



**Minutes & Information resulting from – Meeting 60
St Johns Church Hall, Drake Road, Newport
Thursday 1 February 2018**

Present at the meeting:

Forum Members:

Mark Earp - Chairman
Mike Slater
Alec Lawson
Steve Darch
Iain MacLennan
Cllr John Hobart
John Gurney-Champion
Penny Edwards
Cllr Paul Fuller
Joe Nash
Tricia Merrifield
Emma Douglas
Stephen Cockett

Others & Observers:

Cllr Rodney Downer
Cllr Geoff Brodie
Lynda Smith - Observer
Will Ainslie – Walking Festival
Zoe Stroud – Visitor Travel Projects Manager, Visit Isle of Wight
Mick Thirkettle – Arreton Parish Council
Malcolm Ross – Ryde Town Council

Forum Secretary:

Jennine Gardiner - Rights of Way Assistant, IWC Public Rights of Way Section (PROW)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

John Heather – LAF Member
Darrel Clarke - IWC Public Rights of Way Manager
David Farnham – Regular observer
Helena Hewston - Regular observer

2. Minutes / Declarations / update of tasks & matters arising from meeting 7 December 2017

Review Minutes of previous meeting and points arising - None
Declarations of Interest - None

Update of actions / matters or tasks from last meeting:

Forestry Commission - arrange separate meeting – Meeting took place on 19th January 2018 and the notes from the meeting are at the end of this document.

Upgrade B69 Yarbridge - Alec has contacted the East Wight Landscape Partnership they confirmed that this was a site they looked at a couple of years ago initially having positive meetings with Network Rail, but local momentum ebbed away and sadly they now have no spare budget to commit to any work. However, the East Wight Landscape Partnership still supports efforts to improve access in this area.

Brading Town Council have also confirmed that they would indeed support a short diversion which would make the footpath much easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists alike and they have said they will contact the Rights of Way Officer to discuss the way forward (**which has been done as Darrel has met with them in the last few weeks*).

Restoring the Record – Following the training in October 2017 a copy of the book called [Restoring the Record](#), has been sent to all LAF's. If anyone is interested in borrowing this then the LAF Chairman holds a copy as does the IWC Rights of Way team. Please contact the LAF secretary if you wish to borrow the book. LAF secretary is Jennine Gardiner email jennine.gardiner@iow.gov.uk

If anyone is interested in getting involved with the historical research (you don't have to be an LAF member or a member of the Ramblers) please contact Mike via the [IW Ramblers](#) or let the LAF secretary know so your details can be forwarded.

Newport highway improvements – A letter was not sent to Peter Hayward, however the design plans were displayed at the LAF meeting and members were made aware that the IWC were currently inviting public comments on the plans by way of emailing the Highways Head of Contract Management, Mr Bill Murphy, on highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk the closing date for comments was 21st February 2018.

Members were made aware that in addition to the £9.2m government funding (split roughly £4m on St Mary Roundabout including Hunnyhill and Forest Road and the rest elsewhere) that the IWC was **supplementing this with £1.6m in S106 contributions** (from the Barratt's development) and if the government funding cannot be used in any other way than to improve future motor vehicle traffic flow then the S106 should at least be used to improve sustainable travel and disability improvements.

The College and the Hospital are both massive trip generators so ease of sustainable travel for both these establishments needs to be promoted and improved whilst the IWC are undertaking work in this vicinity.

ACTION: LAF to formally write supporting more sustainable travel designs to be incorporated into the St Marys junction upgrade i.e. walking, cycling and dropped kerbs. Individual guests and members to give comments on the advertised plans.

NOTE: As I knew I would not get the minutes out before the 21st February 2018 an email was sent to all LAF members and guests on the 2nd February 2018 (copy below) to remind or bring to everyone's attention the correct way to view plans and make comments.

Content of email sent 02/02/18
Dear LAF Members and Guests

Have your say on the proposed changes to Newports traffic plans

At yesterday's LAF meeting the plans for the proposed changes to St Mary's roundabout were shown and a discussion took place about the £9.2m of funding that the government has made available to the IW Council to undertake improvements to the strategic road network in and around Newport to accommodate the predicted increases in vehicle movements, which will be generated by future housing and commercial development.

The LAF were concerned as very little seems to be proposed in the way of walking, cycling and mobility improvements, as the focus is to improve motor vehicle journeys and not that of other sustainable modes of travel.

However, the designs of the St Mary's roundabout junction improvement and that of the other future sites such as Coppins Bridge, have not yet been finalised and therefore there can still be the scope within these to accommodate walking, cycling and mobility improvements.

If you have ideas or suggestions to improve the walking and cycling network around Newport you must take the opportunity to formally contact the IW Council by 21st February 2018 to make them aware of your suggestions.

The contact details are:

highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk

or

Bill Murphy, Head of contract management, St Christopher House, 42 Daish Way, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5XJ

The background document for the St Marys junction improvement works can be found by clicking [here](#)

The St Marys Junction Improvement Plan (illustration of the proposed new layout) can be found by clicking [here](#)

Within these plans there is a section of proposed shared use path but the LAF feels there could be far more in the way of improvements. For example the path from B&Q alongside the dual carriageway / college towards Riverway upgrade this to shared use. It is these missing walking, cycling links and removing barriers for mobility impaired persons that the contract team need to know about.

