Willow Wheelers Cycling Club

2026 Charity Cycle

3rd May 2026

37th Event

Marshals & Drivers Briefing

Briefing Agenda

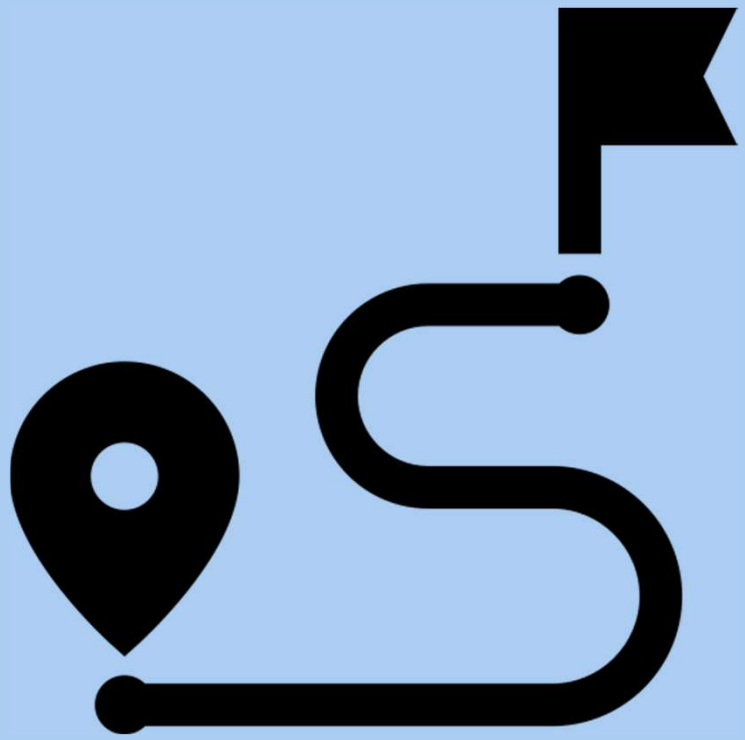
1. Coordination of the Event
2. Event Schedule
3. The 2026 Route (unchanged)
4. Marshal Groups
5. Marshalling Role
6. Support Vehicles
7. Partial participation
8. Year Groups
9. Weather Outlook
10. AOB

1. Coordination of The Event

- Event Coordinator: Tony McCluskey
- Lead Driver: Eamon Price
- Lead Marshals: Mairead Tóibin and Robin O'Sullivan
- Coordination will be via the Marshals' and Drivers' WhatsApp Group
- See website or link here for GPX Garmin Route

2.1 Event Schedule – Route Stats

- Distance: 163km (101 Miles)
- Planned average speed: 20kph, slower for final 10km with 5th form
- Cumulative elevation: 600m - mostly flat (<0.5% average gradient)
- Route plan and .gpx file available on WW website



2.2 Event Schedule – times approximate

07:30 - Mass in Blackrock College, followed by tea & biscuits in teachers' dining room

08:00 - Marshals' final briefing (20-25 mins)

08:00 - Sign in (Fee required from non-Cycling Ireland members)

08:30 - Depart from Blackrock College

09:15 - Arrive Phoenix Park

11:00 - Arrive Trim (55km)

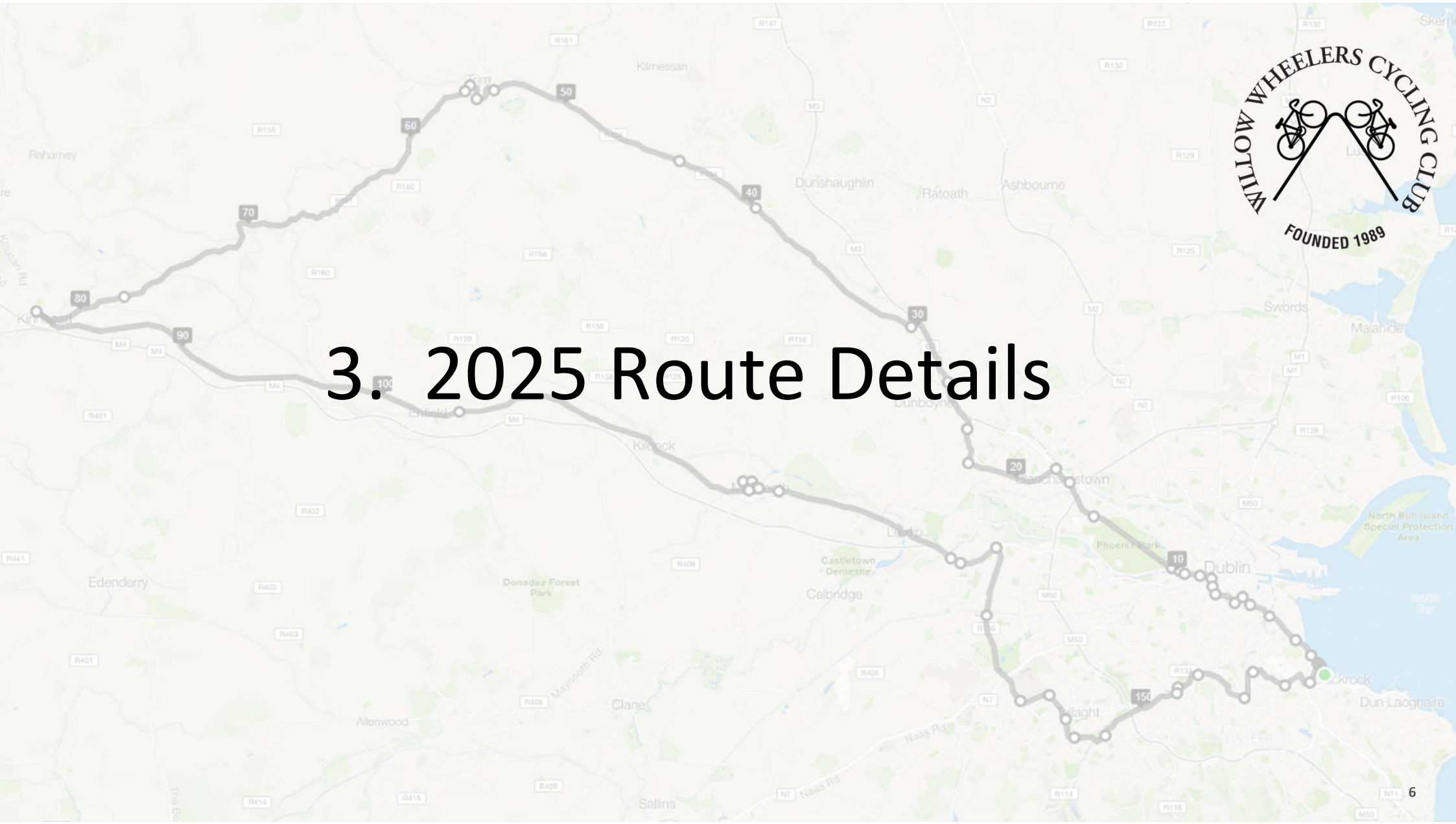
13:15 - Arrive Kinnegad (Lunch) (80km)

