



**Minutes – Meeting 58  
St Johns Church Hall, Drake Road, Newport  
Thursday 7 September 2017**

**Present at the meeting:**

**Forum Members:**

Mark Earp - Chairman  
Mike Slater  
Alec Lawson  
Steve Darch  
Richard Grogan  
Tricia Merrifield  
Iain Maclennan  
Cllr John Hobart  
Belinda Walters

**Others:**

Helena Hewston – Shalfleet P/C  
Gill Head – Shalfleet P/C  
Mick Thirkettle – Arreton P/C  
Darrel Clarke - IWC Public Rights of Way Manager  
Ben Phelan – Forestry Commission  
Justin Ryland - Forestry Commission  
Terry Nolan – Gurnard P/C  
Joe Nash – Isle Access  
Dawn Thomas - CPRE

**Forum Secretary:**

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

**1. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from:  
Cllr John Medland  
John Heather  
John Gurney-Champion  
Penny Edwards  
Hugh Walding

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Page 3 item 3 Role of Member.

Isle Access were unhappy to discover that **disability consideration** was not specifically mentioned alongside general user, walker, cyclist, horse rider, landowner / business owner or environmental / ecology specialist in the “role of members” paragraph. Isle of Access say as the \*council are facilitating this forum it should ensure disability is considered in everything; they have policies on social inclusion and diversity and a Public Service Equality Duty. Isle Access feel the word “**ALL**” is not enough; that disability should be the first specified factor to remind everyone to consider the less able in everything; Underfoot surfaces, seating, colour, and barriers such as gates.

**Action:** The LAF noted the concerns.

**NOT DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING** - please note the IW Councils only function in facilitating the LAF is to provide secretarial support, booking and funding meeting rooms arranging refreshments and paying members expenses etc.

**The LAF is independent of the IW Council and is not in any way tied or influenced by the IW Council.**

## Declarations of Interest

None

## Update of actions from last meeting:

**Definitive Map** – No feedback received from members about the new digitised definitive map. Darrel advised a search facility will soon be added to the map, so a search can be made with a path number and when this function has been added he will give a demonstration to the group.

**Map Page** <https://www.iwight.com/LocalViewPub/Sites/row/>

**Forestry Commission Arrange visit to FC at Lyndhurst** – No meeting has been arranged yet due to annual holidays and sickness, but it will be. Once a date is arranged the FC will come to the Island, rather than members travelling to Lyndhurst. Mark has spoken to Angus Clarke who is the local contact for grants and regulations and Angus advised grants for stewardship schemes has closed but there will be new opportunities in 2018.

**Action** – Date of meeting to be arranged

**NOT DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING** - we have been advised that the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation grant for 2018 is now open for applicants, see website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-higher-tier-manual>

However, it appears that apart from a payment to allow educational access i.e. £290 per visit there is no incentive for landowners to facilitate additional public access in their private woodlands.

**Permissive Paths Members to have looked at site notices be ready to discuss** – Agenda item below

**Lost Ways Invite Dr Phil Wadey to a future LAF** – Agenda item below

**Upgrade B69 Yarbridge** - Alec circulated a map (attached) of the proposed route, and advised the group that there was already a cycle route from St Helens via Carpenters Road, Laundry Lane and then along the old railway line which had been subject to improvement works funded by the LSTF in 2013, the route then comes out at the far end of Quay Lane in Brading.

However, to continue their onward journey cyclists have to currently go along Quay Lane and then cycle along the Brading High Street, which being a busy A road is not ideal.

His idea is the development of a direct off road link to the round island cycle route at Yarbridge.

