



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES November 2018



Opening Up Of Carton Walk – A Positive Development For Maynooth



The Carton Walk Preservation Society (CWPS) has recently commented on the new cycling and walking link from Limetree Hall to the adjacent Carton Walk.

In particular, a spokesperson has been reported as stating that no-one would want a cycle link. Maynooth Cycling Campaign strongly support the provision of cycle facilities between the residential estates and Main Street as it would be a safe route for children attending the nearby school. The alternative route on the Dublin Road has no cycle facilities and would involve a road crossing. Judging from the above photograph, the pupils at Presentation Girls School would appear to agree with our view.

The CWPS also argue that there has been no consultation on the proposal. The proposed walking/cycling link was shown in the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013–2019 which went to public consultation and was subsequently approved by county councillors. The work is not of a scale which warrants a separate public consultation so Kildare County Council got it right this time. Opposition to improved walking and cycling is both mean spirited and detrimental to a more active community.

A more detailed consideration of the issues is available on our website.

#Allocate4Cycling

Cyclist.ie members, including **Maynooth Cycling Campaign**, was very disappointed with the results of Budget 2019. Although the Taoiseach accepts that Ireland is a laggard in meeting its international obligations to reduce carbon emissions, there was anger at the Finance Minister for ignoring climate change and failing to introduce a carbon charge as recommended by the Climate Change Advisory Council chaired by John Fitzgerald. This followed the warning from world's leading climate scientists that there is only 12 years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C. *Cyclist.ie* had sought an allocation of 10% of the transport budget to be allocated to cycling to enable the government to meet its own target of 10% of trips by bike. Minister Shane Ross revealed that 35% of the record budget went on sustainable transport (including cycling) with 22% on national roads. However, he omitted to reveal that he was allocating a further 20% on regional and local roads which made sustainable transport the poor relation and with cycling getting leftover crumbs.

On the positive side, the #Allocate4Cycling campaign was supported by Fianna Fáil, Labour, Green Party, Social Democrats and People before Profit parties with support also coming from a number of individual Fine Gael TDs.

Obesity & Smoking

Obesity is set to overtake smoking as the principal cause of cancer in 25 years. With falling rates of smoking, obesity will be one of the main drivers for cancer in the future at great personal and economic cost. In a recent interview on radio, Prof Donal O'Shea has said that in order to get back to obesity rates of 15-25 years ago, parents need to take responsibility for physical activity and food. Obesity rates are down a little in better off social groups but still getting worse in less well off. He said that people want to be healthier but that we need to change obesogenic environment in order to enable active travel to school and work.

Participation in Sport

Sport Ireland recently published the Irish Sports Monitor Annual Report 2017. It found that participation generally was unchanged but that there are some declines across some specific sports. The most popular participation sports in 2017 were the same as in 2015 with cycling in fourth place behind exercise (gym), running and swimming.

Bus Connect

The Bus Connect project was designed to modernise the bus service by rationalising bus routes. The existing network developed around a growing city in the last century and is now inefficient and failing to serve the needs of 21st century. Part of the project will involve the

provision of high quality segregated cycle lanes beside bus lanes. However, it is understood that all the locations with segregated facilities will be in Dublin.

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.