

CYCLE FORUM

Minutes



Meeting No. 11
 Weds 2nd May 2007 at 15:00Hrs
 Enterprise House, Newport

PRESENT	
Name	Organisation
Andy Newman	Wayfarers
Chris Wells	IWC Transport Policy Manager –chair
Claire Whittington	IWC Events
Cllr John Hobart	IWC Councillor
George Wilks	Sustrans Ranger
Helen Stichbury	IWC School Travel Plans – co-minute taker
Kevin Burton	IWC Road Safety and Traffic Management
Martin Gibson	Island2000 Trust
Matt Archer	IWC Road Safety Officer – co-minute taker
Nick Farthing	Sustrans
Simon Richardson	Hampshire & IW Police
Steve Mew	Halfords
Valerie Lawson	Cyclewright
Will Downer	Wight Mountain

CIRCULATION	
Name	Organisation
Adrian Wheeler	Extreme Cycles
Alan Ransom	IWC Engineering Design
Alex Russell	IWC Rights of Way
Cllr Geoff Lumley	IWC Councillor
Cllr Tim Hunter-Henderson	IWC Councillor – Transport Portfolio Holder
Chris Bartlett	IWC Road Safety Engineer
Gavin Sullivan	Wight Offroad & Island Youth Cycle Club
Ian Gardiner	Battersby Cycles
Jason Joshua	TAV Cycles
Jeff Smith	Bikeshed
Jim Fawcett	IWC Agenda 21 Officer
John Allen	Wight Cycle Hire
Keith Jolliffe	IWC Planning Officer – Development Control
Malcolm Ross	Cyclewright
Martin Tigg	Sustrans Ranger
Matthew Chatfield	IWC Parks and Countryside Manager
Mike Starke	Forest Trails
Simon O'Dea	Hampshire & IW Police
Steve Chapman	Offshore Sports
Susan Cracknell	IWC Cycling Officer
Tanzie Page	Teacher Representative

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p>Welcome Chris Wells welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Sue was unable to attend due to illness.</p>	
2.	<p>Mountain Bike Forest Trails Will Downer from Wight Mountain talked to the Forum about the possibility of setting out some defined trails specifically for mountain bikes. This proposal is outlined by Mike Starke in the document 'Isle of Wight Forest Design Plan 2007-2037 Comments for Consideration', previously circulated to the Forum by email, and tabled at this meeting.</p> <p>Trails could be in Parkhurst, Brighstone, Firestone and Bouldnor Forests, often using already defined tracks. They would be suitably barriered so access would be by mountain bike only (not motorcycles). In some cases further setting out of the route would be required, as well as additional signage, and Wight Mountain are prepared to help with this.</p> <p>Benefits would be greater diversity and extension of routes for a large mountain bike user group (which includes tourists), additional use of local businesses (eg. B&B, village shops and pubs etc.), separation of mountain bike users from other users of trails eg. horse riders etc.</p> <p>Concerns are that the trails could be used by motorcycles unless suitably barriered, and permission is required of freeholder (Brighstone) and landowner Forest Enterprises.</p> <p>The Forum members present were generally supportive of the proposal. Joe Duckworth (IWC Chief Executive) and Matthew Chatfield (IWC Parks & Countryside Manager) are already aware of the proposal. It was agreed that Chris Wells (in Sue's absence) will discuss further with Matthew and facilitate a meeting between Wight Mountain, Forest Enterprises and the freeholder to discuss the options.</p> <p>If any Forum members (present or not) have any further points to make on this matter, please email Helen.Stichbury@iow.gov.uk so your comments can be taken up.</p> <p>Will Downer then left the meeting.</p>	<p>ACTION: Chris Wells</p> <p>ACTION: All Forum Members</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting (24th January 2007) Item 4: Martin Gibson confirmed that Island 2000 have NOT secured funding to construct a cycleway. With this amendment, the Minutes were agreed.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
4.1	<p><u>Cycle Maintenance Web Page</u></p>	

	<p>Andy Newman suggested using the same format for dealing with issues/complaints/comments on cycle routes as is currently providing under the IWC's Planning website. Rights of Way involvement is also critical.</p> <p>Helen to identify a contact in IT and ask them to liaise with Andy direct.</p>	<p>ACTION: Helen Stichbury</p>
4.2	<p><u>Round the Island Cycle Route Map</u> Map published.</p>	
4.3	<p><u>IWC Rights of Way</u> Tim Slade has retired from the IWC and Alex Russell is acting head of section (and is a member of this Forum).</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Debris on roads</u> Simon Richardson provided this response after the meeting:-</p> <p>“In answer to the Debris on Roads, question where Andy Newman asked the group if leaving debris after hedge cutting was a criminal offence.</p> <p>The simple answer is yes, sections 148 and 161 Highways Act 1980 create offences that may be suitable.</p> <p>However, I must stress:</p> <p>Each offence has its bar to prosecution and relies upon what is reasonable. ... While I accept that getting a puncture is aggravating, is it reasonable to expect the hedge-cutter to remove all the debris created by cutting the hedge as the act of depositing must be deliberate. Can we prove that the offending article was deposited as a result of cutting the hedge? As the hedge-cutter is complying with other requirements made under the Highways Act is he acting with lawful excuse?</p> <p>Is a bicycle puncture likely to cause injury or endangerment to a user of the Highway? Sorry to appear negative, but we suffer from the need to prove matters beyond reasonable doubt. We would be reluctant to prosecute under these circumstances.”</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Sandown Airport</u> Martin Gibson had submitted his comments to IWC Planning but has not received a response.</p>	
4.6	<p><u>Arctic Road</u> Cyclewright (Val Lawson) has resolved the matter; no significant traffic impact.</p>	
5.	<p>Newport Town Routes Martin Gibson has met with IWC officers regarding a route from Shide alongside the existing footpath. He is meeting with Chris Bartlett on site. Kevin Burton joined the meeting and is prepared to look at draft proposals. The Forum discussed the need for various routes across</p>	<p>ACTION: Martin Gibson / Chris Bartlett</p>

