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Good News

130 million were bikes made in 2007.

Excellent News

Even better news is the fact that there has been an extra £140,000 allocated to cycling this year. Improvements that are due to be carried out as part of the programme will be the re-surfacing at Horryngford including the broad walk. Another important project will be on the Newport to Cowes track. This will improve the surface in some places as well take action on damage done by the wild life. Both of these are very expensive projects but have attracted these additional funds. It is a reflection of the hard work of the officers of the council who are linked to cycling that this has happened. Well done.

AGM Friday 14th November

THE AGM is not far away. This year the guest speaker will be the new **Chief Executive of Sustrans, Mr Malcolm Shepherd**. This is really good news as it will be a wonderful opportunity for him to see the work on the Island as well as support what we and the Sustrans rangers are doing. It is important to keep the provision for cycling on the agenda. The venue has not been decided yet but please keep the date free and also ensure you bring some friends along. Numbers have fallen a little over the last few years. It is down to about 40 which is about 30 more than most groups at an AGM but with such a prominent national figure it would be good to see as many people as possible. The usual 'extras' will be there.

The Revetment - Sandown to Shanklin

For many people to ride along the revetment has been one of the pleasures of living on the Island. Members will no doubt be aware that cycling on the revetment has become an issue again after several articles and letters in the County Press. Councillor Humby has been prominent in expressing many of the concerns. It has been highlighted that some cyclists behave in an inappropriate way, weaving in between people and cycling just too fast. Owners of the beach huts particularly feel children are at risk from injury. The problem has been exacerbated by 'No Cycling' signs being erected which in fact have no legal validity. The revetment does not fall under normal legislation as it is a sea wall and not a road or footpath. The joint use of sea walls, promenades etc. by cyclists has become increasingly common; Brighton, Weymouth and Bournemouth are all places where it has happened. It would be fair to say that it has not been without controversy.

It is good to report that many members have written to Councillor Humby and to the Council expressing their concern over this issue. It has also highlighted the need for a rational debate as many of the points were opinion rather than fact. Sue Cracknell has been to Bournemouth to look at how it works there where at the height of the season cycling is restricted for part of the day. There is the possibility of a code of conduct to being drawn up for users of the revetment.

You may have not written yet but please do so as a means of demonstrating how strong your feelings are on this important issue. This can be done to Heather Humby and Tim Hunter Henderson who is the cabinet member responsible for the revetment. Both people can be contacted by e-mail as well as traditional letter. On your behalf CylceWight has made our views known to a variety of official bodies including the local councils of Sandown, Lake and Shanklin and have offered to meet with Councillors.

Maintenance of Cycling Events Provision

There has been much in the local news about the large amount of money that the Council has been allowed to raise through a Private Finance Initiative. There has been some misunderstanding of the nature of how this money is to be used. The funding is to be used for road maintenance; it is not for new road schemes or cycle routes. The scheme works by the Council awarding a contract to a third party who then undertakes to keep the roads and their infrastructure to a prescribed level. This is to be for 25 years.

This does not mean though that we as a group should be complacent. It is important that the group ensures that there is provision within the contract to include maintenance of any other improvements to the infrastructure which may happen as time progresses; particularly to cycling. The recent edition of Cycling magazine shows a picture from Weymouth where under a PFI scheme some contractors managed to place a lamppost into the middle of a pre-existing cycle lane.

Much of the present provision for cycle tracks is within the remit of Rights of Way. There is now a real effort for there to be a more dedicated programme of maintenance for the off road provision. As often with this work there is a finite amount of money which does mean it has to vie with other demands such as footpaths and bridleways.

It is helpful if members report areas of concern to



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the committee so then issues can be monitored and if you wish we can pass them onto the appropriate people at the Council. If you contact Sue Cracknell at the Council with the information she has the ability to check that the appropriate department is taking action.

13-21st Sept Cycling Festival

13th Sept. CycleWight ride to festival

Week of 14th September. Return of participants of Square to Square

22nd Sept Closing of consultation of Island Plan

28th Sept Brompton World Championship

5th October Grid Iron New Forest Ride. More information: www.wessexctc.org

5th October Big Day Out

14th Nov AGM

27th Dec Mince Pie Ride. Alverstone Village Hall. 11.00 am

It 'aint heavy

"From March until the end of June each year I rent a space at the Newport Farmer's Market to sell my scented pinks. During 2006/7 I pushed a single-wheeled barrow from my home in College Road to the market. The barrow had about 60 bunches and it took me about 25 minutes to get to the market – and it was hard work.

