

Great News

You may well remember that in the last newsletter we highlighted two new documents that we felt the Council should adopt as a set of principals in their approach to cycling: The Department of Transport's Cycling Infrastructure Design and the CTC's New Vision for Cycling. Tim Thorne, the Chair and Andy Newman, the Right to Ride Representative for the CTC met with council officers and Edward Giles, the Cabinet member for transport to talk about this being possible. It is with great pleasure we can report that these documents were adopted. Peter Hayward, the new Head of Highways and Transport, said he saw them as something that could be used in the work of the Council. Peter's stated intention is that cycling should become a "fundamental part of transport delivery." All officers should be aware of cycling needs within their brief.

David Pugh, the Leader of the Council was also there and was supportive of much what Andy and Tim said during the hour long meeting.

The meeting was begun by a short presentation highlighting, some of the advantages of accepting both sets of guidelines. The demise of the Cycle Forum (see over page) was discussed too and how some of the problems that may now occur can be overcome.

AGM

Friday 20th Nov 19.30

Newport Church of England Primary, Hazel Close, Newport PO30 5GD

This year we very pleased to say that **Roger Geffen, the Policy and Campaign Manager of the CTC is to be our guest speaker.**



This is a great coup for the group as he is obviously a very busy person being such a national figure. It is going to a wonderful opportunity to find out what the latest issues are and how to make sure that, we as a group make the

most of the resources available on the Island. It is essential we make sure that cyclists' voices

are heard in what is going to be a very difficult time with public finances.

Roger is coming to the Island for two days. He is to be at the inaugural meeting of the Cycle Forum. Roger has been described by the Cambridge Cycling group as a lively speaker and is to be seen on You Tube featuring in "Irate van driver versus polite cyclist" Guess which one is Roger?

As usual there will be a raffle to cover our costs and so if you could provide a prize that would be good. Something fairly green/fair trade. If you have an unwanted Jeremy Clarkson gift left over, the CycleWight AGM is maybe not the place.

Please make every effort to attend as a large number makes the voice of the cyclist louder. It is always an inspiring night out.

Cycle Forum

Important events have been happening over the last few months and so it has meant that to write a newsletter would have been always been behind real events. As some of you may know the Cycle Forum in its present state has been disbanded.

It was felt that the forum did not sit well in the new structure of the Council. The Forum was a meeting of interested groups and council officers. Under the new format the Cycle Forum, along with other groups like the Bus Users Group, are now to be run outside of the Council and report directly to the Quality Transport Partnership, which is a long term strategy group. The groups are to be convened by the interest groups rather than council officers. It was felt by the members of the Cycle Forum that it should continue, as there was still a role for it to play. Until the group becomes properly constituted CycleWight will take on the responsibility to convene the new body.

We are very concerned by this move for a variety of reasons. Most importantly, it now means that regular formal contact with council officers to express concerns, discuss ways forward and celebrate success has now disappeared. This also means the burden of organising and financing the meetings fall upon a group of volunteers. The Council has agreed that there will be a council officer in attendance at these meetings to be able to answer questions and clarify some of the issues and points raised.

As reported on Page 1 Roger Geffen has accepted our invitation to be present at the launch of the 'new' Forum on the 19th November. This will hopefully give the group a boost as well give some insight into what makes an effective forum. The CTC has done some national research on this. Part of our campaigning this Summer has been to try to put some of these ideas into practice.

David Pugh, the Leader of the Council will also be in attendance, which is pleasing.

This is a change of direction and it is important for all of us interested in cycling to make it work.

News from the Council

- The Cowes to Newport track drainage improvement scheme at Dodnor Lane has begun as the newsletter is written. The work which is to cost more than £30,000 is to reconstruct the pipes which have collapsed. Often the water collecting there was over 50cms deep and 40 meters long. With over 57,000 journeys a year this was a major problem. This will be the third major work on the track after the two major reinforcement projects which have taken place elsewhere during the last year which were to overcome the problems caused by burrowing animals.
- There is to be resurfacing of the cycle route to Medina High which regularly floods, in Seaclose Park,
- The signing of the Revetment at Sandown for joint use and the introduction and promotion of an Islandwide shared use protocol - "Bikes boots and hooves".
- There are investigations on how to improve the signing between Appley and Puckpool, to more clearly indicate the cycle route and encourage sensible use of the shared sections.
- To improve the signing onto the Cowes track at the Cowes end and the surface of the route from the Newport end of the track onto the Quay at Riverway - if funding allows.
- For next year and consideration will be given to the Riverway route if not completed this year, plus options for the Shanklin to Wroxall route.
- Updated copies of the Round the Island Cycle Route map are now available. If anyone would like copies to distribute to cyclists please contact The Events Team by calling 823070.
- On a final and positive note the responsibility for cycle development has now moved to a new Transport Strategy team - lead by Kevin Burton. Sue Cracknell's role of Cycling Officer now sits in this wider delivery team

Interesting web site

<http://www.thecyclepeople.com> Cover all kinds of things including cycle friendly accommodation.

CycleWight Action

- Attended Cycle Forum
- Attended Quality Transport Partnership
- Promotion of cycling at launch of Cycle Festival
- Led a ride at Cycle Festival
- Made a submission to Newport Parish Consultation
- Made a presentation on Angel Radio
- Meeting with Council Officers and Councillors over changes to Cycle Forum
- Adoption of key policy documents by Council

Bike-ability

This year sees the launch of a new version of the Bike-ability scheme on the Island. Bike-ability is the national replacement of the old Cycling Proficiency scheme.

Funding for the scheme has been secured by the Island Schools Sports Partnership (Carisbrooke and Sandown) for the training of new instructors and the provision of courses in middle schools.