14:00 - Depart Kinnegad

16:00 - Arrive Maynooth (120km)

18:15 - Arrive Topaz Garage, near Rathfarnam Shopping Centre – 5th Formers join us

19:30 - Arrive at Blackrock College (163km)

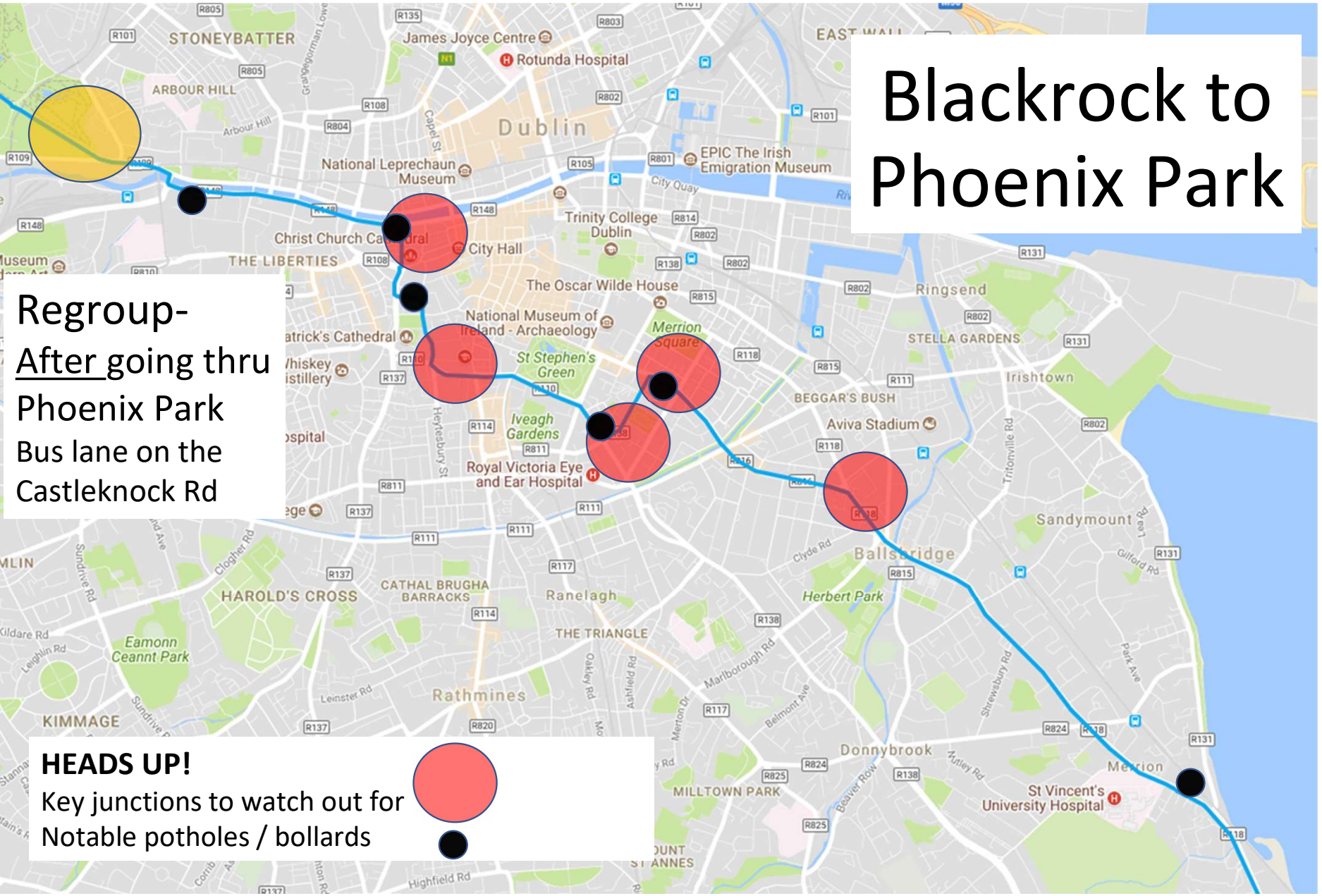


3. 2025 Route Details

2025 Route

163km Distance
600 Meters Total Climbing
GPX file available
Same route as last 4 events