This year I invested in a Pashley Loadstar to replace the barrow. I modified the design of the trike with a double-decker platform which holds 80 bunches. It now takes me less than 10 minutes to reach the market and is a lot more restful on my legs. I usually sell out within 2 hours and unlike other stall holders who have to wait till 2 o'clock to remove their tables, I just get on the trike and cycle it home!" Felix Gorton



Barbecue As part of Bike Week the committee organised a barbecue at the Bike Shed in Merstone. Over 30 people attended which was pleasing as the weather was less than conducive for a country ride. It was good to see a large number of people who were not known to us.

Thanks to the various people who led the rides from Cowes and Sandown and particularly to Jeff Smith and his staff for providing the venue as well as doing the cooking!

The “To do” page

Core Strategy

This document sets out the way forward for the Island. On your behalf submissions were made on the transport part of the document. There is now till 22nd September for the public to make comments on the plan before it becomes the council's working document. It is important that as many people as possible make positive comments about cycling in the strategy. It is important that members express a view as CycleWight will be only counted as one submission.

A downloadable version of the report can be found as a supporting document. The report is also available to view in any of the libraries (from Monday), County Hall Customer Services or Seaclose Reception.

Val Lawson has gone through the document and highlighted the areas that she thinks members should be commenting on. These are as follows.

Objective 24 To develop an integrated walking and cycling network, encouraging healthy & sustainable travel choices especially 8.98 onwards 8.136 8.137 8.145 8.212 8.215 8.263 onwards Also Policy CP29 Sustainable Travel principles. Comments are sought up until 22 September. They wish to receive these electronically though this is not paramount. You log in then receive an email to authenticate your identity.

You may also find other areas you think as a group we should make comment. Please let us know.

A series of drop-in surgeries have also been organised and you are invited to come along to talk to Planning Policy staff about the Options document. The surgeries will all take place at Seaclose Reception and the details are as follows:

Friday 15 August 2008 – 9am to 1pm
Wednesday 20 August 2008 – 9am to 1pm
Thursday 21 August 2008 – 2.30pm to 6.30pm
Tuesday 26 August 2008 – 2.30pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday 3 September 2008 – 9am to 1pm
Thursday 4 September 2008 – 2.30pm to 6.30pm
Wednesday 10 September 2008 – 9am to 1pm
Tuesday 16 September 2008 – 2.30pm to 6.30pm

Below are the instructions on how to make your comments online.

<http://iow-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/csoc>

1. Click on the URL above
2. Log into the Online Consultation system found in the top left hand corner of the screen if you'd like to comment online
3. View the document by clicking on the “Read Document” button
4. Read through the document
5. When viewing the content, click on the ‘Add Comment’ links positioned throughout the document to add your views. Once the form is filled in, click on submit to send or save to come back at a later date
6. You can save any draft comments and return to finish them at a later date by logging in and clicking on the ‘Drafts’ on the left of the screen once logged in.

The Council will accept submissions made in writing.

Your help is needed

The Council is keen to improve provision of cycle parking. They wish to hear from anyone who has a suggestion of where more useful cycle parking could be provided. Val Lawson has begun to coordinate this and so if you know of somewhere please contact her directly or Tim Thorne.

Birchmore Lane

This is part of the Newport to Sandown route and of late has become a matter of some concern. At the end of the lane, which is about a mile from Blackwater a nursery has opened. The business did not fulfil all the requirements linked to planning consent and so is being investigated. As many of you will know this, in the main part, is a single track metalled road. It does not lend itself to a large number of cars due to its narrow nature and the lack of space for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. It has been reported that some car drivers have even approached the nursery from Merstone. If you can shed any light on this issue or can report any incidents please let someone on the Committee know or contact Sue Cracknell straight away

Get Writing

Cross Country trains wish to reduce the space for bikes. They provide an important service to and from the Island. The CTC is asking cyclists to write to Arriva, to make sure there is good quality provision on the various routes Write to communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk.

There are more details on the CTC web site on the Rail Campaign section

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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.