	<p>town; a link up of NCN 23 between the Riverside Vets and Shide, tourist routes into town; routes around town; links to other routes eg. NCN22, new Pan routes, etc. Martin suggested that Forum members conduct an audit of the town and prioritise these routes, starting with the NCN23 link. Kevin then left the meeting.</p> <p>Post-meeting: Helen has emailed all Forum asking for input.</p>	
6.	<p>West Wight Greenway</p> <p>Chris Wells presented the Forum with a map of Newport to Yarmouth with four options marked in Blue, Green, Orange and Purple. Those present were asked to put forward their Pros and Cons for each option. These are the comments identified by those present:-</p> <p>BLUE (A route, which generally follows the hedge line to the south of the main Newport to Yarmouth road, which we believe was offered on behalf of a number of the landowners.)</p> <p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links Shalfleet school to Shalfleet village <p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenfield therefore expensive • In lots of ownership so difficult to coordinate • Indirect – cycle routes should be direct (car drivers wouldn't be asked to drive such a circuitous route) • Could lead to hedgerows being uprooted • In conservation areas so limited • Corners are dangerous from personal safety and user perspectives • Unsafe to run a path to a school behind a hedge <p>GREEN (primarily the disused railway line)</p> <p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been highlighted as strategic route for some time (UDP policy TR18) • Flatter • Off main roads • Good deal of infrastructure is in place • Offers points of linking to settlements/routes • Less environmental impact • More direct • More attractive • Could divert around sections where infrastructure not in place <p>Helen Stichbury then left the meeting and Matthew Archer took over as minute taker.</p> <p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible engineering works required where base is missing <p>ORANGE (option proposed by local landowner)</p> <p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses existing bridleways and infrastructure and is in general 	

direction

Cons

- Much closer to farms and areas of concern/sensitivity
- Through farms
- Encourages more traffic through working farms
- Issue with going as far down as Newbridge
- Change in legal status and issues with Ramblers
- Greater environmental impact compared to GREEN route

PURPLE (another option put forward by a local landowner)

Pros

- Clay Lane westwards is OK

Cons

- Not using existing infrastructure so expensive
- New infrastructure on hills so not flat
- Large gap is issue

Chris Wells then asked the ten Forum members to vote which would be their preferred option:-

	For	Against	Abstain
BLUE	nil	nil	nil
GREEN	9	nil	1
ORANGE	nil	nil	nil
PURPLE	nil	nil	nil

Chris then asked the Forum members to rank the remaining routes in their order of preference:-

1. GREEN
2. ORANGE – but with serious concerns at Newbridge
3. PURPLE – only benefit is an inn on the route

Comments from meeting re routes

GREEN

May have to be diversions where some of the route is lost.

Cheaper option and where some of it is existing, it may be easier to make happen.

An indepth study shows that this route offers improved green tourism, less impact for archaeology, and more chances of improvement to existing paths.

Issues for landowners impacting on their businesses and working.

Sympathy that if a track is running past the end of your garden, there would be issues.

ORANGE

Some benefits for this route.

BLUE

Very little benefit in this route

PURPLE

Very few in favour of this route.

	<p>Chris told the meeting that there have been a number of talks with landowners and the County Landowners Business Association. It was hoped that meetings could continue to take place, as it is clear that this development has polarised views, leaving some landowners feeling isolated by the proposals. Details of the emerging proposals have been given to landowners and others through a number of means (eg. public meetings, group meetings, Beacon, etc.) and comments invited at every opportunity.</p> <p>Cllr Hobart asked if Cllr George Brown is fully aware of the project as Cabinet Member for the Economy, Tourism, Assets & Planning. In addition to those councillors sitting on the Cycle Forum, where the project has been discussed previously, the views of the wider Councillor membership on these proposals is to be sought.</p> <p>Nick Farthing pointed out that the project would aid development for West Wight.</p> <p>Val Lawson asked if there was a limit to when the lottery funding would be available. Chris said three years. It would be necessary to move the project forward over the next few months so as to secure the necessary funding from the Heritage Lottery.</p> <p>Andy Newman suggested getting the landowners on side who were involved with the Merstone-Arreton route which also went through farmland.</p> <p>Chris said he did not believe the West Wight Greenway would get as much use as the Newport-Cowes route which is popular with commuters. More likely user group is leisure and tourism with associated potential income.</p>	<p>ACTION: Chris Wells to raise with Stuart Love</p>
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	<p><u>Cycling Festival</u> Claire called for route leaders for the event and to contact her if they wish to. Routes can be provided by her.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>NCN23: Dodnor Bridge</u> Cllr Brown reports that the new bridge has made big improvements. Funds remaining for improvements are £200,000.</p>	
7.3	<p><u>Hinton Road, Newport</u> George Wilks raised concerns over the gateway treatments at Hinton Road. CW said the issue is being looked at with necessary grouting to take place.</p>	
7.4	<p><u>St. James Square, Newport</u> Martin Gibson asked if there was a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the right turn from St James Square to St James Street. There is no right turn except buses so can bikes turn right?</p>	<p>ACTION: Martin Gibson contact Kevin Burton</p>
7.5	<p><u>NCN23: Horringford</u></p>	<p>ACTION: Alex Russell</p>

	Andy Newman raised the issue of the slippery wooden cycle way, which he has previously raised with Helen and Sue. Chris directed him to Alex Russell, Rights of Way.	to report to Forum
8.	Date and Time of Next Meeting To be advised.	