Blackrock to Phoenix Park



Regroup-

<u>After</u> going thru Phoenix Park

Bus lane on the Castleknock Rd

HEADS UP!

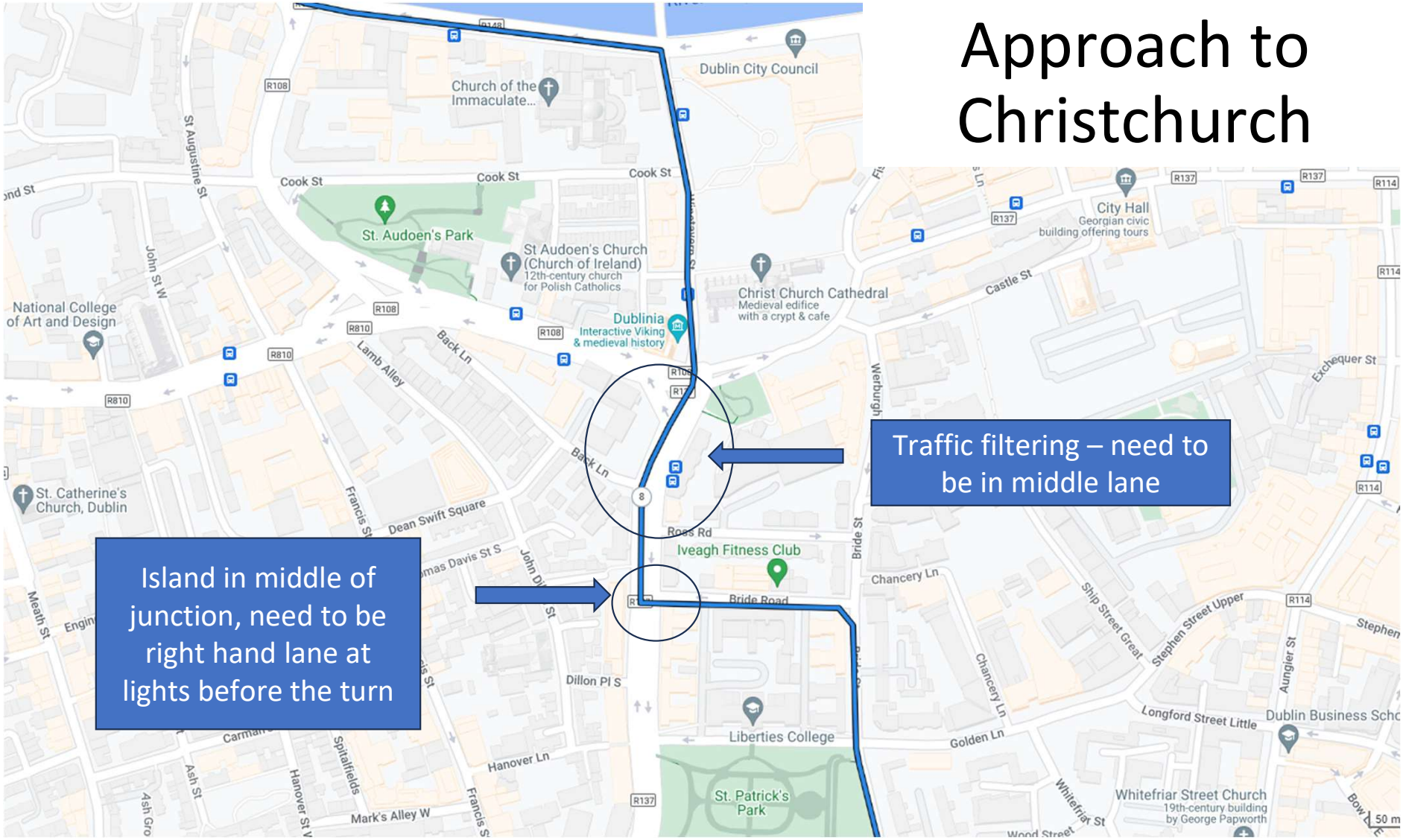
Key junctions to watch out for