The new scheme is aimed at pupils in school years 5-6 and will effectively train young people in the skills required to safely ride on local roads. The Partnership are currently in the process of taking applications for anyone who is interested in becoming a Bike-ability tutor. Applicants should have experience of working with children as well as having a passion for cycling. If selected, potential tutors will be placed on the 4 day training course run by British Cycling and would then be required to deliver cycle training regularly in middle schools.

If you wish to be considered for a place on the course, please contact Ian Rock at the Carisbrooke Schools Sports Partnership using the contact details below.

Ian Rock Cycling Development Officer
ianrock@carisbrookehighschool.co.uk
Phone 550016

Sustrans work parties.

Tigg, the Sustrans ranger for Route 23, Cowes to Sandown, has begun work parties again. They will be working their way along the track until Spring. At the moment they are working between Stag Lane and Pink Mead. They are on Saturday mornings from 9-12 (or however much time you wish to give)

The next two dates are. Sat 14th Nov 28th 9 – 12
01983527896 . All you have to bring is your labour

Bembridge Wheelers

Margaret Hopkinson Wooley has written about that the Bembridge Wheelers are going strong. A member has bought a tandem from a charity so he can take a blind man out with us. They have also gone further afield: Chichester to cycle the Salterns Way. Margaret herself cycled 400 miles in France for LEPR Health in Action during 10 days in September She rode from Cherbourg to Narbonne with a little help from a car on the way. She reported on there being wonderful smooth roads and little traffic, and great respect for cyclists. The Canal du Midi tow path was the best part: Smooth surface, flat, and shaded with Plane trees. There were no punctures for the whole journey with gel in the inner tubes

Cycling in Canada

Much to the surprise of many visitors to the East coast of Canada cycling is very popular. Go into any of the large cities; Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and you will find them geared up for the cyclist. Cycling lanes abound and motorists give way to cyclists and pedestrians. In most cities bikes can be put on the front of buses and are welcome on most metro systems outside the rush hour. It was also very evident that in urban areas 'macho' style riding was very rare, people were willing to transport themselves safely with due regard for others. There were little statements of the recognition of cycling everywhere. One of my favourites was the parking meter which had a ring half way down to enable people to lock their bikes safely.

Out of the cities there were many leisure routes. Information was supplied by most of the local authorities. One of the most picturesque was following the canal system that went from Toronto to Ottawa. On the whole it is relatively flat but as distances are so great it is important to make sure you have chosen the right road!

Niagara Falls is dramatic and rather like Blackpool if you come away from the Falls themselves but the Niagara Parkway allows you to cycle off road nearly all the way from surrounding towns. A much better way to approach the dramatic site cycling along and hearing the rushing water.

If you cycle you will also not get a parking fine as I did. But the truth is always out there. Next day I read in the Globe and Mail the quote of the day from William Vaughan, "A real patriot is the fellow who gets a parking ticket and rejoices that the system works". Tim Thorne

Sustainable School Travel

The Island has been leading much of the Country in some of the work in schools. Helen Stichbury has written the following. Elsewhere in the newsletter is a request for volunteers to help. "Cycle training through the 'Go Ride' scheme has been a real success on the Island, with thousands of pupils receiving basic cycle skills training, 'level 1 at school. This is either through PE lessons, or as an after-schools club, or weekend activity, delivered by PE teachers and support staff. Using this approach, pupils from Reception year through to Year 4 at primary have been able to access training, with the result that youngsters are now presenting with good cycle skills at a relatively early age. Around 4,000 of our 18,000 pupils have received training. Building on this, the Sports Partnerships have received funding to deliver on-road cycle training ('Bikeability Level 2') to Year 5 that is the who will be the first year to be retained at primary schools when the re-organisation changes happen. The impact of this will be that our children have the skills to deal with cycling in the real world of traffic; although the responsibility and decision about the appropriateness of cycling will remain with the parent.

Alongside this cycle training will be a bike maintenance programme, funded by the Council's Sustainable School Travel Officer, which will enable pupils to use their own bikes for cycle training and then hopefully use them on the journey to school, where appropriate. This programme will be delivered in different ways at different schools - as an after-schools club, a 'Dads and Lads' club, during cycle training, for example. Not forgetting walking to school, the Council's Sustainable School Travel Officer promoted Walk to School month as part of International Walk to School in October, with 35 schools and around 5,000 pupils participating. This is all part of the drive to get more children more active, as part of the 'Healthy Schools' and 'Change for Life' programmes. In January the Hospice will be launching Schools Walk the Wight for the fourth year, where children and families accumulate mileage through walking to school, at school and at the weekends. So far this has raised around £100,000 for our local Hospice, as well as encouraging children and families to get more active."

Mince Pie Ride

As ever when it is Christmas, it is the Mince Pie Ride. Alverstone village Hall on the 27th December at 11.00. A family bike ride with the thought of mulled wine and mince pies to encourage you to finish. We have actually made a profit for the last two years, which is particularly pleasing! The other major selling point is that last year it was recommended as something to do over Christmas by no less than the Daily Telegraph.



“Are we nearly there?”

Electra bikes

These are what everyone must own. They are a big hit in the USA and are now making their way over here. They are meant for the more elegant way of travel and just as good they come painted in a whole variety of ways. There are even matching mudguards for some models. They are now being sold in Wight Mountain. So go along and have a look. Set aside an hour the brochure is that big.

Membership

In the square by this item there is a box, which if ticked highlights your membership is now due. Please re-join as we rely on your small membership fee to keep us going.

£5.00 Per. Household. £3.00 Unwaged.
Please make all cheques payable to CycleWight.
Mr D Jackson, Toad Hall, Church Rd Havenstreet,
PO33 4DW