

MINUTES FOR THE CYCLE FORUM



10th October 2005
At 15:30, Meeting Room 1, Enterprise House

Present:
Nick Farthing (NF) – Sustrans
Andy Greenwood (AG) – Isle of Wight Council
Valerie Lawson (VL) – Cycle Wight
Sue Marshall (SM) – Chairman – Isle of Wight Council
Dawn Cooper – Isle of Wight Council
Ruth Jones (RJ) – Isle of Wight Council
Tim Slade (TS) - Isle of Wight Council
George Wilks - Sustrans
Matt Archer (MA) – Isle of Wight Council
Helen Stichbury (HS) - Isle of Wight Council (Minutes)

Apologies:
Martin Gibson (MG) – Island 2000 Trust
Phil Brady (PB) – Peter Brett Associates
Mark Deans (MD) – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Dines (SD) – B. C. F.
Keith Jolliffe – Isle of Wight Council
Rachel Mills (RM) – Isle of Wight Council
Omar Lakhssassi (OL) – Isle of Wight Council
Jan Penketh – Children’s Cycling Club
Lee Skinner – Isle of Wight Council
Jeff Smith – The Bike Shed
Martin Tigg – Sustrans
David Vrba – The Bike Shed
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council

Minutes

Actions

1. Introduction and Welcome

SM welcomed the group.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (18th May 2005)

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

5. Maps and Routes

Round the Island Map

SM has spoken to Mike Rowlands – must be ready for spring
VL reported that the Route in Ryde is getting busy, and agreed to set up a Working Group through CycleWight to monitor the situation and feed back to the Forum.

SM

VL

Tourism – Cycle Trails booklet

SM meets with Tourism on a regular basis, viz. cycling is included in the Tourism Development Plan, and is currently updating Cycle Trails booklet.

Route 23 Map

This will be developed in partnership with Sustrans as the scheme develops, who are keen to show links to tourism etc.

7. Reports – Sue Marshall

Tour of Britain

SM continues to meet positively with Tourism, SEEDA and Sports England. Should know by November whether a leg will be held on IOW. If this happens, the Cycling Festival would have to be moved forward to the beginning of September. The cost of this will be around £90,000.

4 LTP2 Consultation

SM tabled the Active Travel annex which forms part of the Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2). This document was also circulated by email prior to the meeting. No comments have yet been received. Sustrans have sent a letter of support.

The response of the meeting was generally favourable. GW asked if maintenance is considered in the document. SM agreed to check.

SM

5. Sustrans Update – Nick Farthing

Route 22

NF congratulated the group on the positive partnership work being done so far. He outlined the background to National Cycle Route 22, and will be giving a full presentation to CycleWight on 18/11/05.

Sustrans have been supporting the architects Marks Barfield who have been developing the route from Seaview to Ryde. The route continues through Wootton, Newport, and then through the schools at Carisbrooke to the old railway line to Yarmouth. The Newport – Yarmouth link is being pursued through a bid to the West Wight Lottery Heritage Fund. Funding for the section through Carisbrooke could come through the Safe Routes to School scheme and/or Section 106 monies. There may also be money available through landfill draw-downs, and through LTP2.

SM mentioned possible funding in Ryde through Timberland.

NF indicated that delivery could be 3-5 years.

Route 23

NCR23 (Sandown to Reading) has been extended in Cowes to schools culminating at Solent Middle School, a link developed through Sustrans and the pupils' opinions gained through their school Travel Plan.

Wootton-Ryde Extension

The old railway public footpath from Mews Lane to the subway under Coppins Bridge to the Riverside Centre is being assessed as an alternative off-road route.

Newport Route

Island 2000 Trust has purchased some land near to the Barley Mow at Shide and is looking to conduct a feasibility study for extending the cycle route to Matalan. It may be possible to fund any upgrade via Section 106 monies.

Safe Routes to School

Rhiannon Barnes of Sustrans to do a presentation to officers about how the SRTS schemes link to active travel.

6. Reports

Tim Slade – Rights of Way Section, IWC

Maintenance

The Rights of Way section is responsible for the maintenance of all cycleways as well as footpaths/bridleways. However, the maintenance budget has not been extended as cycleways have increased. TS & SM working within IWC to identify possible solutions, and Cycle Forum members can help by lobbying their local councillors to set aside a specific cycleway maintenance budget. It could be argued that, as more people use cycleways for commuting, some of the road budget could be transferred to cycleway maintenance.

