

Cycling on South Strand

The Operations/ Traffic Department continue to receive complaints from members of the public and elected representatives about the manner that some cyclists are using the pathway along the Skerries South Strand. In particular the complaints have focused on the impact that the behaviour of a number of cyclists is having on a large number of vulnerable pedestrians who regularly use this extremely popular facility, e.g. the elderly, the very young, the disabled and mobility impaired, parents with buggies etc.

The Liaison Committee has previously discussed this matter and the Council for a short time in 2012 banned cycling from the pathway. Following representations from cycling enthusiasts the 'No Cycling' signage was subsequently removed pending further consideration of the issue.

While it was originally anticipated that the pathway would be a shared cycling/pedestrian facility the width of the developed pathway is clearly too narrow to safely accommodate both cyclists and pedestrians.

It is therefore the intention of the Council to apply for funding from the National Transport Authority to extend the existing facility to provide a 3.5 metre wide surface, which would comfortably accommodate both pedestrian and cyclists.

In the meantime it is the strong position of the Council's Operations and Traffic Department that emphasis must be placed on ensuring the safety of vulnerable users of the South Strand pathway. It is also the strong view of this Department that priority must be given to pedestrians and wheelchair users. Having considered this matter further, and having regard to the continuing complaints being received, it has been decided to restore the ban on cycling on the South Strand pathway (excepting very young trainee cyclists) until such time as the pathway has been widened sufficiently to safely accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists.

Signage to indicate the above will be erected in the coming weeks.

Fingal County Council remains committed to the development and improvement of appropriate cycling routes and facilities in the town and its environs.

Operations Department
4th March 2014