Notable potholes / bollards

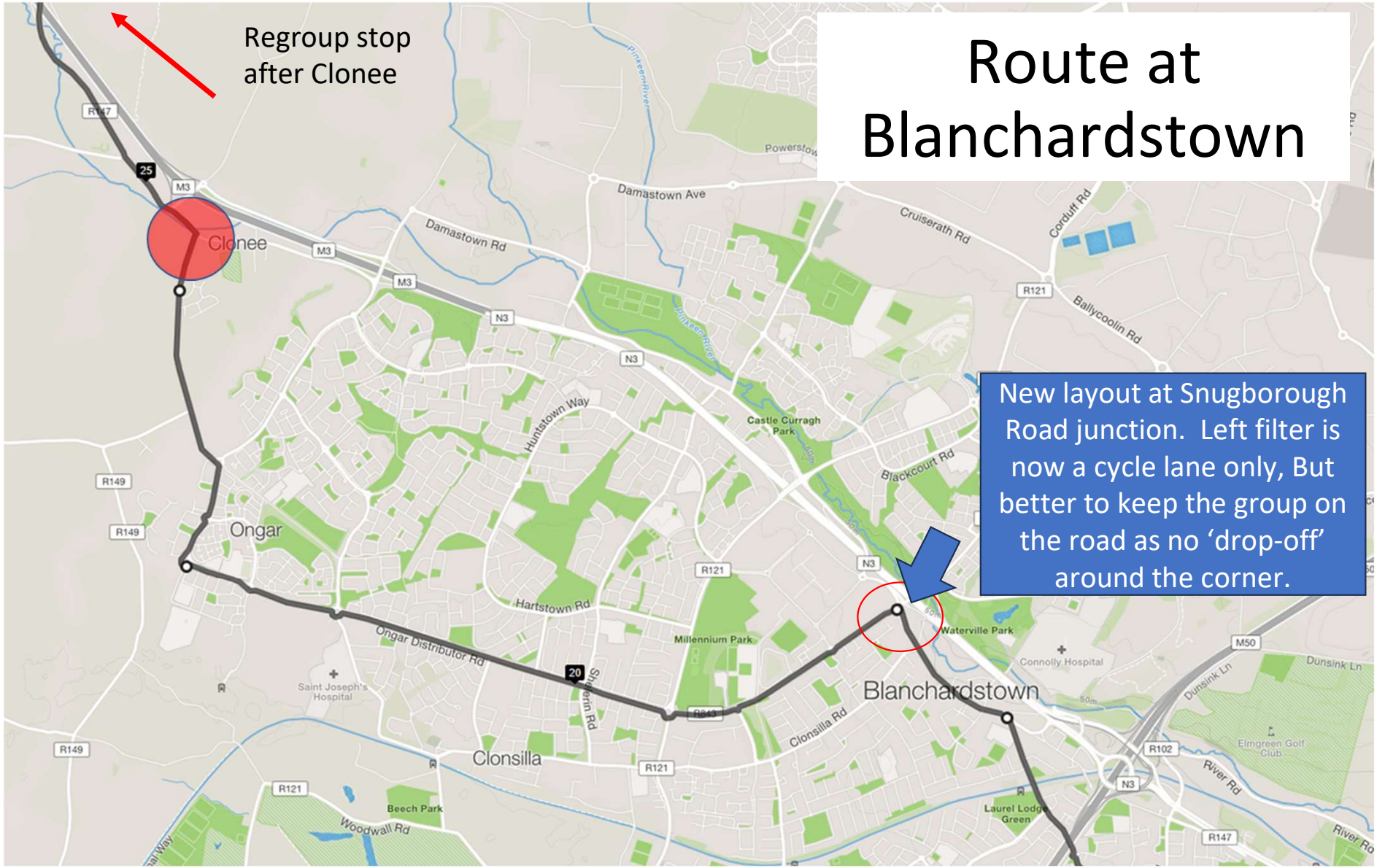
WOLTM WHEELERS CYCLING CLUB

FOUNDED 1989

Approach to Christchurch

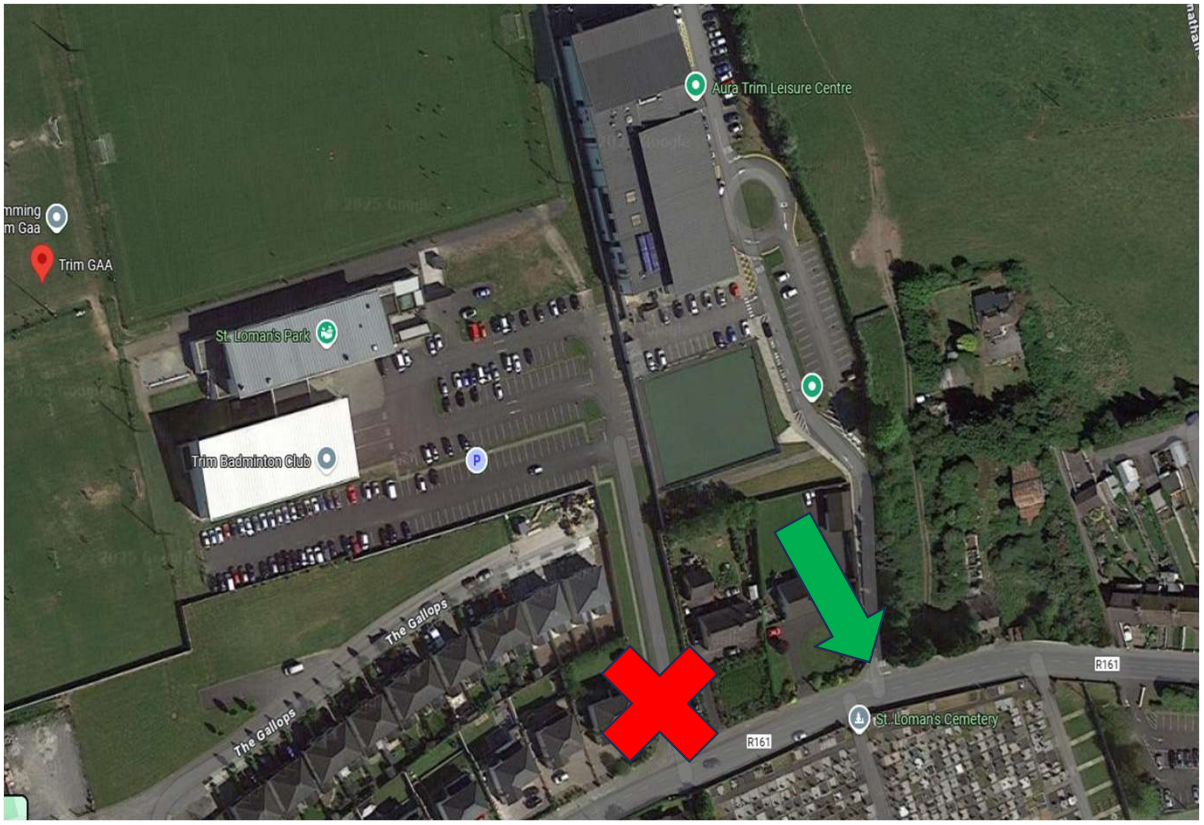


Route at Blanchardstown