Please take the opportunity and make your comments before 21st February 2018 @

highways-pfi@iow.gov.uk

Bells Public Landing Stage – Mark confirmed that the paperwork had been completed to try to register this landing stage as an [asset of community value](#) and submitted to Mr Ashley Curzon who is the manager for IWC strategic assets.

ACTION: Keep on minutes to monitor progress

Pennyfeathers development – Planning reference [TCP/31352/A, P/01456/14](#) - Mark had talked to Mr Glen Hepburn (planning agent) but Mr Hepburn did not want to attend the LAF meeting. The LAF members were dismayed that the recommendations made by the Rights of Way team were ignored by the planning team

ACTION: Cllr Fuller will speak to Wendy Perera regarding this

Rights of Way Budget - Mark had written to the Leader of the Council (Cllr Stewart) and the IWC Chief Executive (John Metcalfe) on the 27th December 2017. His letter was acknowledged on the 5th January 2018 and passed on to Wendy Perera, Head of Place, to respond, however **no** formal reply was (or has been) been received to the specific questions raised.

The content of the letter dated 27th December 2017 reads as follows:

Dear Mr Metcalfe and Councillor Stewart

Public Rights of Way Budget

At the Local Access forum on the 7th December, the budget situation for Rights of Way of team was raised by me, as chairman, as an agenda item. The matter was discussed by the LAF members and a unanimous decision was made that this letter be sent.

Updates were provided by Darrel Clarke (Rights of Way Manager) and John Hobart (LAF Member and Cabinet Member for PROW), both present at the meeting.

It was reported that it is hoped that a sufficient capital budget would be provided for the team in 2018/19, but that this would not be certain until the budget is formally set, believed to be in February.

It is understood by the LAF that due to an insufficient maintenance budget the ROW team have for many years, relied heavily on a capital funding being allocated (circa £100K pa). This has enabled the Council to discharge its statutory duty to keep paths available for the public to use. This capital allocation is now uncertain having been reduced by £50k for the current year and there being no assurance of it being provided / in the future. It is further understood that developer contributions amounting to £25K were recently provided to ROW but these funds can only be spent on specific paths/projects as stated in planning agreements and cannot be used for general maintenance island-wide.

At the full council meeting held on 15th November it was resolved that an increase in financial for ROW be considered as part of the 2018-19 budget allocation by cabinet in due course. In view of this the LAF requests that a sufficient maintenance budget is provided for ROW in the sum of £125K per annum. This will result in the ROW team maintaining paths in a satisfactory manner and the Council with its statutory duties without having to rely on the uncertainty of bidding for capital funding.

If this is not possible then please could a full explanation be provided to the LAF. The LAF is concerned that the PROW are not being given the high priority they deserve in terms of funding and requires assurance that an increase in financial support is provided as resolved at the Full Council meeting on 15th November. Recognition must be given to the ROW on the Island and the endless list of benefits they provide including supporting and promoting health and wellbeing, tourism, numerous leisure activities and sustainable transport options.

I look forward to hearing from you so that I can report back to the LAF members in time for our next meeting to be held on the 1st February 2018.

Yours sincerely
Mr Mark Earp
Chairman IW LAF

NOTE: The IWC will set its budgets at a Full Council meeting on 28 February 2018 the agenda and papers can be found by clicking [here](#). Currently it is proposed the Rights of Way service is granted £75,000 per annual **capital budget** 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21

3. Coast Path update – Gina Wright (Natural England, England Coast Path Adviser) has submitted a written update, this reads (apart from the notes marked with a * in blue which are from LAF secretary):

Trimbling (*this is what Natural England call it when they walk the route with a GPS device capturing geographical data):

- We have set out a plan for trimbling the island and we have now trimbled approximately 20 miles of the island.

Bembridge:

- The Bembridge Green Towns group are keen for a route off of Embankment Road, in the RSPB reserve (this is currently a permissive route). – Need to discuss with RSPB.
- The OS maps show the current IOW Coast Path following the beach around Bembridge, although on the ground it's signed further inland. We propose to use the beach as a low tide route and a high tide route following the signed IOW Coast Path.

South Coast new proposed routes:

- Low tide route along beach from Linstone Holiday Park to Colwell Bay.
- Route following the cliff top footpath at Chale to The Terrace road.
- Route down to St Catherine's light house following National Trust promoted trail.

- Re-open footpath 51 at Binnell (*I don't think they mean this as NT51 would dead-end because there is no current access back onto Undercliff Drive or to Castlehaven due to the landslips, but I think they mean V123 which is currently closed under a long term Traffic Regulation Order and this path runs from Undercliff Drive down to Binnel Bay)

Site visits/meetings:

- We will be starting site visits with landowners soon.
- We hope to get a meeting with the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils to target most of the parish councils in one place.
- Duncan is planning a meeting with the National Trust to discuss the route down to St Catherine's Lighthouse and around the Needles.
- John Taylor and Jane Alpine gave a presentation to the Business Regeneration group last week in Newport on potential linkages between NE and ECP and local businesses

4. IW Walking Festival - Saturday 28th April to Sunday 13th May 2018 – Will Ainslie & Zoe Stroud

Visit Isle of Wight has been encouraged by its members to run the walking festival (which they also did in 2017) as they are keen to see the festival supported. Visit Isle of Wight only has a fraction of the budget (i.e. £10K) that the IWC used to invest into it, for example the IWC used to have a £60K budget for printing walks brochures. There are no longer any resources within the IWC to help, support or fund the event. Visit Isle of Wight has been lucky in that they have managed to get sponsorship from Warner Leisure Hotels for the promotion and running of this.