All Cycle
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Members

TS thanked the Sustrans Rangers for their work on Blackhouse Quay. VL asked if there was any limit on this role? TS said no; as long as an IWC officer has completed a risk assessment and adequate training has been given, personnel will be covered by the IWC's personal and third party liability insurance. GW has comments on the work which was done, signage, etc., and SM asked him to feed this back to her ASAP.

GW

TS explained about the maintenance programme and VL commented that the sweeping

was much-appreciated. Overhead clearance of the hedgerow canopy is expensive but acknowledged by the Rights of Way section as being required. Cycleways should be included in a Highways PFI bid. Cycleway Maintenance to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

SM

Wootton Cycleway

VL commented that the route is very good but questioned the use of fibredeck. TS confirmed that fibredeck was insisted upon as part of the dedication agreement by the landowners who gifted the land.

The surface failed prior to the official opening ceremony because the mechanical sweeping vehicle used on the track was too heavy for the subsurface (not because of fibredeck) and because of insufficient drainage at that point. Repairs to the subsurface have now taken place. NF confirmed that fibredeck is well-used elsewhere.

TS also confirmed that the landowner insisted on the bund too.

Future Projects

SM informed meeting that IWC Design Engineers are working to a Design Guide for cycleways from Sustrans so high standards are now set.

Andy Greenwood – Traffic Engineer, IWC

Fishbourne Junction, Kite Hill

Traffic Section currently conducting a survey to see if upgrades are possible, which will include consultation.

Top of Hunnyhill – Bus Gate

Bus queue survey being undertaken next month.

St Marys Roundabout

Looking at scheme to slow northbound traffic.

Haylands Primary School

School having a Safe Routes to School scheme, and wish to work on Travel Plan, with a view to encouraging cycling.

Solent Middle School

As part of encouraging cycling SM and AG are working with the school on a Safe Routes to School Scheme, which could include putting cycle lanes into Crossfield Avenue and Tuttons Hill. Cycle storage has also been provided.

Trafalgar Road, Newport

An audit including cyclists has been carried out. Objections have been received but there is no action to date.

New GP Surgery, Newport Road, Cowes

VL pointed out that as well as considering the needs of cyclists, pedestrian visitors to the site should be considered. AG agreed that the situation with potentially conflicting road-users would require a complex solution, so there should be wide-ranging consultation. SM explained that improvements to links to Solent Middle School had been considered in the area but were not possible under the same scheme, as the Solent Middle scheme needs to be delivered by Spring 2006 in order to secure the funding.

Matthew Archer – Road Safety Unit, IWC

In an effort to reduce costs the Road Safety Unit are looking at charging for cycle training for adults, and alternatives for providing Level 1 (basic skills) training for pupils. A guide price would be around £25 per hour for Level 2 (old cycling proficiency).

The meeting agreed this could create a problem with inclusion for everyone. It might be possible to provide Level 1 training through the Go Ride scheme, thus reducing costs. NF encouraged the group to lobby members on the issue.

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Dawn Cooper – Planning Department, IWC

The Planning Department have been working on the Core Strategy including seven Options for Growth for the island and would welcome feedback. Available at

<http://www.iwight.com/living%5Fhere/planning/Planning%5FPolicy/Island%5FPlan/Core%5FStrategy/>

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Ruth Jones – Events, IWC

This year's Cycling Festival was the best ever, and RJ gave thanks to VL and GW for a good event which it is hoped will run next year. CycleWight confirmed they will be willing to help again next year.

RJ explained that it is difficult to change the timing due to other events.

VL was concerned about the lack of notice of the event, and SM asked if the Forum can help publicise the event earlier? RJ will endeavour to distribute publicity at the end of June. Events are keen to work closer with schools and the Road Safety department, so an earlier distribution date is imperative.

7. Any Other Business

VL spoke to the group about how a 20 mph zone in Hull helped to cut fatalities by 20%. SM and AG agreed but told the group how difficult they are to impose.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

21st November 2005 at 1530