Therefore, from Quay Lane the potential route would:

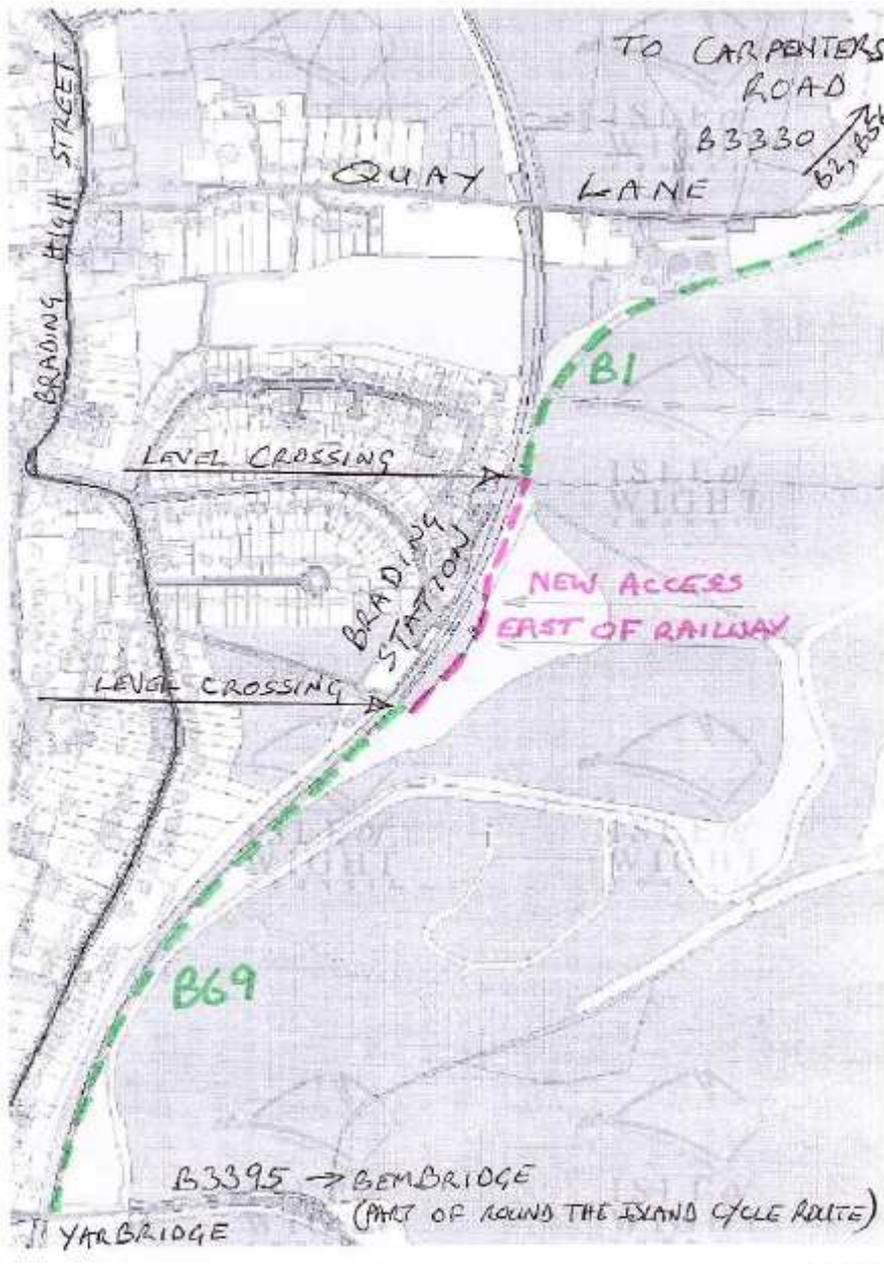
- Follow Public Footpath B1 which is of a good width and takes users to the back of Brading Station.
- Create a new track east of Brading Station, bypassing the need to cross the level crossing into the housing estate.
- Follow Public Footpath B69 until it junctions with Yarbridge, picking back up the round island cycle route.

Problems:

1. Landownerships
2. Footpath B69 is very narrow and would need widening
3. Access to Yarbridge (is via about 24 steps up to road level).

Alec has asked if the LAF will support this plan. The group agreed if Alec contacts the Brading Town Council, who at the current time has a parish plan out for consultation, and if they back this scheme then the LAF will also fully support it.

**Action** – Alec to contact regarding Brading T/C and then update group at December meeting.



### 3. Coast Path update – John Taylor (Natural England)

John Taylor (Lead Adviser for Coastal Access) was to submit a written update for the meeting, but it was not received in time and therefore was not discussed.

