



Proposal for Cycling shortcut through the Racecourse at Ballybrit, Galway

5-March-2015

Description of issue: There is a large concentration of industry at Parkmore that has poor cycling connections with the city. In particular, the N6 Dual Carriageway and its junctions with the Monivea Rd and with the slip road from the Ballybane industrial estate are not suitable for less confident cyclists.



Figure: Google maps satellite image showing Ballybane Industrial estate and Parkmore with Racecourse between them.

Proposed solution: There is an alternative cycling route available using internal roads that already exist within the racecourse. The racecourse's internal road system already links Ballybane Industrial estate with Parkmore. However the road is blocked to cyclists at its junction with Ballybane Industrial estate. Providing cycling access at this gate and onto the "ambulance road" within racecourse would open up a link to Parkmore. There is already pedestrian access at this location and the racecourse is popular for running and walking among local residents and workers. This proposal would add cycling access to this established public use of the racecourse. The location would not be suitable for sports cycling and it is assumed that sports cyclists would stay on main roads as is appropriate. This be mainly a transport link.

The pictures that follow illustrate the potential.



Figure: Google maps satellite image showing internal road within race course linking Ballybane Industrial estate with Parkmore.



Figure: Junction of internal road within race course and Ballybane Industrial estate.

As of March 2015 this junction is blocked to cyclists. Rearranging this to provide passage for cyclists would open up an extensive off-road route allowing less confident cyclists to avoid the N6 and the N17 if travelling between Parkmore and the city.



Figure: Junction of internal road within race course and Ballybane Industrial estate – showing location relative to N6 slip road.



Figure: Internal road within race course looking back at Ballybane Industrial estate.



Figure: Gate leading onto “ambulance” road within race course. An access will be needed here or at some other point along the fence.



Figure: Internal road within race course looking towards Parkmore.