



# MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

## April 2024



### **Bike Library**

As part of the Community Climate Action programme, Maynooth Cycling Campaign, in partnership with Bleeper Bikes, has made an application through Kildare County Council for the funding of a Bike Library in Maynooth. A Bike Library has a selection of different utility bikes – for example ebikes, long tailed bikes, cargo bikes, folding bikes which members of the public can “borrow” for a period of up to three months. It gives people the opportunity to use a bike, without the expense of purchasing it, to see if it fills their needs. It is particularly important for people who may be considering going carless or reducing two cars to one.

Maynooth GAA has also applied for a Bike Library for Maynooth, also in partnership with Bleeper Bikes, but with funding from the National Transport Authority. Hopefully, both applications will be successful.

Our Community Climate Action application also proposes the trialling of a bike hangar (also known as a bike bunker) in Maynooth. A bike hangar provides storage for people who live in premises without front space for storage of bikes. The third element of the application is the use of planters which are designed either to calm traffic or reduce traffic on residential roads.

### **Maynooth Cycling Without Age**

In March, Maynooth Cycling Campaign trained two members of Genil Training as trishaw pilots and training of further members is planned. It is intended that they will use the trishaw on a number of days between Monday and Friday.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign will use the trishaw at weekend and, possibly, one or two days of the working week. Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be in contact with volunteers regarding the commencement of training in mid-April.

### **NTA Allocation**

The NTA published their funding allocation for 2024. Kildare will receive €10,885,000 which is an increase from €9,965,000 in 2023. The main allocations affecting Maynooth are €1,500,000 for the upgrade to Mill Street and €2,750,000 for the completion of the Royal Canal Greenway. A further €75,000 has been allocated for the Celbridge Road but this is likely to only cover

further design fees, rather than construction costs. The full list of projects allocated can be found at:

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/publications/active-travel-investment-grants-2024-allocations/>

## **Sustainable Transport Forum**

The third meeting of the Sustainable Transport Forum was held in March. The agenda included an item on Bike Share, Bike Week 2024, an update on Active Travel Schemes and Local Link. We will report on the meeting at a further date.

## **Air Pollution**

A new report by a Swiss air quality organisation which draws data from more than 30,000 monitoring stations around the world, has found that out of 134 countries, only seven countries are meeting the WHO air quality standard for PM2.5. It found that air pollution is worsening in places due to a rebound in economic activity and the toxic impact of wildfire smoke.

Research released by US scientists last month found there is no safe level of PM2.5, with even the smallest exposures linked to an increase in hospitalisations for conditions such as heart disease and asthma.

PM 2.5 measures tiny airborne particles expelled by cars, trucks and industrial processes.

*Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. If you wish to join us, email us at [maynoothcycling@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothcycling@gmail.com) . Further information on the campaign is available on our website.*