Clonee Rest Stop to Trim

Food stop in Trim – Aura Leisure Centre



Stop location in Trim.

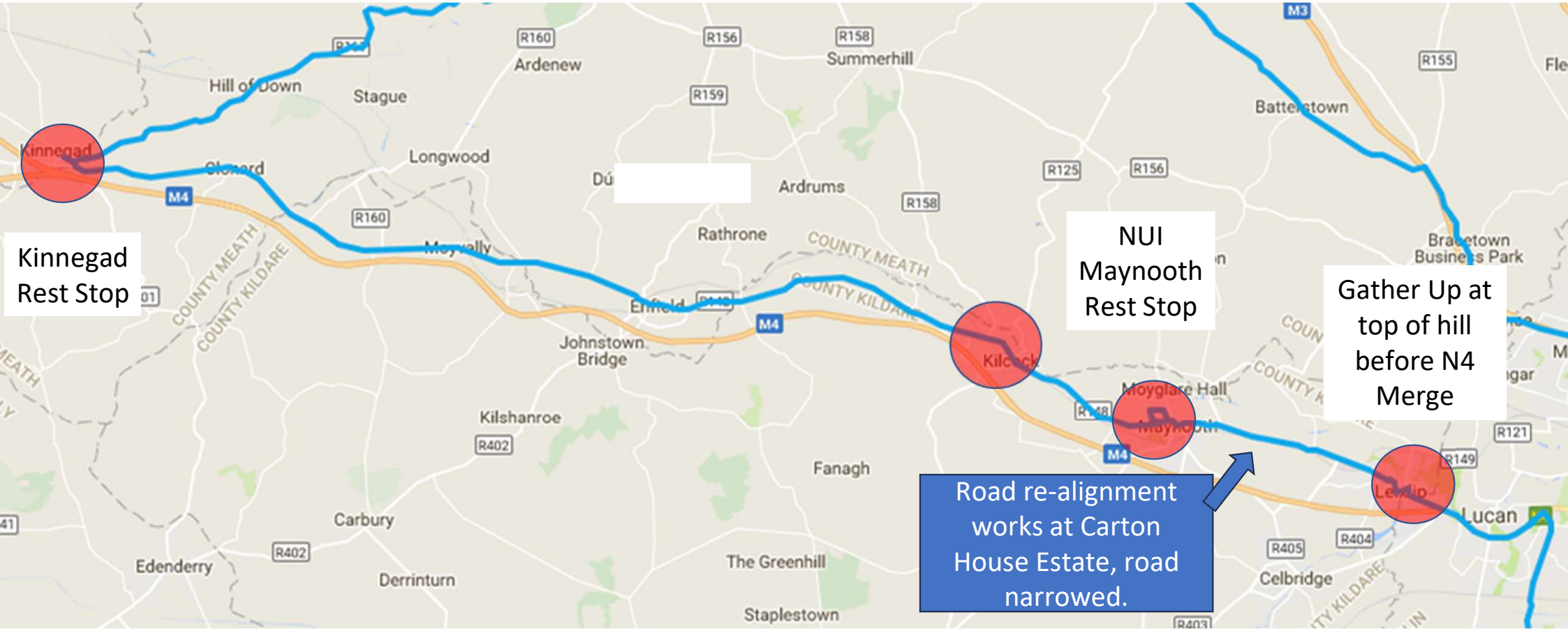
We will need at least 2 marshals to arrive at stop in advance

