



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES –

February 2017

WHEN IS A BUDGET NOT A BUDGET?

Kildare County Council approved its Budget 2017 at the end of last year. In countries with high levels of cycling, politicians and the public generally have a headline figure of how much is spent on cycling. So how much does Kildare County Council propose to spend on cycling in 2017? God only knows. Despite pages and pages of figures, there is no indication of where cycling is on the list of council priorities.

The council also published its Capital Programme 2017-19. This is more informative but it is only indicative of spending and comes with a load of conditions. Out of a planned expenditure of €120 million on transport projects over three years, the council proposes six cycle related projects costing €4.05 million. These include two projects for Maynooth - the Moyglare Road and the continuation of the North-South Corridor. Two further projects are the development of the greenway along the Royal Canal (east and west). This proposed expenditure is 3% of the total budget and equates to an expenditure of €6.05 per person per year. As government has set a target of 10% cycling by 2020, Maynooth Cycling Campaign holds the view that 10% of the transportation budget should be dedicated to cycling which would work out at €3 million per year or €13.15 per person. This level of expenditure is similar to that recommended by politicians in the UK. It is also in line with the UN Environment call on countries to invest at least 20% of their transport budgets in walking and cycling infrastructure to save lives, reverse pollution and reduce carbon emissions, which are rising at over 10% per year. Does this seem a lot? Well last year Utrecht announced that it proposed to spend €300 per person per year in 2017 and 2018. Now those are politicians who *GET* it.

KILDARE CYCLE FORUM

Kildare County Council has announced that it proposes to re-establish the Kildare Cycle Forum. Although the term of this council is more than half over, Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the announcement but it is unclear at this stage when the Forum will actually meet.

CYCLE RIGHT

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes Minister Shane Ross' launch of *Cycle Right* – the National Cycle Training Standard – and congratulates *Cycling Ireland* and Celbridge's Barbara Connolly on their leading role in its development. We now hope that the government will follow up with the second essential element to achieve mass cycling to school – increased funding for the provision of high quality infrastructure. Being able to cycle is not the same as

willing to cycle and unless the road environment is made safe for all ages the Minister's hope for support from parents and for more children to choose cycling will remain that – a hope. A more detailed response to *Cycle Right* is available on our website.

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In the December meeting of the Maynooth Community Council, the views were expressed that the previous cycle tracks were satisfactory and the new one are too wide. Regarding the width, Irish standards on width are either in line with or less than the standards in the rest of the developed world. Regarding the quality of the previous cycle tracks, only someone who normally drives would consider them satisfactory. If they were really satisfactory, more than 3% of the people would cycle and congestion around Maynooth would be a lot less.

ROADKILL

Anyone cycling outside Maynooth especially early in the morning will be well aware that dead animals are a common sight on our roads. The National Parks and Wildlife Service NPWS are now trying to quantify the extent of roadkill and would appreciate help from the general public. If you wish to assist, you can take part in a survey at the following address <http://www.biology.ie/home.php?m=npws> .

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Its aims are to promote cycling as a healthy leisure pursuit and as a safe, enjoyable and efficient mode of transport for everyone in the Maynooth area.

It is affiliated to Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation.