



Aaron Spierin sparring with member Susan.

by Ella Mahon

LUDOSPORT is a lightsaber combat class that started in Italy 20 years ago. Last month it arrived in Maynooth.

It was taken out into Courthouse Square during market day and displays were staged for locals filling the streets.

Ludosport has apparently spread across Europe, America, and Japan. Now it finds a home in Maynooth University.

The Kildare academy officially launched on Saturday, 2nd May in the Square, displaying banners and flyers, as well as hosting a live demonstration of the sport.

"It's a very interesting sport," said Rector of the Kildare academy, Brian Doran.

"We have different styles based off different martial arts, such as fencing and kendal."

He first discovered his passion for the sport ten years ago when he began taking classes in Dublin.

Wanting to further the sport in Ireland, he decided to open his own academy in Kildare.

Maynooth, he said is a good starting off point.

"We felt like Maynooth University would be a good place to bring a more diverse group into the

# Ludosport in Maynooth - "everyone can take part in it"

sport, and eventually, it'll be nice to open up more places."

## Guest appearance

National Champion Aaron Spierin made a guest appearance at the launch in Maynooth.

Aaron has taken on the role of an instructor at the academy alongside Brian.

"I think that it's important for [the students] to meet people like them," explained Brian.

"Some people may have interests in sci-fi, Star Wars, and different kinds of sports that aren't in the mainstream here. We're trying to introduce a new sport for people to take part in."

"My favourite part [about the sport] is the

community," he added, "because you meet so many different people in the sport."

"It's the people you meet and the fun you can have with them, and usually we go for food after and just chat and tell stories."

The sport is open to everyone to get involved, with classes available for those aged 12 onwards.

"Everyone can take part in it no matter what age you are, anyone can take part and have a bit of fun, that's the whole premise we're going off."

To sign up for the academy, which is hosted in Maynooth University's Sports Centre, visit [ludosportireland.ie](http://ludosportireland.ie) or contact [ludosportkildare.com](mailto:ludosportkildare.com) on Instagram or Facebook.



(l-r) Rebecca, Aaron, Brian, Rita, Susan and David, all of Ludosport Kildare.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (As amended) PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (As amended) (PART 8)

### Proposed Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme, Maynooth Planning Reference: P82026.02

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council proposes the provision of active travel scheme with a combination of high-quality segregated cyclist and pedestrian and shared facilities along Celbridge Road, Maynooth in County Kildare.

The scheme is 950m in length and extends from the Straffan Road to the Maynooth Educate Together National School along predominantly Celbridge Road, Maynooth with some associated active travel provisions along Rail Park, Laurence Avenue and Maynooth Park.

The proposed development comprises:

- Provision of protected uni-directional cycle tracks on Celbridge Road as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Upgrade of existing footpaths in locations as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Provision of shared facilities for pedestrians and cyclists as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Provision of shared streets (for cyclists and motorists) along Railpark and Laurence Avenue to tie into existing and proposed active travel facilities
- Provision of raised table with uncontrolled crossings at Maynooth Park/Laurence Avenue junction
- Closure of Laurence Avenue to through vehicular traffic and provision of filtered permeability for pedestrians and cyclists as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Section of masonry wall at the Straffan Road/Maynooth Park junction to be set back to facilitate the provision of shared facilities (for pedestrians and cyclists) as shown on the Part 8 Drawings
- Provision of an upgraded shared link for pedestrians and cyclists from Railpark to the Straffan Road
- Realignment and provision of raised crossings on all side roads along Celbridge Road to facilitate pedestrian and cyclist movements within the extents of the scheme
- Upgrade, merging and relocation of bus stop provisions on Celbridge Road as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Provision of 2 no. new controlled signalised toucan crossing on Celbridge Road as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Upgrade of 1 no. controlled signalised pedestrian crossing on Celbridge Road as shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Upgrade of 1 no. controlled signalised pedestrian crossing on Straffan Road (near Kingsbry) to a new controlled signalised toucan crossing
- Provision of school zone (road markings and pencil bollards) at Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich and Maynooth Educate Together National School to the extents shown on the Part 8 drawings
- Provision of new dedicated shared pedestrian and cyclist entrances at Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich
- 26 no. trees are to be removed as part of the scheme and 30+ new compensatory trees are to be planted as per the Part 8 drawings and Landscape drawings

Particulars of the proposed scheme will be available to view on Kildare County Council's website at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-celbridge-road-active-travel-scheme-maynooth-planning-reference-p8202602>

from Monday, 22 June until Wednesday, 5 August 2026 (dates are inclusive).

Particulars of the proposed scheme will also be available for inspection at the offices of Kildare County Council, Level 4, at the address below (Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday).

In addition, particulars of the proposed scheme will be available for inspection at Maynooth Library, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 ND79 (Opening hours 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday).

The proposed development has undergone **Appropriate Assessment Screening** under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning Authority has determined that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance. In addition, the proposal has also undergone screening for Environmental Impact Assessment under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended) and the Planning Authority has determined that there will be no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and therefore an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. In accordance with Article 120 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), any person may, within 4 weeks from the date of this notice, apply to An Comisiún Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the proposed development would be situated can be made online at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-celbridge-road-active-travel-scheme-maynooth-planning-reference-p8202602>

OR in writing to: Senior Executive Officer, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department, at the address below, on or before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 August 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions should be headed: "Proposed Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme, Maynooth Planning Reference: P82026.02"

All comments, including names of those making comments, submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Kildare County Council is subject to the provisions of Freedom of Information (FOI Acts 1997 and 2014) and the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2013.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL  
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X77F.  
Telephone: 045-980200 • Emergency Number  
(Outside Office Hours) 1800 500 444  
facebook.com/KildareCountyCouncil  
x.com/kildarecoco



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