Due to data protection the IWC could not pass onto Visit Isle of Wight the contact details of the previous walk leaders and it has been a massive piece of work to locate them to see if they would be available and willing to assist. For the same reason the IWC would not pass on its data base of email addresses of the people who had over the years registered their interest in attending the festival (approx 11,000 email addresses) and Visit Isle of Wight are now trying to rebuild this data base from scratch.

Marketing has moved into the digital age and this means the paper walk brochures are no longer produced as the cost of this would simply not be financially sustainable. Walk information is now held on a website and can be downloaded. Visit Isle of Wight does produce a small leaflet (copy for information at the end of these minutes) for tradeshow and off island events but this is a taster to whet the appetite and point towards the website for full details. Once someone has visited the website and chosen a walk that they want to attend they will need to register on the new website for that walk and at this point they will specify their home postcode, email address and where they live i.e. IW, Mainland UK, Europe or rest of the world, this data is captured and will be used for marketing and building the new IW Walking data base, this new data base will be much leaner than before and use email or other electronic forms to contact.

The new website constructed to hold the walk information can be found by clicking [here](#) or visit isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

The walking festival should in theory bring money into the Island. The massively popular [Beer & Buses](#) weekend in October draws in approx. 8000 mainland visitors and it was estimated that this contributed to about £800K into the economy.

Will has come in to work for Visit Isle of Wight giving them an extra resource to help run the walking festival. Will has found that there is huge support on the Island for the event and there is almost 100 volunteer walk leaders offering their time to organise and facilitate free walks throughout the festival.

Zoe is funded via the Department for Transport's sustainable access fund which looks to reduce travel by motor car and increase travel by walking, cycling, bus or train. So far visitors motor car trips have reduced and sustainable travel options increased by over 200k since the scheme has been running.

[Action Challenge](#) (endurance event) takes place Saturday 5 to Sunday 6 May 2018 and [Walk the Wight](#) is on Sunday 13th May 2018.

Walking Festival 2019 is in the pipeline.

Zoe is currently working on a four legs theme i.e out and about with dogs and horses, so the new riding establishment at Staplers called the [Island Riding Centre](#), will be included within this when it is up and running.

5. Newport Harbour Regeneration – this item was skipped as running out of time

6. Pennyfeathers development Ryde - this item was skipped as already discussed

7. Chairmans Update

Mark attended the **SWT Island Line meeting** at Shanklin Theatre on the 14th December 2017 at which Keep Island Line in the Franchise (KILF) made a presentation, bullet points from the KILF are as follows:

- Develop a more sustainable future
- Government support
- Create a task force to drive forward options
- Insist upon a minimum 25 year lease as too short a lease means less investment (currently 7 years)
- The Government makes more money from short term leases!
- Future operation a priced option
- Introduce new trains and rolling stock
- Self-powered trains only (diesel, battery or fly wheel technology)
- Transfer infrastructure to network rail with a train access and maintenance agreement with rail operator.

Future Services:

- Ryde pier head – Shanklin. Currently every 30minutes but lacking connectivity
- Every 20 minutes has been trialled, but is difficult.
- Cross over point moved from Sandown to Brading?
- Enable a seamless journey to London from Shanklin
- Improved connectivity with mainland services.

Future Plans:

- Re-open lines to Ventnor and Newport with Government support
- Not an option to keep present rolling stock as a nostalgia railway
- Enable the Havenstreet heritage railway access to Ryde St Johns
- Close Smallbrook station
- Medium term aim to remove 3rd rail (life expired)
- 3rd rail poses operational problems during flooding in Ryde tunnel
- Major station infrastructure investment and improved facilities
- Re-open railway lines with shared public rights of way where possible
- Rationalise Island line and completely overhaul the lines signalling
- No more make do and mend
- No overhead electricity power lines
- Improve public access (disabled) at Ryde St Johns station

Havenstreet Heritage Railway Line:

- Main ambition to track into Ryde St John station
- Would work with partners to enable a return to Ventnor and Newport
- No return to Ryde pier as tunnel is too shallow and pier too delicate
- No intention of creating a IW Community rail operation with volunteers
- Lease railway track to rail operator in the event of line extensions.

Not Mentioned:

- PROW and agricultural railway crossings
- No mention of the major housing developments in the south Ryde corridor

- Pennyfethers plans and proposed PROW to Smallbrook station
- Significant improvements to all-round disabled access
- Improving public access in the near vicinity of the railway network
- No mention of guards on trains or second member of staff
- Who and how all of this was going to be paid for

It was mentioned at the LAF meeting that Ryde pier was maintained by Network Rail it is possibly unsafe and could potentially be closed at any time, more will be known in about May 2018 after a report is published.

