

# **Cycling Ulster Report**

## **2020 Overview**

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 restrictions have played a significant role in limiting many aspects of what we had initially planned for 2020. We have therefore shifted our focus to engaging on projects which can develop cycling in the medium and long term. The increase in recreational cycling by the public and by government has seen us engage more with regional government and other cycling organisations in the province. CU have been represented at regular meetings of Stormont's cycling and walking advisory group that was set up in June this year to look at ways to improve cycling infrastructure in the North. We are hopeful this will enable us to have a voice on the need for greater and improved cycling infrastructure. We are also in the process of setting up three regional cycling hubs in the province which will be a base for us and our clubs to hold courses and events. This has been achieved through funding from Stormont's Department for Communities and engagement with local councils. With the restrictions changing on a regular basis, we have also sought to keep members updated, particularly with differences in both jurisdictions which has been confusing and challenging for members.

## **Strategic objectives for 2021**

Improving cycling infrastructure and facilities is an overriding objective in the time ahead as it has a dual role of increasing participating and developing performance focused cyclists. We will continue to engage with local and regional government to achieve this. Our three regional cycling hubs will be launched and should be operational for 2021 which enable them to be used as a dedicated base for clubs to organise courses and events. This will be of benefit to our commissions and clubs to organise their various activities as well as assisting CU with running courses to recruit more Ride Leaders and upskill our coaches for example. We will also work on developing our partnerships with other stakeholders such as the PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, the Gardaí and the Department for Infrastructure for road safety initiatives. Working on programmes to directly increase participation and membership of CU is also planned as we aim to use the Women on Wheels project to build on female participation in other disciplines and categories. Enhancing our communication methods and building the CU/CI brand is a further key objective.

## **Commission Members and Roles 2021**

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