



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES December 2019



Cycling without Age – the Right to Wind in your Hair

Maynooth Cycling Campaign would like to thank Minister Michael Ring of the Department of Rural and Community Development for providing funding of over €8,000 for the purchase of an electric trishaw (it is similar to a rickshaw but with three wheels). It will allow Maynooth to set up a local chapter of *Cycling without Age* and offer cycle rides to elderly in nursing homes who may have mobility problems and are no longer able to cycle. Ole Kassow started the movement in Copenhagen in 2012 after he noticed an elderly man sitting outside a nursing home and thought that he might enjoy a bike ride. Afterwards he was inundated with requests from other residents. Cycling without Age is now present in more than 42 countries and in Ireland there are over thirty trishaws. More details on *Cycling without Age - Wind in Your Hair* can be found <https://cyclingwithoutage.ie>.

Public Consultation on Ireland's Sustainable Mobility Policy

The DTTAS has launched a public consultations to review Ireland's sustainable mobility policy. So if you want to make a point to the government on cycling, walking or public transport, this is the time. Details of the consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/d0f148-minister-ross-launches-review-of-sustainable-mobility/>. The consultation ends on 24th January.

Celbridge Road Cycle Facilities

To date, Kildare County Council has still not published proposals for cycle facilities on the Celbridge Road. We hope that the delay is because they are having a radical rethink of their earlier poor proposals rather than a decision being stalled for the sake of it.

Space for Bicycles on Trains

The National Transport Authority has confirmed that the order for new rail carriages includes flexibility to allow increased spaces for bikes in accordance with EU parliamentary requirements. It is understood that the parliament has not fully confirmed that any new or refurbished rail carriage will have to provide a minimum of 8 spaces for bikes.

Cyclist.ie Council Meeting

In November, Cyclist.ie representing Maynooth Cycling Campaign among others, appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport Tourism and Sport on funding for cycling.

Review of the Year

The Good –

- Dublin hosting Velo-City 2019, the international cycling conference in Ireland.

- Maynooth Cycling Campaign's Chair being elected to the Kildare County Council's Transport and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee.
- The truth about the low level of investment in cycling dragged out of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. In Budget 2020, Shane Ross allocated approximately €42 Million – over €100 Million short of our benchmark of €182 Million.
- To date no cyclist road fatality in Kildare in 2019 after one dying in each of the previous two years.
- Fridays for Future protests in Maynooth - with extreme floods in the UK and Italy and extreme fires and drought in New South Wales and California, climate change isn't just affecting the Third World any more.
- Moyglare Road cycle facilities - work has started.

And the Bad –

- Moyglare Road cycle facilities - Kildare County Council plans offer the fifth and lowest level of service to cyclists (level of service D).
- Dublin hosting Velo-City 2019 and international delegates seeing the lack of progress since 2005.
- No meeting of the SPC until 2020.
- No meeting of the Kildare Cycle Forum since February 2019 and no talk of when it will resume.

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