Newport Place Plan

1200+ replies to the survey so far.

Geoff Brodie (Cllr for the Newport Pan, Barton & Shide areas) stressed to the group that everyone should take an interest in the work of the [Regeneration Team](#).

Geoff advised that the Newport Parish Council would have been happy to take on the South Street toilet block (currently closed) but the IWC would not pass over the freehold to them.

Permissive Paths

Mark has now spoken to the landowner at Cheveton and he has paperwork
The old railway line at Cranmore (Lee Farm) discussions seem hopeful.

Ordnance Survey Map

The O/S update their paper maps every 3 – 5 years, Mark will contact them to see when they will next update the IW map

ACTION: Mark to contact O/S

Public Shows

The LAF has got the following invites to hold a stall at:

[River Fest](#) Saturday 19th May 2018

[County Agricultural Show](#) Sunday 8 July 2018

Bembridge Show afternoon of Bank Holiday Monday 27 August 2018

However, attendance will only be possible if members or guests are willing to volunteer their time to man the stall

ACTION: Please let Mark know if you can help to staff the LAF displays

Cycling

- Cyclewight have produced an excellent cycling strategy – a copy of this can be found by clicking [here](#)
- A national schools survey revealed that 30% more children would cycle if roads were safer.
- Bike thefts: The Police have stopped stamping postcodes into bikes due to the possibility of causing damage. However there are ways of identifying a bike for a reasonable cost. These can be purchased from [Immobilise](#), which also provides registration for bikes, mobile phones and valuable jewellery. Also bike owners should complete the [Hampshire Police Record Card](#)

Stolen Defibrillators

It is disappointing that there have been recent reports about the Islands defibrillators being stolen, 3 have been stolen and not recovered and 3 have been removed and recovered but sadly damaged beyond repair. The cost for each unit is approximately £500. Last year easy public access to defibrillators helped to save two people taken ill over the walking festival. A defibrillator location map can be found by clicking [here](#)

8. UPDATES

IWC Rights of Way – (written update from Darrel)

England Coast Path: ROW have now started site meetings with Natural England which have been very productive. Additionally ROW will be carrying out its own assessment of what infrastructure is required i.e. surfacing, steps, bridges, handrails etc. It is appreciated that this is little difficult at the present time as the final route is not known. However, where the route is obvious the survey will be carried out and can then be varied at a later date.

Pennyfeathers: At the last LAF DC offered to present his proposed improvements to the existing ROW network which he had put to planning services at their request during the planning application stages. It was anticipated that those improvements (or money to undertake them) would be provided for in a s106 agreement. Following the last LAF, DC has learned that the s106 agreement has been concluded with no reference to ROW and no provision has been made for ROW in that agreement. This is disappointing. However, on a more positive note the development will include new sustainable transport infrastructure. It is therefore suggested that, via the Planning Case Officer, the LAF invite the developer or its agent to the LAF to present their proposals for public access. Additionally, Reniera O'Donnell of the Council's Regeneration Team has offered to attend the next LAF to talk about the possible regeneration of other areas near to Pennyfeathers (and Newport Harbour Regeneration

Public Rights of Way Network condition – poor: very wet and muddy with a lot of fallen trees/branches. The latter are being cleared as and when reported. Poor ground conditions are making accessing paths for maintenance/repairs difficult, impossible in some places.

Staffing: A new Maintenance & Protection Officer will start on 13th February to replace the person appointed last year who left the Council. The new position will act as a deputy to Neil Morey (Senior Maintenance & Protection Officer), who works 3 days per week. The maintenance team will then comprise of 4 members of staff which will assist operationally.

Budget – no news of ROW budget for 2018/19 and beyond. We are not likely to know this until the Full Council meeting at the end of February, when budgets are set.

Island Harbour to Whippingham/E. Cowes cycle route – budget allocated for this scheme in future years has been ring fenced and ROW will be assisting external project manager (yet to be appointed). Work could commence in 2018/19. Match funding avenues to be investigated.

Cllr Brodie raised the issue of horse mess on the Fairlee Old Railway Line (Footpath / Cycle track called N208) this has been raised before (see LAF minutes [2 February 2017](#)) the issue is not about horses being there but about the mess they leave behind which could then be stepped in.

Although Island Roads are contracted to remove mess from this route Cllr Brodie felt this was not sufficient. Cllr Fuller advised that this was an issue the IWC [Environment Officers](#) could tackle.

NOTE - after LAF Meeting one of the Environment Officers has been to the stables and put a notice on the communal meeting board and spoken to the people who keep their horses in the yard. The notice reads:

Hi Everyone, my department at the council have asked me to look into a complaint of Horse Manure being deposited on the footpath down the second part from the farm ... so not the first footpath from Mews Lane ... but when you cross over Halberry Lane onto that footpath (leads past the back of the Exotic Pet Shop & down to the job centre).

The complaint has come in from nearby blind residents treading in the manure on the footpath; they will be told it's not hazardous & we don't legally have to remove the fouling like dogs; but can I just ask everyone to please be mindful of taking their horses down this footpath, perhaps try to walk on the grass verges, so any deposits will then be off the path of pedestrians. Technically they do take a priority over horses so if we could all respect that by keeping to a walk pace & making an effort to get to the grass verge if you feel your horse is going to leave a present please.

