



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES September 2019



Parking at Tesco Extra

Cycle lockers were recently installed at Tesco Extra adjacent to one of the entrances which is good practise and more convenient compared to the existing free bike parking which stretches out perpendicular to the building. Although cycle parking comes at a charge, we wish Cyc-Lok, the company behind them, well but being charged to use lockers for short term bike parking such as going into a shop is not the norm here or abroad. It is also conflict with Kildare County Council's policy of encouraging people to switch from the use of a private car to active travel by having people pay to park a bicycle but having car parking free.

Parking at Maynooth Railway Station

Work continues at Maynooth railway station to attract more cars parking in the centre of Maynooth for the day with spaces for a further 38 cars on the south side of the railway lines. This is on top of a further 40 car spaces on the northside. The existing spaces for bike parking are being increased but not to the same extent.

By way of contrast, in the Netherlands, the largest bike park has opened in Utrecht Central Station at a cost of €30 million with space for over 12,500 bikes. The facility is open 24 hours, 7 days a week and the city of Utrecht employs around 40 people to operate the place. In all bike parking facilities around the Utrecht Central Station, there is now room to park around 33,000 bicycles, of which circa 22,000 spaces are public and free for the first 24 hours. This is how to prioritise cycling.

Budget 2020

Undoubtedly, the government is working on the details of Budget 2020. This year, it is a particularly difficult job with the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. *Cyclist.ie* including Maynooth Cycling has made a budget submission to the Minister for Finance in which we again call on the government to allocate 10% of the transport budget to the funding of cycle facilities as recommended by (1) the Citizen's Assembly, (2) the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Change and (3) the government's *Climate Action Plan*. Rather than additional funding, what is required is a rebalancing of investment to active travel rather than bulk of the funding being allocated to roads.

Celbridge Road

It appears that the proposed cycle facilities on the Celbridge Road will shortly be going to Part 8 Public Consultation. It remains to be seen if Kildare County Council has taken the criticisms

of Irish cycle infrastructure from international experts who visited for Velo-City but it is unlikely that they have. Maynooth Cycling will have more to say on the subject and on the adjacent ring road.

Fridays for Future

Greta Thunberg is sailing to New York for the UN Climate Summit but *Fridays for Future* continues in Maynooth. In September to coincide with the New York meeting, week long protests are planned between 20-27th. As Greta says “Our house is on fire — let’s act like it” and demand climate justice for everyone.

Free Car Parking

On a related matter of climate change and carbon emissions, one of the Maynooth councillors recently proposed the introduction of free car parking on Saturdays in Council car parks. Maynooth Cycling welcomes that the proposal was turned down. What we need in Maynooth is less cars but more people. When the first parking meters were introduced in Oklahoma in 1935, they were welcomed by retailers as they ensured a turnover of parking meters for their customers.

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