



# MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

## June 2019



### **Local Elections (May 2019)**

By the time that this edition of the Newsletter has been published, the local elections will be well and truly over. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those who ran for office but didn't make it. We look forward to working with them in the new council.

In advance of the election and in conjunction with Cyclist.ie, Maynooth Cycling Campaign lobbied all Kildare candidates (with an email address) to support higher quality cycling facilities by pledging support to the principles of Cycling for All. On behalf of the Parent Teacher Association of Maynooth Educate Together and Coiste na d'Tuistí of Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, we also lobbied the Maynooth candidates to support high quality facilities for the 700 children who attend school on the Celbridge Road. Tim Durkan and Peter Hamilton signed up. A questionnaire to parents of children attending the gaelscoil found that 82% consider the existing path unsafe but 56% would use a cycle path if it were available. However, in practice, no parent anywhere allows their children to use facilities which they consider not safe and in my experience the vast majority will not use what Kildare County Council proposes.

### **Newtown Road**

Newtown Road is a link between Maynooth town centre and the residential estates to the south west of the town such as Parson's Hall. Kildare County Council has just completed providing narrow footpaths along a section of the road. As for cycle facilities, well it is the same old story - joining up cycle tracks is not a priority. If Kildare County Council built roads which did not join up, how many people do you think would drive? Yet, despite a Citizen's Assemblies, Joint Oireachtas Committee Report on Climate Change continues to ignore cycling where it might impact on driving.

### **Velo-city 2019**

Dublin welcomes Velo-city back to Ireland between 25 and 29<sup>th</sup> June. This is an international conference of all kinds of people interested in promoting bicycles – advocates, engineers, planners, politicians, road safety experts, health and tourism interests. You have to register to attend most of the events but a number of side events are taking place which are free. One of the highlights of Velo-city is the Cycle Parade. Two years ago in Nijmegen, 15,000 cyclists took to the streets. This year Dublin Cycling Campaign are hoping that the Velo-city Parade will attract more than 5,000 cyclists to the streets of Dublin. The parade is taking place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 4:00pm and is an event for all the family. As you would be travelling outside peak time (4:00-7:00pm), you can bring your bike on the train!

### **Bikeweek 2019**

Bikeweek 2019 takes place later than usual this year – from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Maynooth Cycle Campaign is planning to mark the event with a number of public cycles.

Details will appear closer to the time on our website and on Facebook. But before that, don't forget to celebrate World Bicycle Day on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Maynooth Post Primary Schools**

Finally, Maynooth Cycling Campaign would like to thank Ms. Jakki Byrne for the opportunity to talk to Transition year students on bicycles and transportation.

*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.*