



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES AUGUST 2018



ANOTHER KILDARE CYCLING FATALITY

Another cycling fatality has occurred in Kildare with the recent death of 16 year old Shane Duggan near Oughterard. Our thoughts are with his family at this tragic time.

It is a matter of anger to cyclists that even before a fatal accident investigation has been completed, some journalists continue to report such events as “*a bike/cyclist colliding with a car*”. To give them their due, the Leinster Leader correctly reported it as the cyclist being “*involved in a collision with a car*”. It is only a minor point but the former subtly suggests that the cyclist is at fault whereas the latter is more even-handed. The description of collisions also fails to refer to the car driver as if he or she is not a party to the collision. Even more insensitively, reports regularly state that “*the driver of the car was unhurt*” which is hardly news in the case of a collision between a car and a cyclist.

REMOVAL OF CYCLE FACILITIES MAIN STREET

Work on removing the off-road cycle facilities on Main Street is due to begin in August. At the time of the Part 8 Public Consultation, a number of the councillors expressed concern at the impact on children cycling to Presentation Girls School and on cyclists accessing premises on Main Street. The Council has dismissed their views and propose that cyclists “share the road”. Unfortunately, most people refuse to cycle on roads with traffic levels in excess of 2000 vehicles per day. As Main Street has about 10 times this volume of traffic and there is less space for cycling on the road with so much motorised vehicles, many cyclists will continue to cycle off road. This dual system approach to cycle facilities - with “timid” cyclists off road and “brave” cyclists on road - is common in the UK. However, the penny hasn't dropped yet that providing low quality UK cycling facilities will result in UK levels of cycling. The view of Maynooth Cycling Campaign is that as the existing cycle facilities are substandard and not continuous, Kildare County Council should upgrade rather than remove them.

MINISTER OPENS MAYNOOTH “CYCLE” LINK

On 2nd July, Shane Ross, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport came to Kildare to open the “Maynooth Harbour Cycle Link”. After the opening ceremony, some of us had the opportunity for a short discussion with him. We raised the issues of increased funding, MPDL (Minimum Passing Distance Legislation) and compulsory use of cycle lanes. The Minister felt that cyclists didn't appreciate the efforts he has been making on our behalf and stated that the 10% funding for cycling was a non-runner but at least he is aware of our goal (#allocate4cycling). He also informed us that the legislation on the compulsory use of cycle lanes had not yet been prepared.

The section of the Royal Canal between Maynooth and Athlone is now largely complete except for two short stretches in Kildare which will be completed before the end of 2018 and



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the final stretch in County Meath which will be completed in the spring of 2019. This will form part of the Euro-Velo Capitals Route (EV2) which runs all the way from Moscow to Dublin, a distance of some 5,500km.

There were few bicycles at the opening - most belonged to Cyclist.ie members. A bicycle did appear for the ribbon cutting ceremony but quickly disappeared afterwards. Despite the lovely weather, the official party did not see fit to actually walk or cycle the greenway. Once again a case of "Do As I Say And Not As I Do".

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on meetings and activities is available on our website.

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