



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES January/ February 2024



Priorities for 2024

The priorities are already building up. Already, they include:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Cycling Without Age
- Application for Kildare Community Grants
- Application for Kildare Climate Action Community Funding
- Bikeweek 2024

If you want cycling to increase in Maynooth, why not join us? If you have any ideas to increase cycling or want to help to make cycling safer, you can contact us at maynoothcycling@gmail.com.

Irish Cycling Campaign

After a considerable amount of hard work, a new national cycling organisation has been established. The Irish Cycling Campaign CLG has been launched to replace the Dublin Cycling Campaign CLG and bring all cycling campaign groups under a new unified legal entity to represent utility and recreational cyclists in Ireland. The constitution and new name were approved at a meeting in early January. The new company was approved by the Charities Regulator and the Companies Registration Office although it is not yet listed in their databases.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign expects to join the new organisation when issues concerning insurance have been clarified.

Resignation from Board of Dublin Cycling Campaign

Meantime, the Chair of Maynooth Cycling Campaign, Gerry Dornan, has resigned from the Board of Dublin Cycling Campaign. He explained the reasons for the resignation to cycle campaigners in a post on the Cyclist.ie Slack channel but despite a commitment to transparency in the organisation, the post was unilaterally deleted. Details of the reasons are given on the Maynooth Cycling Campaign website.

Maynooth Cycling Without Age

Maynooth's Cycling Without Age took a break over the winter months but now we are ready to start afresh and will be scheduling training sessions after St. Patrick's Day. However, the priority is to engage with nursing homes and the general public.

We will also be working in conjunction with Genil Training on the Moygare Road to make more frequent use of the trishaw.

Climate Change and Health

Climate change is often linked with the damage resulting from more extreme weather patterns. It is not generally linked to health. However this changed at a recent press conference, where Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, head of climate and health at the World Health Organisation stated “Talking about action on climate change without talking about fossil fuels is like talking about lung cancer without mentioning tobacco”.

Dr Arvind Kumar, founder of the Lung Care Foundation stated that “health discussions need to start mentioning fossil fuels”, otherwise “the problem will not get solved..... Little cosmetic changes here and there are not going to make much of a difference,” he said.

Naas Pathfinder Project

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is disappointed that Kildare’s proposal for a Pathfinder project to prioritise active travel on the Main Street Naas has failed to secure funding from the Department of Transport. The problem was that the time to implement the project was longer than specified by the Department. Councillors, in the Naas Municipal District, or at least a majority of them, have been to the forefront in supporting active travel schemes over car based travel so Maynooth Cycling Campaign is disappointed that their efforts have not been recognised.

Opening of new bridge on Grand Canal Greenway

In January, Eamon Ryan, the Minister for Transport came to Sallins to officially open the new bridge on the Grand Canal Greenway.

Road Safety

There has been a total of 184 road fatalities on Irish road in 2023. This is an increase of 19% from 2022. Eight people cycling lost their lives while cycling on roads in Ireland in 2023, an increase of one death compared to the previous year.

Bicycle Parking Standards

The European Cycling Federation (ECF) strongly welcomes the provisional agreement on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive which sets, for the very first time, European minimum bicycle parking norms for virtually all types of buildings, both residential as well as non-residential. This includes a new standard of two bicycle parking spaces per apartment.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on the campaign is available on our website.