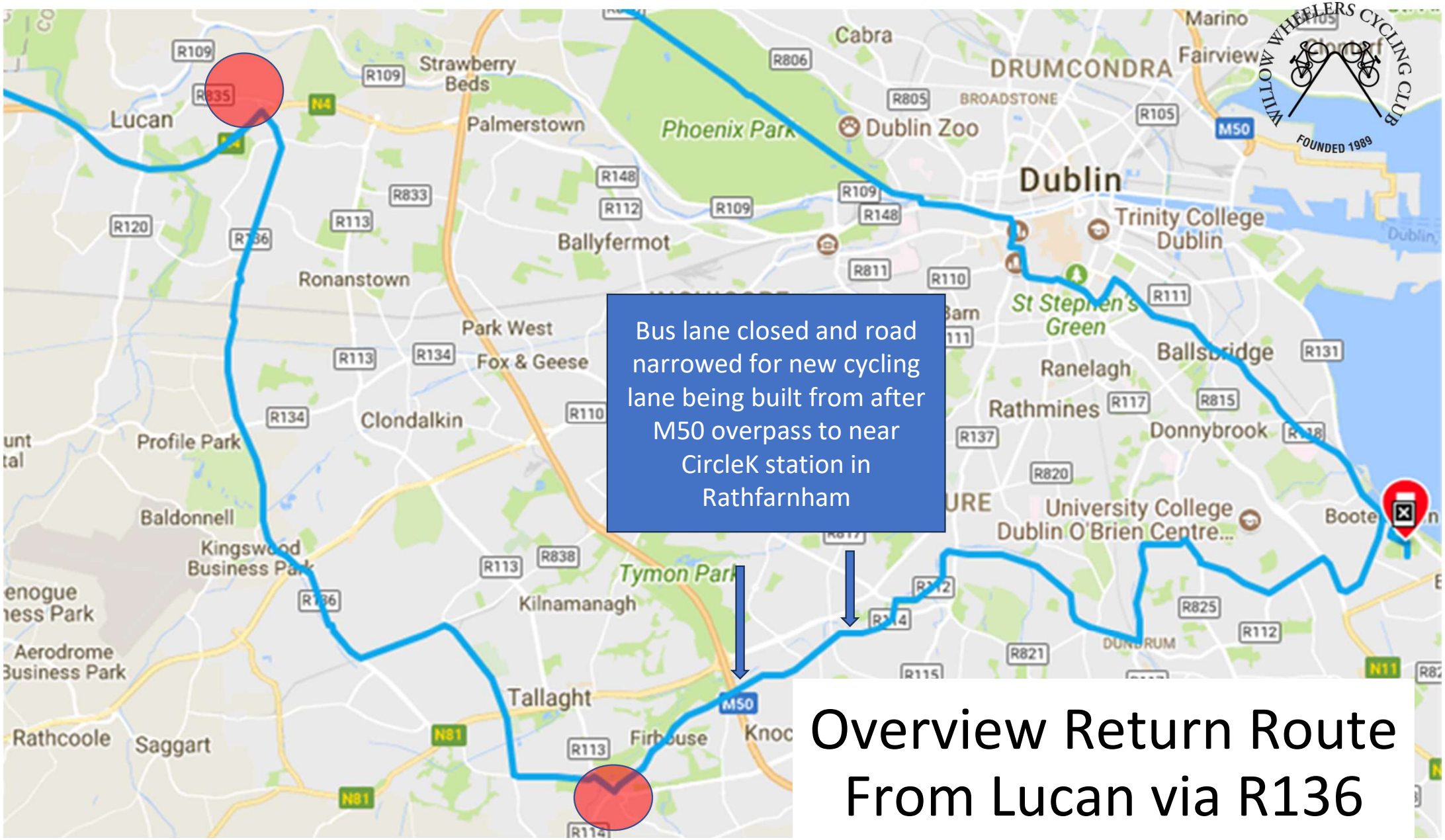
1. Aura Leisure Centre is first entrance

2. Trim GAA next door are not accommodating us this year.

Trim to Kinnegad Via R161

Kinnegad to Leixlip (via old N4)





