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www.cyclewight.org.uk

St Mary's junction

Work has not started! Committee members attended an informal meeting with IWC to find out about progress. There is a hope that work will start sometime in September. Many of our suggestions were not adopted though provision for cyclists and pedestrians on the west side of the road outside the hospital have been enhanced since the original drawings. Sadly in other parts of the development things have been made more difficult for pedestrians by making them walk further so as to give cars more room. Even the Council acknowledges things will be difficult over the 18 months of the project.

Every cloud has a silver lining and this should be a golden opportunity to extol the benefits of cycling and for CycleWight to increase its membership. At a recent committee meeting there was discussion on how to make the most of this situation. One suggestion was to stand at St Mary's on the side of the road holding a sign, which would read, "Traffic on the Cowes to Newport cycleway running smoothly"

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.

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

Cycle Strategy

Our Cycle Strategy for the Island was published in Autumn 2017. Since then it has been downloaded over 1400 times. For keen readers of the front cover it said that the policy was until Autumn 2019. The group has been waiting for the publication of the LCWIP document before re-writing various sections. We shall look at how it complements our Cycling Strategy for the Island and then revise it if necessary.



It was obviously disappointing that the Council did not adopt our original strategy but it has been acknowledged and quoted in various official documents such as the new Island Plan.

Newport to Sandown track Closure (And Cowes follow up)

The track is to close during the Autumn for work to two bridges on the track by Herringford and Alverstone. We wrote to IWC and Island Roads to explain our disappointment at the length of the closure of 8 weeks, its timing and the lack of information on any diversion. We were not the only people to write!

It is good to report some of the work has already been carried out already without a closure. The start date has been delayed, which is pleasing, as it will affect less people, because it will be during the wintertime. We have asked to be consulted over the diversion so a repeat of the poor level of signing on the Cowes track does not happen again.

Many people feel that the work at the Cowes end of the track is not good enough: water now runs across the path, the side of the path is now higher than the path itself and the gravel from the work comes onto the track. IR says it is satisfactory and no further work is necessary.

Several CW members disagree and think winter will exacerbate the problems. Please write to your local councillor and IR to explain why the work is not good enough and any problems you have faced. **Cont on P2**

STOP PRESS – AGM Fri 29th Nov 19.30
 Carisbrooke Village Hall.

Cowes Cycle Track cont

Many people were inconvenienced by the long closure of the Cowes to Newport path. CW will ask to look at the cycle counter figures to see if numbers have returned to previous levels.

It is worth a look

In our campaigns linked to housing developments it becomes apparent very quickly that the infrastructure does not have cycling and walking at the forefront of the design. People, it is assumed, will use



a car. This means people have to drive and it is just unfortunate if they cannot drive or cannot afford to. A new national organisation called, Transport for New Homes has been formed. It is made up from, a wide range of groups and backed by the Foundation for Integrated Transport. They set out to encourage Councils and developers to design new developments from a people's perspective. Much of the new development on the Island makes a gesture towards active travel but is not a central pillar of the design. With proposals of over a 1,000 houses at Camp Hill the Council need to be clear to developers high standards are non-negotiable. Would we need changes to St Mary's junction if more people travelled in a sustainable way?

This organization would be one IWC would do well to follow. One of their first projects is to produce a checklist. It will allow people to check if housing near them fulfill the criteria for a well-designed and sustainable development.

Isle Access Mick Watts

Wheels for All at The Great Wonderfest

"Isle Access attended "The Great Wonderfest" family music festival at Duxmore Farm to offer accessible cycling experiences to the festival goers. Isle Access are delivering the Wheels for All programme through Cycle Projects, a national UK cycling charity.

The Wheels for All initiative is a nationally recognised programme that embraces all children and adults with disabilities and differing needs, and encourages them to engage in quality cycling activities across the UK. By using specially adapted cycles, the activities are both physically and mentally stimulating and above all fun for everyone involved.

The Great Wonderfest begun with the delivery of the adapted cycles, some on loan but many brand new, that were purchased through very generous donations from Island Roads and Wight Aid. Cycle Projects then provided a day of formal training to the Isle Access team in the use of the cycles, adjustment to the participant's needs and all aspects of safety.

There were children and young adults with a complete range of needs during the festival. Non-disabled participants were also keen to use the cycles, which gave them an appreciation of the barriers others face. The sessions each day were an overwhelming success with personal goals achieved, and a lot of laughter!

One young girl could not use her right hand, especially the thumb. Her Mother was unsure if she could support herself on the tricycle handlebars. She found the field a little bumpy and her right hand soon grabbed the handlebars. We did three circuits of the course with the right hand gripping so hard she had white knuckles!

Another young person with co-ordination



difficulties had a fear of cycles, but after some instruction and help from an Isle Access team member, was able master an adapted tricycle. This amazing achievement brought tears to many people's eyes!

There were many other 'magic moments' during the weekend and the whole Isle Access team felt privileged to have played a small part in these 'moments.'

Isle Access will be holding another training day on September 27th for anyone wishing to assist with this project. For more information please email volunteers@isleaccess.co.uk

Seaview Hotel

CW have been working with Seaview Hotel over the last few years on their Sustainable Tourism projects by providing them with routes for cycling and assisting them with their electric bikes which they rent to their visitors.

At the end of July our latest venture was a project called, "Can I be electric too?" A short presentation was done by Tim Thorne and George Wilks about electric bikes; the various types, uses and advantages. Attendees could then have a go! Numbers were kept low so people could ride the bikes for a reasonable length of time. Feedback was very positive. Next one in September. Contact Seaview Hotel if interested in attending.