

# **The Isle of Wight Council**

## **Cycle Forum meeting 02/03**

Isle of Wight Council Seaclose Offices,  
Newport, 10<sup>th</sup> December  
2003

### **Minutes**

#### **Attending:**

George Wilks - Sustrans  
Martin Tigg – Sustrans  
Val Lawson - Cyclewright  
Malcolm Ross – Cyclewright  
Tim Slade – IWC Highways department  
Jeff Smith - The Bike Shed  
Alex Russell – IWC Highways department  
Lee Skinner - IWC Highways department  
Chris Wells – IWC Traffic department  
Brian Crane – IWC Road Safety Centre

#### **Welcome**

Lee Skinner from the IWC welcomed the members of the forum. The group were advised that good reports and comments had been received from meeting 1, so the cycle forum would continue in its current format

#### **Confirmation of the minutes from meeting 1**

There were no amendments and the minutes were confirmed as correct

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

#### **Update on Cycling Schemes for this year**

Tim Slade explained that due to lack of available funds the update remained the same as from meeting 1. There would be no further funding for cycle schemes until the next financial year. A reserve fund was available in order to complete the Medham link if required

An update was given for the possible Medham cycleway link. Currently the terms had been formally agreed, but the lease had not yet been signed

JS asked if it was appropriate to consider sponsored signage on the cycleways

TS explained that it would be considered if a suitable sponsor came forward, however the council would not have the resources to pursue sponsors

BC asked if matters from the forum would be addressed when the new post of 'cycling promotion officer' is filled

CW answered that the full roles of the post have not yet been decided, but it may be a possibility

MT asked about whether temporary signage could be put up on the 'through town' and unsigned links of the Newport – Sandown Cycleway

After discussion it was decided that temporary signs could be put up on the Cowes and Sandown ends, but not through Newport town centre. The Council will pursue the Newport signage as soon as possible

VL asked about yearly bids for cycling schemes, the Sylvan Drive scheme and the recent flooding of Route 23

TS answered that the cycling scheme bids had not been decided as yet, there was some funding available for Sylvan Drive and that the Horringford flooding was being investigated

VL asked if the hard surfaced section between Dodnor and the cycleway could be used by cyclists, allowing a traffic free route into town

After discussion it was decided that Brian Crane would need to perform a risk assessment on the section before it could be used. This would be done as soon as possible and then the signs could be moved

### **Cycling events**

VL highlighted a series of events for the New Year including

- Solent Transport exhibition in January
- Celebration of the new Medham link in February
- National Bike Week including school rides and safe routes to schools schemes
- The Bikers breakfast
- An Electric bike event
- IW Cycling festival, which will include the 7 hills challenge as well as the new 3 hills schools challenge
- European no car day in September

The Department of Transport 'In town without my car' day was discussed

CW noted that the new Cycling promotion officer could get involved with some of these events

## **Update on the LTP (Local Transport Plan)**

CW reported that the Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report had been submitted to Government Office and Department for Transport for assessment in July this year. The Report set out the progress that had been made towards reaching locally established targets, and included a Major bid for £12.88 million pounds to maintain and stabilise Undercliff Drive (A3054), and £750,000 as part contribution to rebuild Ryde St Johns road over rail bridge, and included substantial amount of money to maintain and improve cycling on the Island

Government officials had visited the Island during the summer to examine first hand the problems caused by our failing transport infrastructure and CW was hopeful that APR (Annual Progress Report) would be well received and the bids would be successful. The Council is expecting to hear news of the settlement towards the end of December 2003

## **NMU's in Council departments**

VL asked if named representatives could be made in all council departments to consider the needs of cyclists in any new schemes. This should ensure that no remedial works are needed after completion of works

TS suggested contacting the operations managers, Steve Boswell and Phil Hayward

It was discussed that more contact is needed with the traffic department over schemes that may affect the non-motorised user

CW noted that contact is improving and a lot more is being done to raise awareness of the non-motorised user

After discussion it was decided to invite representatives from all appropriate departments to the next cycle forum

## **Cycling routes across the island and new links**

The forum discussed the new Shanklin – Sandown – Godshill cycle trail that is being organised by Island 2000. The council are working with Island 2000 to get this trail open in the New Year

VL discussed a new route west out of Newport using Parkhurst Forest

VL asked about cycling on the revetment in Sandown

TS explained that a cycling route on this route was supported by officers, but was turned down by council members. Parks and Beaches are still implementing a no cycling rule on the reventment

The possible Brading to St Helens cycle route was discussed by the group

TS explained that SEEDA are showing interest in supporting this route. An engineers report with feasibility and figures has been produced. This route may get priority in the new financial year. There is still a small footpath section that may need to be a 'dismount' section

VL mentioned a hedge on the Broadfields playing field that was causing a problem with cyclists. This matter was to be reported back and actioned by the council

The Round the island cycle route diversion was discussed. It was explained that as the Military Road works are now over, then the cycle route can be put back in place again. Plans were already being made to put the signs back in the correct position

GW raised the recent surfacing problems on the Route 23 cycleway  
AR explained that the engineers were assessing this problem and it would be reported back

AR also noted that the Blackwater section of Route 23 is still due to be surface swept

**The open question session ended at 16:45 and the meeting was closed**

**Ends**