Overview Return Route From Lucan via R136

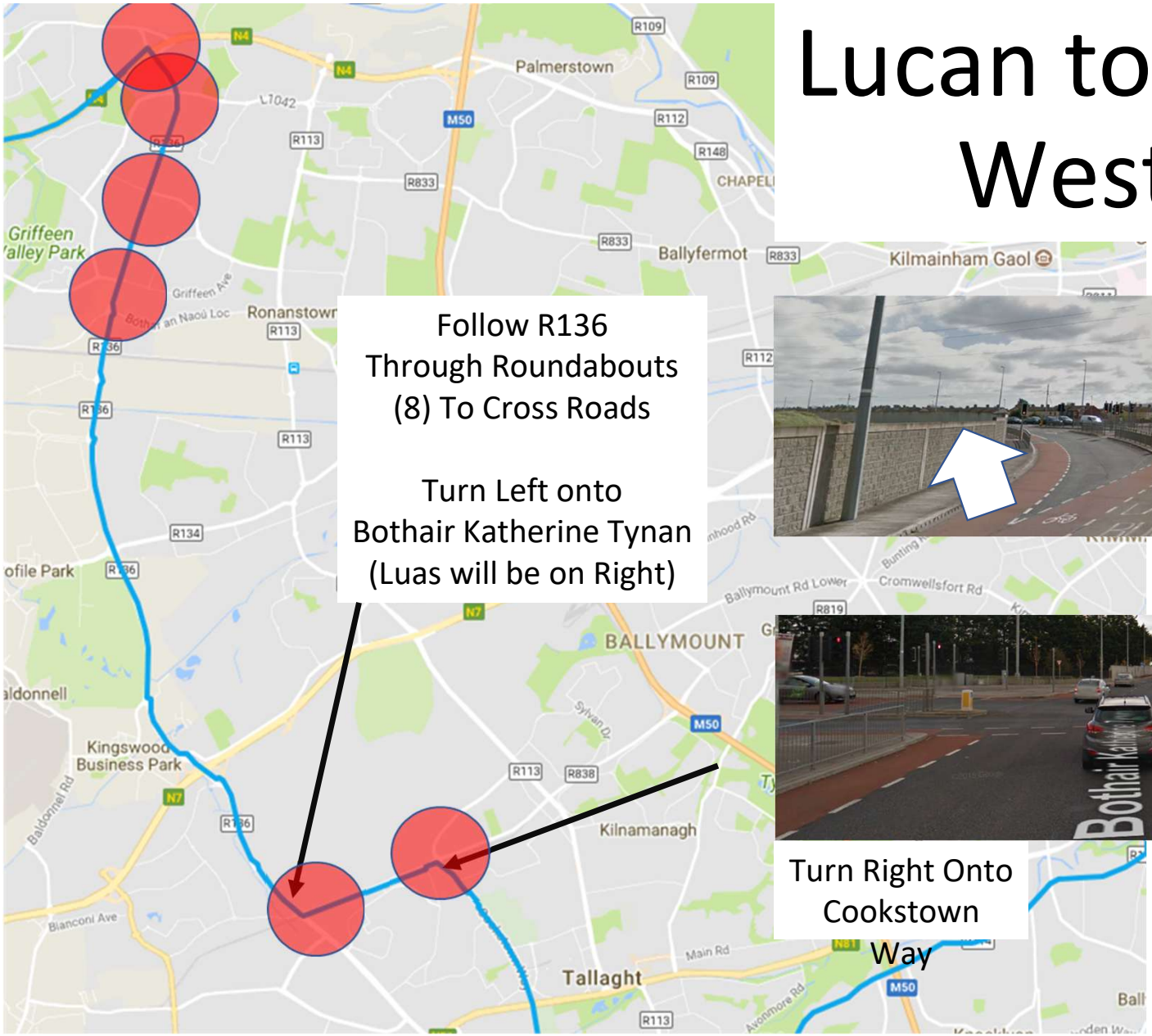
Lucan - Follow N4, right turn on R136

Gathering Point After Hill Out Of Leixlip

Stay Left at Exit 4 on Bus Lane to Avoid Underpass

Take Exit 3 Off N4. Right Turn At Lights on R136

Lucan to City West



Follow R136
Through Roundabouts
(8) To Cross Roads

Turn Left onto
Bothair Katherine Tynan
(Luas will be on Right)

Turn Right Onto
Cookstown
Way

Through Tallaght to Firhouse (1)

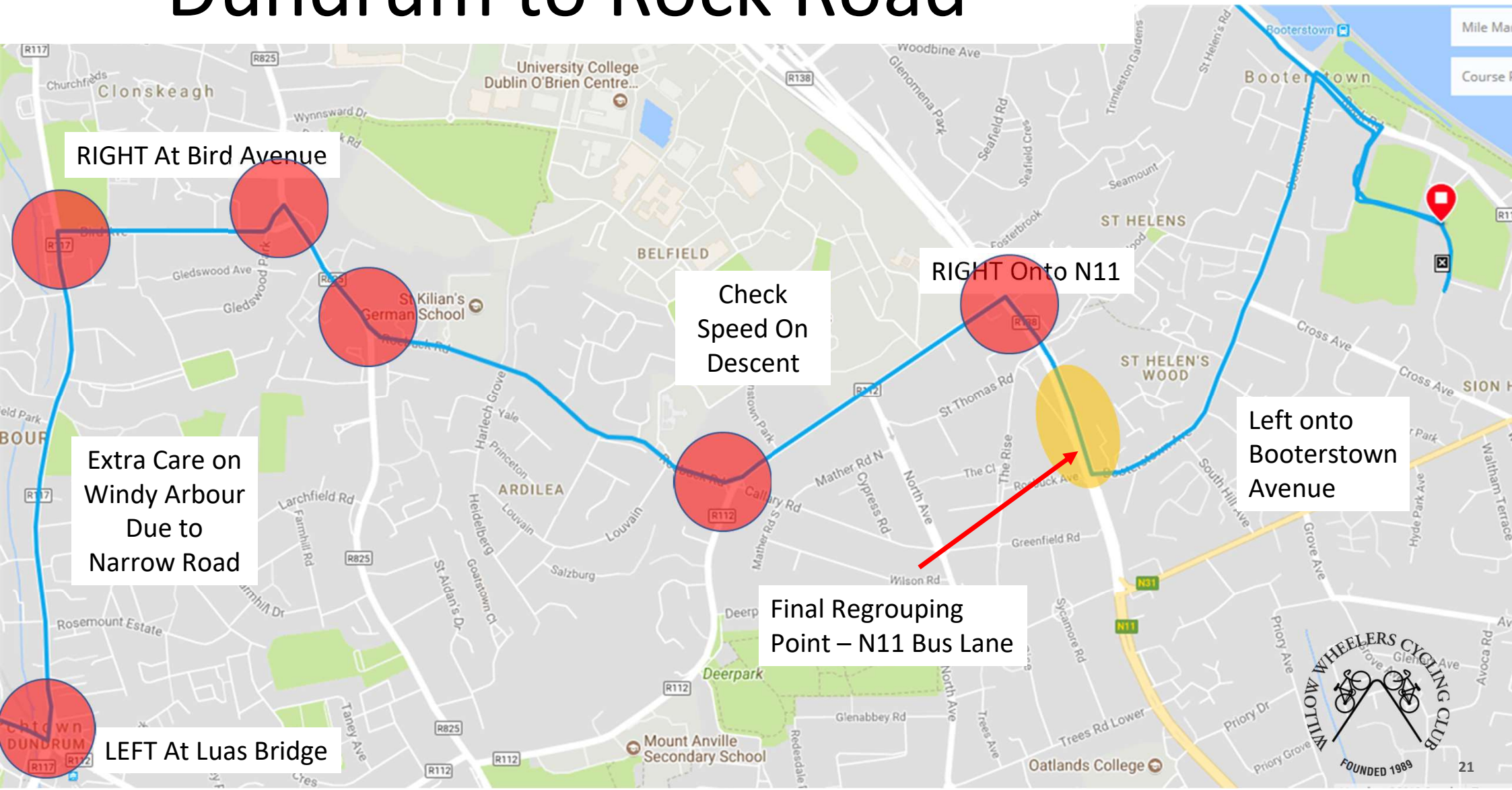
Through Tallaght to Firhouse (2)