However, his update which was received the day after the meeting, is below for information

- Natural England are currently preparing a series of initial contact letters to be sent out in early October, notifying people close to the coast of the England Coast Path project.
- Community drop-ins to outline the England Coast Path project, seek advice from Islanders and answer questions about the scheme, will be held across the island in November. There will be 8 drop-ins across the month. A full list of venues, dates and times will be present on the initial contact letters and in an email to the LAF itself.
- Two of the community drop-ins will be extended to include not only the England Coast Path but also to showcase the other Natural England departments that work on and in the waters around the Isle of Wight.
- Georgina Wright (adviser) and Duncan Savage (lead adviser) have joined the Isle of Wight team.

### 4. Restoring the Record – Mike Slater

The Ramblers, British Horses Society (BHS) and the Open Spaces Society are funding courses round the county; the purpose is to provide training on applying the methods as shown in the book called Rights of Way: Restoring the Record. This book outlines, how in a systematic way, to complete the application form for modifying the definitive map i.e. adding, re classifying or extinguishing a public right of way.

It is important that the public have the skills to do this because by 1 January 2026 any unrecorded ways will be lost. So people need to have the ability to be able to make the applications to try and preserve those currently unrecorded rights. The applications can be complex and technical so this training will take people through the detail.

Training takes place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 9.30am at Yarmouth Community Hall, St James Street, Yarmouth. For more details and to book a place contact [policyvolsupport@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:policyvolsupport@ramblers.org.uk) and have a look at the Restoring the Record webpage <http://www.restoringtherecord.org.uk/>

The LAF do not currently have an active sub group working on any lost way applications. In about 2010 the LAF had undertaken a project and identified 90+ such unrecorded locations this information was ranked in priority but then never progressed, and has been archived at the records office. If in the future the LAF was to resume working / researching cases then everything would be open and transparent for public information.

**ACTION** – anyone interested in attending the training should contact the ramblers to book their place.

### 5. IW Forestry Commission – Ben Phelan

Ben and Justin Ryland attended the meeting and were slotted in as an agenda item. Justin is the new Recreational Manager and is keen to meet with LAF's.

Ben is the main point of contact for the Forestry Commission for the Isle of Wight, he visits the Island at least once a week, and he can be contacted:

Tel: 0300 067 4626 or 07920 576537 (work mobile)

Email: [ben.phelan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ben.phelan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Forestry update: Harvesting has finished in Parkhurst but tracks are still to be reinstated. Felling, to thin out woodland is still ongoing in Brighstone. Conifers are due to be replanted but in areas of ancient woodland the replanting will be broadleaves.

A question was asked about public safety regarding unsafe trees in woodland and whose responsibility was it to undertake tree inspections. Ben advised in the public forests estates (i.e. FC owned or managed land) the FC inspects trees. In private woodland (even if they get a FC grant) it is up to the landowner to arrange their own inspections.

Regional Recreational Plan - in the future there will be a district wide recreational plan but in the meantime ideas can be discussed so feedback can be gained prior to this.

Cycling - The Forestry Commission is pro-cycling but stress cyclists should only be keeping to Bridleways, Byways or promoted trails.

Open Access Land – there is an anomaly at Shalcombe where the O/S had logged all of Shalcombe as open access (when it is not) the O/S are aware and investigating.

TROTT (toll rides off-road trust) <https://www.tollrides.org.uk/> apart from Public Bridleways (on the definitive map) all Forestry Commission access for horses is by permit only and this permit system is administered by TROTT.

However, the TROTT permit is only available in Parkhurst and the LAF feel this is clearly not working and should be scrapped. The main failings are:

- Cost (this is classed as the 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 i/d and if a forestry key is required a deposit of £25.00 is needed.
- Getting to Parkhurst in the first instance, the only way equestrians can get there safely is driving as riding involves busy main roads which are dangerous.
- No monitoring
- Unfair that equestrians are charged but not cyclists.
- Limited choice i.e. only Parkhurst

The LAF want to stress the concerns are only about the unfair permit system and not anything about the charity TROTT who just happen to administer them.

**Brighstone Forest** – Ben is still waiting for confirmation regarding the Shalcombe leasehold land before confirming, but Brighstone forest east and west are in FC ownership.

**Action** – Any ideas regarding access improvements to be directed to LAF Chairman for ongoing discussions with FC but any urgent concerns about FC owned or managed land to be directed to Ben (details above).

