



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES October 2018



#Allocate4Cycling

Cyclist.ie members, including **Maynooth Cycling Campaign**, have forwarded a strong budget submission addressed to Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure Paschal Donohue, outlining the deficiency in government funding for cycling. Essentially we are calling for 10% of Land Transport Capital Funding to be allocated to cycling, to enable the government to meet its own target of 10% of trips by bike. The current modal share stands at approximately 3% of trips and funding is estimated at €18M which is less than 2% of Land Transport Funding of €1254M.

Hayfield Estate, Straffan Road

Road works have been carried out at the junction of Straffan Road adjacent to the Hayfield estate. The Design Manual for Road and Streets (DMURS) established a hierarchy of road users with pedestrians at the top, followed by cyclists and then car drivers. Pedestrians and cyclists were prioritised as their mode of transport benefits society whereas car dependency causes congestion, is harmful to the environment and imposes costs on society. It is obligatory on Kildare County Council to design roads in accordance with DMURS.

So what has happened at Hayfield? Kildare County Council has removed a footpath and grass verge in order to provide additional road space for motorised vehicles – yet there is no space for cyclists and pedestrians are diverted into the estate.

Kildare Cycle Forum

Maynooth Cycle Campaign was invited to the September meeting of the Kildare Cycle Forum. This was the first invitation to attend the Forum for almost four years. The meeting reviewed the Forum Programme of Work but no update on current progress and no indication of future projects were available.

Lock It or Lose It

Gardaí have recently commenced a 'Lock It or Lose It' Campaign urging cyclists to ensure that they lock their bikes. This follows on from the news that 14,112 bicycles were stolen between 1st January 2016 and 30th June 2018. By far, most bicycles were stolen in Dublin but 368 were stolen in Kildare during that period. The Gardaí strongly recommend that cyclists record the serial number on the bike frame, take a photograph of the bike and email them to themselves so that they would have a record of their bike in the event of it being stolen and recovered. However, it would also be beneficial if the Gardaí set up a database of serial numbers so that cyclists would check if their bike has been recovered.

Bicycle theft is unfortunately a frequent occurrence when bike use increases. It explains why many Dutch people cycle old bikes and are not too worried about securely locking them.

Happy Birthday Cyclist.ie

Happy Birthday! Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network is 10 years old. In that time it has grown to over 30 cycling advocacy groups spread across the country. As one of its founding members, Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be joining in the celebrations at the bi-annual Council Meeting in October.

Fianna Fail Cycling Policy

Fianna Fail has recently published a new policy document on cycling. The main elements include an increase in physically segregated cycle lanes, a National Cycling Champion and provision of cycle training to all primary school pupils – all of which will be warmly welcomed by cycling advocacy groups. While Maynooth Cycling Campaign has reservations about the lack of detail on funding, we warmly welcome the new policy as it sets a high bar for other parties to follow.

Climate Action

The Dáil has set up a special Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action calling it a 'new departure' for climate change policy in Ireland. Among the Committee's core tasks is consideration of the recommendations made by the Citizens' Assembly on 'How the State can make Ireland a Leader in tackling Climate Change'. The Committee's first witness was the ESRI and Justice Laffoy, the former Supreme Court Judge who chaired the Assembly process.

Minister Naughten has admitted that Ireland's current national climate action plan (the National Mitigation Plan) is not working and requires radical revision. This is abundantly clear with Ireland's polluting emissions continuing to rapidly increase, and given the likelihood of significant fines due to the Government's knowing failure to deliver on its 2020 international climate action obligations.

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.