

Isle of Wight Council Cycle Forum

Cycle Forum meeting 01/2004

Committee Room 2, County Hall, Newport
Thursday 4th March 2004

Minutes

Present: Steve Chapman – Offshore Sports
Brian Crane – IWC Principal Road Safety Officer
Andy Greenwood - IWC Traffic and Transport Engineer
Valerie Lawson – Cyclewight
Rachel Jolliffe – IWC Local Transport Planner (acting Chair)
Ruth Jones – Wight Leisure
Sue Marshall – IWC Cycling Promotion Officer
Malcolm Ross – Cyclewight
Charlotte Westwood – IWC Policy Support
George Wilks – Sustrans

Apologies

Chris Wells – IWC Senior Transport Planner
Lee Skinner – IWC Rights of Way Assistant
Tim Slade – IWC Countryside Access Manager
Dave Woracker – Transport 2000
Jeff Smith – The Bike Shed
Tom Flaherty – IWC Highways Maintenance
Ashley Curzon – IWC Planning Department
Hal Matthews – IWC Tourism
PC Richardson – IW Police
Martin Tigg - Sustrans
Halfords
First Gear Cycles
Battersby Cycles
Autovogue
Wight Mountain
Extreme Cycles

Welcome

Rachel Jolliffe (RJ) welcomed all members attending the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting (10th December 2003)

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

The forum was updated, that temporary signs had been erected at both the Cowes and Sandown ends of the Cowes – Sandown Cycleway and that the signs in Newport Town centre had been discussed by Iain Thornton, Chris Wells and Lee Skinner. George Wilks (GW) had commented on the proposals and it was hoped that this issue would be progressed in the forthcoming financial year, April 2004 to March 2005.

Brian Crane (BC) informed the group that a risk assessment had been conducted on the proposed alternative route from Dodnor to Riverway part of the Cowes – Sandown Cycleway. Copies of the report had been circulated. Tim Slade needs to decide on how to progress this issue.

It was highlight that signs around Freshwater required corrections however this matter was being progressed by Lee Skinner (LS) in Rights of Way

The group discussed paths CS7 and CS6 which run parallel around Broadfield playing field, Cowes. SP Systems have submitted a planning application which included moving CS7. Valerie Lawson (VL) has already sent a letter to planning outlining Cyclewright's concerns.

Action It was agreed that VL would also write to Tim Slade on this matter.

The group also discussed the possibility of a crossing at Park Road, Cowes (adjacent the new skate park). Andy Greenwood explained that it would not be advisable to install a crossing as there is no metalled footpath on the northern side of Park Road. BC stated that Cowes County Primary School are on the Safe Routes to Schools list for 2004/05 and perhaps this could be considered as part of the scheme.

Action: VL to write to BC about crossing and footpath at Park Road, Cowes.

Update on cycling schemes for this year IW –Council

RJ explained that the 2003/04 funding had been spent and that from April 2004 £200,000 had been allocated to cycling schemes. The funding was going to be split with £50,000 to complete the Wootton Woodland Burial Site cycle link and the further £150,000 being spent on urban cycling schemes which includes advanced stop lines and covered cycle parking.

The forum felt that the Wootton Woodland Burial Site cycle link was not the best use of the funding however they accepted that the council was committed due to a Section 106 agreement. It was felt that in future the forum should be consulted regarding the forthcoming spending programmes.

VL enquired as to if the funding for Sylvan Drive, £6,000 was still available. Unfortunately due to the absence of a representative of Rights of Way the group could not deal with this query.

Action It was agreed that VL would direct this question to Tim Slade

VL also highlighted the Blackwater section of Route 23 still required surface sweeping.

Update on the LTP

RJ reported that the Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report was submitted to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and the Department of Transport (DFT) in July 2003. The report set out the progress that had been made towards reaching both local established and national targets. The decision letter regarding funding was received in December 2004. A major bid for £12.88 million was awarded for stabilisation of Undercliff Drive (A3054) as well as an additional £750,000 for Ryde St Johns road over rail bridge. The department was also rewarded £3.39 million for Highways Maintenance and £2.92 Million for Integrated Transport. The second Local Transport Plan will need to be submitted by 2006 and it was felt that the targets will be wider reaching.

Update on traffic schemes

Andy Greenwood (AG) spoke about the work which had been carried out along Trafalgar Road and in particular the contraflow cycle lane. The forum felt that the cycle lane was a good width, however that the junction of Upper St James Street and St Johns Place might need further attention. The overall view of the Bus and Cycle lane was that most cyclists found it useful.

GW highlighted that the advisory cycle lanes at both St James Street junction with High Street Newport and Queen Road Junction with Binstead Road, Ryde were a little narrow. In addition it was felt that the junction at Kite Hill and Eleanor's Grove had been designed in such a way that cyclist were left with no were to go.

Action It was agreed that AG and his colleague Iain Thornton would meet GW at the appropriate sites to discuss the situations

VL felt that the surface at Binfield Corner, Whippingham was in poor condition. Also that traffic calming along East Cowes Road placed cyclists in a difficult situation because the route around the traffic calming

forces the cyclist back into the traffic flow. A similar situation occurs with the traffic calming along Forest Road, Newport.

AG informed the group that that 19 schools had been identified for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Schemes in the next financial year.

Action A copy of the SRTS program to be attached to the minutes.

2004 Cycling Festival

Ruth Jones outlined details of the 2004 Cycling Festival which will start on the 18th September to 26th September. It was intended that the events this year would be more inclusive with volunteer cycle leaders taking groups on cycle trails similar to the system for the Walking Festival. The cycle leaders would be given guidance on how to run a cycle group. None of the cycle leaders would need to have qualifications and all cyclists taking part would be doing so at their own risk and therefore asked to sign a disclaimer. However a draft risk assessment would be given to each cycle leader for completion. Each of the routes would be graded and those involving children would have back markers, whistles and high visibility jackets.

VL raised concerns of in-experienced cycle leaders taking groups out without public liability insurance. Ruth stated that she had a forthcoming meeting with the Insurance department.

BC explained that there is a general safety budget which can be used for a variety of safety matters however a case would need to be submitted.

During previous Cycle Festivals SP Systems had held a road race however at present there are no plans for a race this year. It was suggested that a Time Trial might be a better option as there would not be as much disruption to road traffic.

The 7 Hills event will be going ahead however it will be extended to cover all cycling levels i.e. a 3 hills event for beginners, 7 hills for intermediates and 14 hills for expert cyclists.

The Randonnee will be held on the 19th September with a main round the Island route. A mini route will also be hosted around Ryde and particularly marketed at families and less experienced cyclists. For both events either £5 entry fee or sponsorship money, including the £5 fee, will be collected for Jubilee Charity.

A launch day will be held in St Thomas Square, Newport with invitees including The Veteran Cycling Club.

International cycle to work day will be Wednesday 23rd September, Ruth invited all interested parties to contribute ideas and advice.

Cycling schemes – additional points

VL wrote to both Phil Hayward and Steve Boswell about having a contact for cycling issues, however to date had not received a reply. It was felt that in future a member of staff from each relevant section should attend the cycle forum. BC explained that most issues could be taken through the Cycling Officer, Tim Slade, however if it was a traffic issue to speak to Peter Taylor, Traffic and Transportation Manager.

VL enquired about the funding for Brading to St Helens cycle route as well as any progress on revoking the no cycling restriction on Sandown revetment.

Action It was agreed that VL would direct these issues to Tim Slade along with a list of priorities for the next financial year.

Any other business

It was felt that the next meeting should be held on May (instead of June) to enable an early report of 2004/05 cycle priorities.

The meeting closed at 15:35