Left filter lane at the OLD Mill Bar

Busy junction, riders will need to aware of traffic from right at filter

Firhouse to Dundrum

Dundrum to Rock Road



4. Marshal Groups (3)

(1) Advance Group

- Provides safe marshalling of junctions and route directions to participants.
- Ensures all riders pass through the junctions.
- **Riders return to the front** as soon as possible after rear group passes.
- Assists with puncture repairs or mechanical issues where practical.
- Highest Requirements for Marshals is in first and last 20kms College to Blanchardstown in the morning and then from outskirts of Tallaght back College. (consider conserving energy by sitting back on Trim to Kinnegad – Kinnegad to Maynooth legs)

(2) Main-Group (Year group Marshalls are within this)

- Remains with the main body of cyclist and ensures cyclists' safety.
- **Maintains cycling discipline within the group.**
- Advises and supports fatigued cyclists.
- Assists with puncture repairs or mechanical issues where practical.
- Calls on medical or mechanical support, or transportation from support vehicles if required.

(3) Rear-Group

- Remains at back to support slower cyclists, punctures, mechanicals.
- If cyclist cannot keep with peloton, they must take ride from support car, in order to keep the group together.

Year Group Marshalls

Stay with your Group

- Supervision of younger cyclists on route through city, particularly 6th Formers.
- 5th Form joining in Rathfarnham.
- 2026 Legends to lead return to Blackrock College from N11/Booterstown Avenue regrouping.

Marshalling Role

- Know the Route.
- Point out directions to cyclists.
- Warn cyclists of hazards and approaching vehicles.
- Warn approaching drivers of cyclists.
- **Facilitate** the group through junctions, **but remember you have no right to stop traffic**.
- Advise cyclists of planned stops, particularly distance to next stop.
- Keep the group together.
- Look out for people who need help – choosing gears or struggling with pace or on hills.
- Caution cyclists on group cycling discipline if putting themselves or others at risk.
- Watch out for tiring younger cyclists who may need a rest in the support cars.
- Stop and wait for punctures/mechanicals.
- Keep yourself fuelled and hydrated.
- Enjoy the ride.

6. Support Vehicles

Lead Car:	Eamon Price
Ambulance:	St John's Ambulance
Van No. 1:	Dave Brandon
Technical Support:	Bike Rack
Support drivers :	Jane Power
	David Power
	Steve Facer
	Huan Zhu

A list of all contact numbers for the drivers of support vehicles will be posted to the Whatsapp group before Sunday.

- Transport cyclists needing rest or catch up following punctures, etc., back **ahead** of peloton
- Pull over to **safe** location / do not impede peloton
- Ensure a child is accompanied by another adult, in the car

Please bring a bike rack if possible

7. Inclusive approach

- This year we are being more cognisant of the fact that some members may not be in a position to join us for the full day, and have suggested they join for the start to Trim, or for the finish from Maynooth.
- Accordingly, the group will possibly be bigger at the start and end of the course
- This year Brian O'Neill has volunteered to lead a group back from Trim to Blackrock.

8. Year Group Leads

5th Class – Fergal Battersby

6th class – Áine O'Donoghue

1st year – Stephen Kelly

2nd year – Stephen Browne

3rd year – N/A

4th year – N/A

5th year – Robin O'Sullivan

6th year – Alan McLean

9. Weather Outlook

- We are continuing to monitor the forecast for Sunday
- Will need to keep the Groups' pace up even if it's raining
- NB that we bring rain gear as some rain is expected at this stage
- Group will need encouragement to keep going

10. Final Points

- Keep an eye on the club website for any updates
- Everyone cycling needs to register for insurance purposes, either online via Cycling Ireland/Eventmaster, or complete a paper form
- We'll send a reminder about registration after the meeting to the group leaders to circulate
- Load up the route to your Garmin/Wahoo, if you have one
- Bring lights, just in case
- Be prepared with appropriate kit etc
- Bags with additional gear can be put in Dave's Van/support cars