I'd be most grateful ... we wouldn't want the council receiving so many complaints about us that they tell us they don't want us to use the footpaths around here any longer & to use the main roads. They are within their right, what with it being council land, that if they really wanted to pursue it following complaints they could ask us not to use it at all (and they really don't want too because we're not usually a problem for them) if we could all bare this in mind that be great.

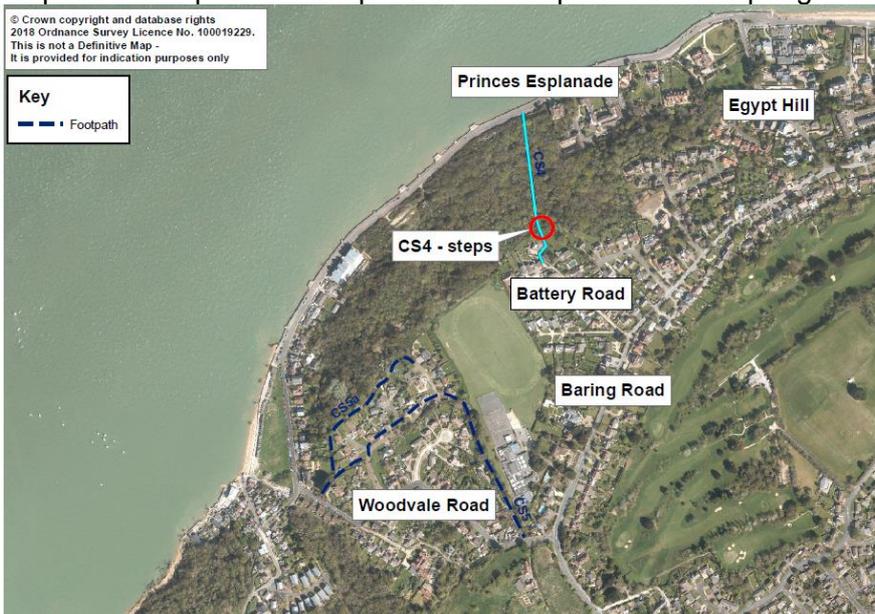
Battery Road Footpath, Cowes – CS4

Cllr Fuller asked about the temporary closure of Public Footpath CS4, Cowes this path runs from Battery Road through a wooded area to the Esplanade. The steps are at the top of the coastal slope accessed along a path between properties before descending to the woodland.

This area is on a marginally stable slope that is at risk of erosion with the on-going possibility of landslides. Recently there have been periods of movement where the access steps have been displaced.

The Rights of Way team repaired the steps in 2016 and 2017. In December 2017 further land movement caused damage to the steps.

Any repair during the winter when the ground is wet and therefore more likely to be prone to landslip/erosion, would be short-lived and not therefore considered a prudent utilisation of public money. The Council's Rights of Way team wish the ground to dry out and stabilise before planning a repair. It is hoped that the path will be reopened in the Spring.



Location Map showing where the step problem is located



Photo showing the steps which have slipped from the landing above leaving a gap

IW Bridleways Group

Happy about the new link at Langbridge NC9, thanks the homeowner who allowed this to happen on their land and Cllr Mosdell and Rights of Way. Good to see such a joined up approach to get an issue resolved (see details of this scheme in minutes [7 December 2017](#)).

Cycle Wight – Alec Lawson

- The next [cycle forum](#) will be held at Newport Fire Station on Wednesday 21 February 2018
- The [Randonee](#) will take place on Sunday 6th May 2018
- Newport Place Plan – Cyclewight have been involved in this consultation
- Seaclose / Sea Street bridge closure (part of NCN 22) – Cyclewight have been trying to get Island Roads to change their signage to read “road closed except cyclists” this is ongoing.



Sea Street / Seaclose closure signage

IW Ramblers – Mike Slater

- A protest group that was against wind turbines in Wellow and which is no longer campaigning has donated the money it had raised to the Ramblers to make improvements to the walks in the West Wight / Wellow area.
- Historical research – images of the 1910 Inland Revenue maps, enclosure awards and tithe maps have been made and stored electronically. This info will be studied to discover if there was any lost ways. Planning to start on the north side of the Island and work methodically from this point onwards. All welcome to join in with the research let Mike Slater know if you are interested (see comments in Restoring the Record in the top part of the minutes for contact details)

IW 4X 4 Club – Steve Darch

Please take the time to have a look at the Green Lane Association (GLASS) website this has a lot of interesting and informative information about sensible driving in the countryside.

www.glass-uk.org

Disabled Access – Joe Nash

Joe could not get wheelchair access to the coastal path at Gurnard seafront as there is a location where a step of only 5cm restricts wheelchairs because flush access is needed. Joe has pointed out it is so petty to leave a small step to a quite major construction and wants it noted that when amenities such as coastal paths are constructed minorities must be able to access it as well.

