



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES December 2018



#Allocate4Cycling

Cycle advocates are very interested in expenditure on cycling by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. It had been thought that expenditure was around 2% but it is now estimated that it could be as low as 1.26% or even lower depending on progress on Bus Connect. This is a long way short from the #Allocate4Cycling campaign level of 10% so the campaign continues.

Bus Connect

The National Transport Authority has gone to public consultation on the preferred route for the first four core bus routes between Dublin city centre and Clongriffin (north Dublin), Swords, Blanchardstown and Lucan. The initial impression of the cycling infrastructure on the Lucan route is a proposed 2m wide uni-directional cycle track on each side of the road which is a good start. However, the apparent details on priority at side roads, bus stops and the shared paths at junctions are disappointing as they are not best practice and lead a top potential conflict with pedestrians.

Climate Change

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that there are only twelve years to limit global warming to 1.5°C beyond which even half a degree more will significantly worsen the risk of droughts, floods, extreme heat and poverty for millions. Meanwhile, civil servants tell the Dáil Committee on Climate Action that civil servants in other Departments are responsible for lack of action and the recent EPA Lecture by Prof Hugh Montgomery on Climate Change and Health paints a pessimistic picture of the future.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the appointment of Richard Bruton as the new Minister for the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. With Ireland already far behind on its commitments to tackle the problem, the Minister has sought Cabinet approval for an all-government plan to respond to climate change and will set out targets for the different sectors, in particular transport and agriculture.

Meanwhile, in the recent US mid-term elections, efforts to reduce the effect of climate change by measures such as carbon tax were turned down in a number of states due to opposition and massive spending by oil and gas interests.

Extinction Rebellion IE

In October, approximately one hundred academics signed a call to action about the ecological crisis facing mankind. It was prompted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reporting that humanity had wiped out 60% of animal populations since 1970 and

“that current consumption is destroying the web of life, billions of years in the making, upon which human society ultimately depends for clean air, water and everything else”.

Following this, a protest - the first Extinction Rebellion - was organised in London. The protest aimed to influence the government and global environmental policy through non-violent protest. Civil disobedience has been used previously to highlight injustices across the world in countries such as Ireland, the US and India. An Extinction Rebellion (IE) demonstration took place on November in Merrion Street. Other Rebellion protests have been or are planned for Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the United States.

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.