so what is there not to like!

Other benefits allow us to keep in touch, via email, to share smaller snippets of information more quickly than the next newsletter as well as meeting our responsibilities in terms of GDPR. It allows us to see ways in which members would like to be more involved in the group. At present we are working with local businesses on getting you more value from your membership now you can print up a membership card.

Hopefully members will have found it straightforward and easy to use. We expected a few teething problems, but have been pleasantly surprised so far that they have been very minor. Please tell your friends how easy it is to do, and know that we appreciate being able to represent you. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions related to membership, please drop us an email.

Membership is £5 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 or email us to let us know you have paid. This is so we can update the membership list. Cheques should be made payable to CycleWight and posted to CycleWight, Rowborough Manor, Beaper Shute, BRADING PO36 OAZ