Cllr Fuller confirmed the parish council is meeting with Jan Brooks from [Isle of Access](#) and improvements will be made when Island Roads replace the pavements. A mobility audit will take

place and Cllr Fuller asked Joe if he would like to help volunteer and work with the Parish Council to assist in this audit.

8. Any Other Business

S106 –the IWC doesn't seem to be following up S106 contributions and getting them spent, this appears to be a Council wide failing.

Mick Thirkettle – Arreton Parish Council a survey of the PROW has been undertaken by the P/C and the findings will be submitted to ROW (*received)

Cllr Downer – after many years of campaigning Godshill village has now had a 20mph speed limit implemented after public consultation.

2018 Meetings
4pm Thursdays @
St Johns Church Hall, Drake Road, Newport*
5 April
5 July* *not at St Johns Hall*
6 September
6 December

LAF list of regularly used abbreviations and words:

AONB = Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. IW AONB team can be contacted at Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2QS Telephone 01983 823855 or Email AONB@IOW.GOV.UK Website www.wightaonb.org.uk

Capital = the money which is allocated for network improvements over and above general maintenance and repairs.

CIL = Community Infrastructure Levy, this is a planning charge. A way for Local Authority's to try to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area (also see S106).

CMT = Contract Management Team. CMT's are teams within the IW Council who deal with a particular contractor i.e. the Highways CMT deal with Island Roads and the Waste CMT deal with Amey

Definitive = a definitive right of way is one that is recorded in the legal record of such ways i.e. the Definitive Map. The Definitive Map records Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways and Byways Open to All Traffic (no Restricted Byways are currently recorded on the Isle of Wight Definitive Map).

EWLP = East Wight Landscape Partnership www.downtothecoast.co.uk

IR = Island Roads is the name for the IWC Highways Contractor, they can be contacted at: St. Christopher House, 42 Daish Way, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5XJ or Telephone 01983 822440 or email info@islandroads.com Website: www.islandroads.com

IWC = Isle of Wight Council. Address County Hall, High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD or Telephone 01983 821000 + add the extension when prompted if you know it or Email customer.services@iow.gov.uk or the specific services email if you know it. Website www.iwight.com

Permissive = a permissive path is one that a landowner allows the public to use in a certain way (i.e. walking, cycling, horse-riding) but the route has not been dedicated to the public. It is not therefore recorded on the Definitive Map and the landowner can withdraw their permission for the public to use it at any time.

PROW = Public Rights of Way recorded on the Definitive Map. The IWC Rights of Way team can be contacted at County Hall or Telephone 01983 821000 X 8745 or email Rightsofway@iow.gov.uk Website www.iwight.com/Residents/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/About

Revenue = the money which is allocated for general repair and maintenance, staff costs and normal reoccurring bills and running costs.

ROWIP = Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Every local authority must have a ROWIP. This document is reviewed every 10 years and it will explain how improvements will be made to the PROW network to provide a better experience for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, horse and carriage drivers, people with mobility problems and people using motorised vehicles. The original IWC ROWIP can be viewed on the Council website @ www.iwight.com/azservices/documents/2782-D6-Rights-of-Way-Improvement-Plan.pdf

S106 = Section 106 is an agreement between the Local Authority and developers and is attached to a planning permission make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms. S106 must be directly relevant to the proposed development.



**Minutes – LAF & Forestry Commission
Friday 19th January 2018 – County Hall, Newport, IW**

Present at the meeting:

Forum Members:

Mark Earp (LAF Chairman)

Councillor Paul Fuller - LAF

Tricia Merrifield - LAF

Sheila Weedall – Equestrian

Ben Phelan - Forestry Commission, Beat Forester

Justin Ryland - Forestry Commission, Recreation Ranger

David Collier - Forestry Commission, Recreation and Public Affairs Manager

Forum Secretary:

Jennine Gardiner, Rights of Way Assistant, IWC Public Rights of Way Section (PROW)

Purpose of Meeting:

The LAF met with the Forestry Commission (FC) to discuss the FC Island landholdings and to try and explore ways of opening up access for more types of user.

Ben and then Justin are the first points of contact for IW FC related enquiries:

Ben Phelan

ben.phelan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 07920 576537

Justin Ryland

Justin.Rylands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

07887 628084

The landline for FC at the Lyndhurst office is: 0300 067 4600

Ben confirms the FC has a contract in place for fly tipped waste to be removed from their land within 24 hours, the contractor being located on the IW. Reports of fly tipping on FC land to be reported to Ben. Fly tipping on the carriageway or verge adjacent to the FC land boundary to be reported to Island Roads (who will pass on to FC if it is not on their network) info@islandroads.com

The chain of command is Lyndhurst (local for the southern area) then the Bristol FC Head Office. This allows many decisions to be made at a local level.

1. Forestry Commission landholdings freehold / leasehold.

It was agreed the FC will forward via the LAF Secretary a revised map to show their freehold / leasehold landholdings.

Shalcombe - is leasehold with the FC managing its timber reserves; this land is NOT open access. Ordinance Survey (OS) has been contacted (by FC and IW PROW) regarding this matter, as OS had incorrectly mapped **all** FC land as open access when not all of it is. This mapping anomaly had

caused confusion when walkers had used OS paper maps and digital mapping apps. Now OS are aware their digital maps have been corrected but the paper maps will not be updated until the next print run.

