

MINUTES FOR THE CYCLE FORUM

21st November 2005
Committee Room 1, County Hall



Present: Martin Gibson (MG) – Island 2000 Trust
Andy Greenwood (AG) – Isle of Wight Council
Valerie Lawson (VL) – Cycle Wight
Sue Marshall (SM) – Chairman – Isle of Wight Council
Alan Ransom (AR) – Isle of Wight Council
Ruth Jones (RJ) – Isle of Wight Council
Brian Crane – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Dines (SD) – B. C. F.
Jonathan Etherton-Baker (JE-B) – Wayfarers
Laurence Keynes - Isle of Wight Council
George Wilks - Sustrans
Helen Stichbury (HS) - Isle of Wight Council (Minutes)

Apologies: Nick Farthing (NF) – Sustrans
Phil Brady (PB) – Peter Brett Associates
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
Dawn Cooper – Isle of Wight Council
Tim Slade (TS) - Isle of Wight Council
Matt Archer (MA) – Isle of Wight Council
Simon Richardson (SR) - Police

Minutes

Actions

1. Introduction and Welcome

SM welcomed the group to the meeting and introduced Jonathan Etherton-Baker from the Wayfarers, and Laurence Keynes, the IWC’s Rural Transport Partnership Officer (see Item 4)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10th October 2005)

Item 5 – Route 22

Marks Barfield are developing the Ryde Interchange, not the cycle route.

Item 5 - Wootton – Ryde

This is a re-route, not an extension.

Item 5 – Newport Route

Sustrans, not Island 2000, are conducting the feasibility study.

Item 6 – Road Safety Report

Should read “charging for cycle training for children”

Should read “Price will be around £25 per course”.

With the above amendments the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Tour of Britain

Almost all the funds required to meet costs have been identified, even though these have now risen to around £150,000. Looking very positive and should have a decision by the end

of the month.

LTP2 Consultation

Maintenance will now be included in the LTP2 – thanks to GW for raising this issue at the last meeting.

4. **East Wight Ways – Laurence Keynes**

LK tabled a document outlining this project, which is in the early stages of development. The project intends to use existing paths and routes, and create new links, to increase modal shift away from the car. He asked the Forum for feedback to inform the project at this initial stage.

The meeting was generally positive about the project, as it brings together links which have been requested for many years. MG pointed out that it can be difficult to obtain funding where permissive paths are being used. A more detailed, clearer map is required for more informed comment.

LK

5. **Cycle Track Maintenance – Susan Marshall**

SM has met with Nick Gallin (Highways) and Tim Slade (Rights of Way). The cycle track maintenance requirement is around £28000pa, but only £8500pa is available. Although the Highways PFI bid due 2008/09 may help, solutions are required in the short-term.

The meeting agreed to use the £8500 budget on structural repairs, and to set up a Volunteer Programme to provide more labour-intensive solutions. VL suggested that maintenance should be prioritised to ensure these volunteer resources are used effectively. By targeting special areas, special interest groups could be brought in – for instance, ecological groups may be interested in maintaining a cycle track in an SSSI area, or perhaps a school when a track is running nearby. GW said he would help with the work but would not want to organise other groups. SM suggested that Eric Reed, the Sustrans Southern Area Manager, was invited to attend to share how these sorts of programmes are managed elsewhere. The meeting agreed to take the matter forward in this way.

SM

GW pointed out that cycleways should be seen as important sustainable tourist and commuter routes and funding of maintenance should continue to be pursued; MG agreed saying if cuts are threatened, there is all the more reason to lobby councillors as the cycleways are sustainable. VL agreed and wishes to ensure that lobbying is directed appropriately.

6. **Officers Reports**

Brian Crane – Road Safety, IWC

No news, pending local government reorganisation due to be announced next week.

Ruth Jones – Events, IWC

Tour of Britain

Currently exploring funding avenues.

Cycling Festival

Currently planning 2006 event. If the Tour of Britain is the second week of September, the Festival will be brought forward – a decision should be made by 05/12/05. VL confirmed that Cyclewight will help with promotion, so RJ will email VL with the dates as soon as agreed.

RJ

Andy Greenwood – Traffic Engineer, IWC

Top of Hunnyhill – Bus Gate

Bus queue survey being undertaken w/c 28/11/05.

Solent Middle School

Scheme should be finished outside school by December 2005.

Trafalgar Road, Newport

There will be no changes at the moment.

Alan Ransom – Design Engineer, IWC

The Design section are compiling a Design Guide for Developers which is intended to be

used as both a tool kit and a policy document, including best practice for developing cycle paths and routes. This complies with the government's requirements for links to schools and buildings, and shows how funds can be obtained from major developments through Section 278, Section 38 and Section 106 agreements. SM now participates on the Major Developments committee, ensuring these links are made whenever and wherever possible. The cycling part of the draft Design Guide will be circulated to the Forum for comment.

AR

At this point BC left the meeting

Helen Stichbury – School Travel Plan Advisor, IWC

Working with all schools to promote walking, cycling and sustainable travel. Will feed issues/ideas/information back to group as they arise. Travel Plans can help to develop a cycle route by evidencing a case of need and promoting events etc. VL said Cyclewight can advise on routes if required and is keen to help.

Susan Marshall – Cycling Promotion Officer, IWC

Wootton Cycletrack

The safety audit has been completed. Samples of the surface are being checked.

Rising Main at Alverstone Shute

Cycletrack will be closed – dates and a signed diversion will be communicated via VL and in the County Press.

SM

“No Cycling” Signs

There are problems with the enforcement of byelaws. However, the “Byelaw for Good Rule and Government” could be used to keep areas open and foster good relationships between user groups. Covers footpaths (but not along roads). It places the onus on the complainant to make the complaint and the IWC Legal Department would be prepared to go to court on it if necessary.

At this point LK left the meeting.

Public Service Agreement (PSA)

Two of the three targets have already been achieved; the third should be achieved on time.

Solent Middle School & Gurnard Parish Council

SM has spoken with the Clerk to Gurnard Parish Council following an article in the County Press which may have misrepresented the planned cycling improvements including in Tuttons Hill and a build-out at Park Road. Newport Road will be crossed using the zebra crossing at Smithards Lane, and there will be a new pelican crossing outside the Doctors Surgery. Cyclists have been considered in all these measures.

7. Any Other Business

Martin Gibson – Sunshine Trail

SM and MG have audited the signs, some of which are to be replaced.

At this point MG left the meeting.

Steve Dines – British Cycling

The Island Youth Cycle Club, a Go Ride club, now has 60 members and is looking forward to the Tour of Britain coming to the Island.

Valerie Lawson – Cyclewight

Route 23

Gates are being left open at the SEEDA development at Stag Lane – SM to investigate.

Gate pin is missing in the gate at the Cowes end of Route 23.

SM

SM

Route 22

Concerned about the Newport town end of the route – would like a map showing the desire line to be circulated to all Forum members.

SM

Blackhouse Quay

VL requests that the route is resigned. However, SM confirmed that there is a development due to take place in the area which includes an upgrade to the cycle route and will include signage.

8. Date & Time of Next Meeting

Friday 26th March 2006 at 15:00