**Action** – As above in updates LAF to arrange a separate meeting with FC

## 6. Permissive Paths update – Mark Earp

The group looked at the outstanding Natural England Stewardship scheme notices. These notices can be found visiting the **Rights of Way Permissive path web page:**

<https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/Open-Access-Land1>

### LAF comment / action:

- **Open Access Sites** X 4 at - Rowridge Farm@ Brighstone Forest, Hermitage, Dean Farm @ St Lawrence, Limerstone Farm@ Limerstone Down. The LAF felt these were all low priority and will not be pursuing landowners to find out their intentions for the future.
- **Garlic Farm Routes**, Mark will speak to landowner and Ian will raise the matter with the Parish Council as the one nearest Alverstone Garden Village is handy as a bypass when other paths in the vicinity are wet and boggy.
- **Lee Farm Wellow**, Mark will site visit.

- **Cheverton Farm**, it was thought this land maybe for sale, Mark will follow up.
- **Chale Green** – Mark will make enquiries to see who the landowners and speak to the P/C.

**ACTION** – Mark & Ian to update at next meeting

## 7. Chairman's Update

**Transport Task Force (TITF)** presented a report to the IWC on the 26/07/17 in which they made a list of recommendations. These recommendations specifically refer to points that impact the rights of way network, from the report:

### 3.6 Cycling & Walking:

To best inform investment in cycling and walking infrastructure, the Council should develop a Local Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, to include the completion of the Newport – East Cowes route, linking to the new Isle of Wight College campus at Whippingham.

The Council should review the funding for maintenance of footpaths and bridleways.

The Council should consider working with partners to review and refresh the West Wight Cycle Route, recognising that it is a longer-term project with regard to delivery timescales.

The TITF recognises that the grants received for sustainable transport related work is important to the Island and recommends that The Council continues to build on its successful work in this area and continues to seek new and innovative projects which can promote sustainable transport on the Island and to bit for appropriate funding as it is announced.

To read the full report refer to the IWC website and the Transport Policy page were you will find the document: Link

<https://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning-Policy-new/Transport-Policy/Island-Transport-Plan>

**1. Solent tunnel (Pro-link):** The Chairman advised the IW LAF that the pro-link campaign wished to consult with stakeholders. The IW Council have had a presentation and have agreed to support a feasibility study but not at their expense.

**2. Floating bridge:** While the saga continues and a fractious blame game has started. This is not helping community citizens in the slightest especially the disabled. The Cowes water taxi is able to carry wheelchair users but not the Jenny boats.

**3. Bembridge harbour:** The track bed of the former railway branch line is subject to a revision order request by a member of the public.

4. Walking in tidal reaches: Both the coastguard and the in-shore lifeboat service have reiterated very strongly the need for walkers to be properly prepared and equipped. Both services have been very busy in the last months rescuing stranded walkers.

5. Second edition of 'Restoring the record': A second version of this very informative publication is now available. A specialist course will be taking place on the Island and it is strongly advised that all stakeholders and interested parties book a place on this course.

6. Island line: The new train operator has just taken over the running of the line. They have expressed a desire to consult with stakeholders regarding the services, facilities and future developments. The Chairman will facilitate a response from the IW LAF taking into account all of the past responses and the visit to Brading station.

7. IW Transport Taskforce report: The report has been published and there is very little reference to ROW in the whole document, just 2 short paragraphs.

8. National LAF news: There is continued uncertainty amongst the 80 English LAF's as to the future direction of the Advisory body. This has led to two LAF's changing the way they operate. With Brexit and significant cuts in central government funding it is inevitable that there will be major changes in the future. By 2020 it is anticipated there will be a re-defined DEFRA structure with a smaller umbrella of named organisations.