Burntwood – is leasehold and there is no public access, the landowner MoD (Reserve Forces & Cadets Association) do not seem keen to consider this.

Woodhouse Copse – FC sold this in 2009 to a private individual, who has gone on to decimate the land and intimidate the public (this is open access land). This is a much discussed and controversial area, the FC has no further commitment to this land. The LAF asked that the FC officers present at this meeting pass on the LAF's concerns about the disposal of public land and that the FC property services team ensure that they have a process in place to make sure any future sales or disposals of public land or assets have robust conditions attached, so this type of abuse cannot take place in the future.

The FC officers advised that their counterparts are well aware of these concerns (disposal of public land) and that if this was to happen now this situation would likely not occur. FC officers are not aware of any other acquisitions or disposals of land on the IW.

Action

- FC to send Jennine a revised map to show their landholdings split between freehold and leasehold.

2. TROTT (IW)

There is no TROTT organisation on the Island and the permits are managed from the Mainland, there is no enforcement.

Cost; gold permit at £85.00 per year (1 May to 30 April and thereafter pro rata), per horse. A one off £15 for hat band and if a forestry key is required a deposit of £25.00 is needed, this can only be used in Parkhurst Forest.

Currently only 1 permit has been sold. Equine users feel they are being unfairly targeted and the charge is not value for money. FC agree this is not working and a review of the whole of the TROTT scheme is currently taking place, it is hoped that FC will drop the TROTT scheme on the Island and look at opening up further equestrian access in certain other forests such as Combley and Firestone.

FC has to balance the needs of its forestry timber services and very limited resources against raised public expectation of a higher specification of maintenance if additional recreational / leisure access was granted.

Points to note:

Parking: Only Parkhurst has dedicated parking, other forests only have bell mouth entrances designed to accommodate access for forestry vehicles. However, these entrances in turn become informal public parking areas, but this parking can lead to obstruction for lawful or emergency vehicle access.

Opening up other forms of leisure use will lead to an increase in vehicle parking which cannot be currently safely accommodated in the entrance ways or surrounding public roads.

Conflict: Unless a definitive bridleway is already in existence then access is only on foot (if open access land or an existing definitive public footpath). The FC is in favour of cycling so tolerate this and do not permit it like TROTT for equestrians, although they expect cyclists to be considerate.

However, if equestrians were permitted further access then thought needs to be given to where they could ride without causing conflict.

Considerations:

- width of paths if too narrow oncoming users cannot safely pass
- ground conditions i.e. many tracks are soft and not surfaced
- maintenance; many tracks do not regularly get maintained only as and when forestry / timber access is required
- damage which could occur to tracks and adjacent land leading to an increased need of maintenance
- incidents or injury's caused or received from inappropriate use
- hard surfaced tracks (which are there to accommodate the access of the timber production and removal vehicles) are probably the best option for equestrian use but at times access would need to be restricted when harvesting operations are taking place
- SSSI & conservation needs must be taken into consideration
- future needs of the FC could supersede the current or future leisure use of the land
- changes locally could set a precedent and unwittingly compromise the FC's national agenda
- the FC do not currently have a formalised recreation strategy

However, local FC officers do have budgets to spend appropriately for things such as car parks, safety and amenities and can make decisions in their localities, so with careful consideration and investigations it should be possible to take things forward.

The Bridleways Group will look into running an informal survey to gauge an approximate number of equestrian users for Parkhurst, Combley and Firestone.

The Bridleways Group has already surveyed half the island to locate commercial equestrian yards in close proximity to forests, this data to be forwarded to Ben.

The Bridleways Group agree that Bouldnor Forest is not suitable for equestrian use due to the clay ground conditions and close proximity of the path to the cliff edge.

Action

- Tricia to send Ben the equestrian yard location data
- Bridleways Group to undertake an informal survey of equestrian forest use to get an idea of numbers and locations and to pass this data onto Ben.

3. Connectivity

Justification of need to come from the LAF or local users (via LAF). Plans to be drafted to show the required links, use and connectivity. Until this is done it is not known what would be of useful public benefit.

As a starting point the hard surfaced tracks within Parkhurst Forest will be surveyed by the LAF to see if these would be suitable for equestrian use. Feedback to be given to the FC and then using this experience as a benchmark for consistency further surveys of the other forests can be undertaken.

Action

Survey form to be drawn up and Parkhurst path condition survey undertaken by LAF, results of which to be fed back to FC with draft proposals for routes / links.

4. Security & Emergency's

Emergency services have had keys to forest gates, onus is on them to contact the FC if they require additional or replacement sets. In emergency situation the Fire Service will simply crop off the lock as they will carry the cutting equipment but it is more of a problem for ambulance crews if they are not carrying the keys.

It was asked if there was an emergency access plan for each wood in place. FC officers thought that this maybe included within the Design Plans

Updated Isle of Wight Forest Design plans can be found on the FC website:

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-86nfz6>

5. AOB

IWC land in central Parkhurst - Cllr Fuller asked what the access arrangements were to get to the IWC owned land i.e. is there an easement within the FC deeds to allow vehicle access to this land parcel?

