



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

April 2018



Straffan Road

Roadworks are nearly finished on the lower section of the Straffan Roads, the new link with Leinster Street and the refurbishment of Leinster Street. The County Development Plan contains lofty sentiments of promoting cycling, reallocating road space to walking and cycling and a hierarchy of road users with pedestrians and cyclists above private motorists. The reality is that Straffan Road has increased to four lanes of motorised traffic but Kildare County Council considers that there is no room for cyclists.

Minimum Passing Distance Legislation

Shane Ross, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, announced in the Dáil that the government would after all support the Minimum Passing Distance Legislation. The main opposition party Fianna Fáil had already announced their support for the measure and had tabled an amendment to the Road Traffic Act which is going through the Dáil. With the two main parties supporting the measure, it is virtually guaranteed to pass into legislation. The news of the announcement has been warmly welcomed by cyclist representatives and great credit is due to Phil Skelton of *Staying Alive at 1.5* who has worked tirelessly over the last number of years for this day.

Barrow Blueway

Kildare and Laois County Councils recently granted planning permission for the development of the Barrow towpath as a Blueway/Greenway between Lowtown and Athy. Carlow County Council rejected the planning application on the grounds of environmental impact after a vociferous nimby campaign led by Olivia O'Leary.

College Green

Dublin City Council is engaging in further consultation on proposals for College Green Plaza. Due to competing demands for space in the city centre, hard decisions will be required on how to fairly allocate space between competing demands by pedestrians, cyclists, buses, taxis, trucks and cars. One thing is certain - private cars already have the lowest priority with highest priority going to space efficient modes of transport ie walking and cycling.