## 8. UPDATES

### IWC Rights of Way – Darrel

- The team has been very busy trying to sort out complaints and disputes which are very time consuming.
- The old railway line between Quay Lane, Brading and Laundry Lane, St Helens is to be dedicated as a bridleway.
- Newchurch crossing – negotiating the release of a condition which will then allow horse riders along part of the track. Once this has been done the low segregating rail can be removed which will in turn open up the full width of the path.
- Capital Rights of Way budget is still only at its reduced amount of £50,000 for the 17/18 year, with zero for following years. Therefore, as it stands no improvements will be able to be made to the future Rights of Way network, if this is not reinstated (always used to be £100,000 pa).
- The temporary annual byways closure to motor vehicles is soon to be implemented (to try and save the unsealed surfaces from too much damage over winter).
- A question was asked about signage, as it was felt signage is not clear enough. Darrel explained that the statutory duty for the IWC was for road end signs to be in place i.e. where a right of way leaves a surfaced (tarmacked / hard surfaced highway) and in most cases we think there are in there, and for way marking at junctions where someone not familiar with the location might get lost. Sadly, there is not the funding or staffing capacity to do anything over and above the statutory duty.

### IW Bridleways Group – Tricia Merrifield

- **F24 Ex** - permissive bridleway from Wilmingham Lane to old railway line between Yarmouth / Freshwater, the bridleways group will take this up with landowners agent.
- **T24 (part)** Highdown to Farringford is currently a footpath but would make a good off road link to bypass the dangerous single carriageway of Moons Hill, in the summer coaches use Moons Hill and there is little passing room. Trisha has already meet with Tony Tutton & Robin Lang of the National Trust (NT is the landowner over which this path runs) and walked the route. Initial conversations with the NT were that they were in favour of equestrians use but not cyclists. Tricia had not chased the NT for a reply.

### Cycle Wight – Alex Lawson

- Whilst the floating bridge out of action there will be a passenger boat service which will accept cycles in order to get between Cowes and East Cowes
- During the road closure for bridge works to Clamerkin Bridge at Porchfield cyclists **can** still travel past the closed section, there was no on street signage to this effect
- The next Cycle Forum will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 6pm at Newport Fire Station

### IW Ramblers – Mike Slater

- Permissions and plans are in place for a permissive path between the Chequers Inn and Rookley
- A modification order has been made by John Hauge in respect of a path between the old Wishing Well Pub at Seaview and the holiday parks.

### IW 4X 4 Club – Steve Darch

- No matters arising.

### Landowner – Belinda

- Belinda will be stepping down from the CLA at the end of this month.

## 9. Any Other Business

John Hobart – Rights of Way budget cut, discussions regarding restoring the budget will be discussed at Full Council in October.

**AFTER MEETING INFORMATION** – at the Full Council meeting held on the 20/09/17 the following was minuted:

### **30. Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 9 of the Council's Constitution**

(a) By Councillor Rodney Downer

Full council recognises the benefits of the Rights of Way network on the Isle of Wight. The Rights of Way are a vital resource for the Island which both support the local economy, through their popularity with tourists, and also provide health benefits through residents being able to walk for pleasure as well as being able to walk to school or work, which can also have the effect of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

#### **RESOLVED :**

THAT Full council recognised the benefits of the Rights of Way network on the Isle of Wight. The Rights of Way were a vital resource for the Island which both support the local economy, through their popularity with tourists, and also provided health benefits through residents being able to walk for pleasure as well as being able to walk to school or work, which could also have the effect of reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

(b) By Councillor Rodney Downer

To further support the Rights of Way network, Full Council requests that Cabinet reconsider the budget allocation being made to maintain and support Rights of Way and considers proposing an increase in financial support to enable the network to be at a standard necessary to provide the benefits to the local economy through tourists, and the health benefits to residents.

The Chairman, upon advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that Procedural Rule 10 would be applied as this item would have the effect of materially increasing the expenditure upon a service. The motion would stand adjourned without discussion until the next ordinary meeting of the Council, and the Cabinet would consider whether it desired to report thereon back to the Full Council.

Next Meeting  
**4pm Thursday 7 December**  
St Johns Church Hall,  
Drake Road, Newport

## **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](mailto:AONB@IOW.GOV.UK) Website [www.wightaonb.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@islandroads.com) Website: [www.islandroads.com](http://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](mailto:customer.services@iow.gov.uk) or the specific services email if you know it. Website [www.iwight.com](http://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](mailto:Rightsofway@iow.gov.uk) Website [www.iwight.com/Residents/Rights-of-Way/Public-Rights-of-Way/About](http://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](http://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.