Newport Parish Council and local councillors – Cllr Fuller stressed the importance of keeping Newport Parish Council and the local councillors in the loop if any improvements or changes to Parkhurst are to take place. There is a local desire to restart a friends of Parkhurst group and to undertake volunteering tasks within the forest.

Newport Parish Council <http://www.newportwight.org.uk/contact/>

Councillors Info <https://www.iwight.com/Council/how-it-works/Councillors/Isle-of-Wight-Council-Members>

Volunteers – FC Officer stressed that due to their lack of staff on the ground it is not possible to supervise groups of volunteers, so although they welcome the offer and enthusiasm, any groups need to be self-organising. Maybe something the Parish Council can assist with.

Camp Hill Prison site redevelopment – FC Officers were made aware of the aspirations of the redevelopment of the old Camp Hill Prison Site, when this eventually goes ahead there will be a major development of residential and commercial units adjacent to the forest, when plans are submitted there may be scoop to seek funds for improvements works to encourage access into and fund a community / friends of group.

Action

Jennine to contact IWC property services to see what the land registry title for the Parkhurst parcel land says about access across the FC land. Also will inform FC when any planning application is submitted.

FC to bear in mind contacting the relevant town or parish council and local councillor if any informal consultations or help is required.

End of meeting

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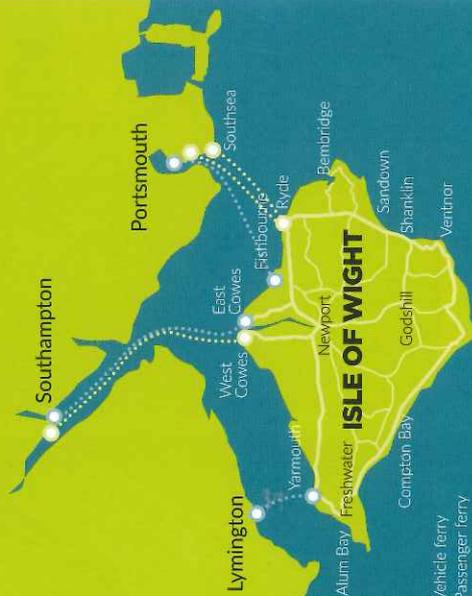
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PASSENGER FERRY

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Wightlink Catamaran Portsmouth Harbour - Ryde 22 minutes
Hovertravel hovercraft Southsea - Ryde 10 minutes

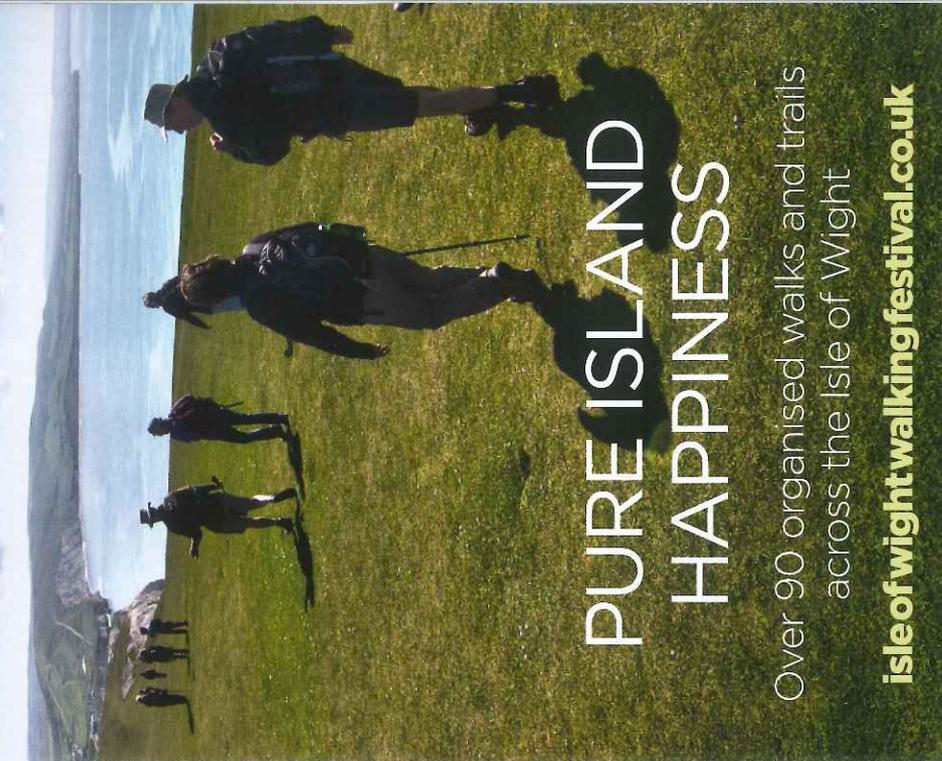
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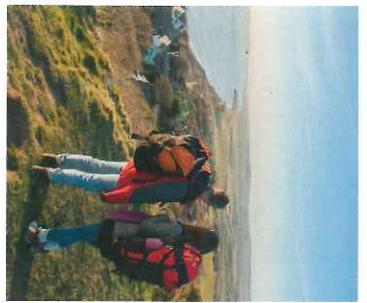
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